Late City Vol.160 Issue 177 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA



NEERAJ OPTS OUT OF PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE: REPORT 11 SPORTS

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FIREWORKS IN PARLIAMENT

Rahul debut speech as LoP sparks row BJP asks Rahul to apologise for Hindu remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

interruptions, references to Rule Books, Parliamentary conventions etc, a brief 'clash' between

Speaker Om Birla and Rahul and a few Opposition leaders was also observed apparently catapulting a tough Opposition to resonate in Parliament after a hiatus of one decade.

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

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



the BJP and neither the ruling party nor the RSS nor Modi represents the entire Hindu society. "It is not just one religion that

talks about courage. In fact, all our religions talk about courage," Rahul said in his debut speech as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha that was watched by his mother Sonia Gandhi and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from the visitors' gallery. Holding up pictures of Lord Shiva, Guru Nanak and Jesus

Christ, he referred to

saying he was speaking about displayed by Jainism to underline the of launching "systematic the BJP and neither the ruling importance of fearlessness." attacks on the Constitution importance of fearlessness. As Rahul held up a picture of Lord Shiva, Speaker Om Birla reminded him that rules do not allow displaying placards in the House.

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

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

Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, In his one hour 40 minutes Christianity, Buddhism and speech Rahul accused the BJP

and the fundamental idea of India, noting that millions of people have resisted the ideas proposed by the ruling party. Rahul also claimed that the Armed forces know that

Agniveer was Modi's brainchild, prompting brainchild, prompting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to accuse the Leader of Opposition of misleading the House.

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

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PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

Session, in New Delhi, on Monday Emergency and 1984 anti-

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

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

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

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Kiren Rijiju accused Rahul of denigrating the responsible position of the Leader of Opposition "extremely irresponsible" speech in the Lok Sabha. They also accused the Congress leader of inflicting

"grave insult" on the Hindus by allegedly linking them with violence and spreading untruth. Rijiju said the ruling BJP has challenged many of the claims made by Rahul in his speech in the Lok Sabha and has sought action from the

Speaker. He will have to substantiate or tender an apology, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said slamming his allegations on Agnipath scheme and compensation for the residents of Ayodhya during development projects

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

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

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

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

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

Indian World Cup team stranded in Barbados

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

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

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

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

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

Shah allays fears on new laws

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

s the new criminal laws Monday amid apprehensions. asserting that the new laws have ended the era of British laws in India, converting the criminal justice system into 'completely Swadeshi'.

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

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

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

"This will function on Indian ethos. After 75 years, these laws were contemplated upon Acame into force on and as these laws have gone into effect from today, Home Minister Amit Shah colonial laws stand scrapped, allayed fears regarding them and laws made in the Indian Parliament are being brought into practice," he said. The Home Minister said

iustice would be delivered up to the level of the Supreme Court in all cases within three years of the registration of an FIR under the new criminal laws.

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

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

hearing. The Home Minister said the laws would be applicable to cases occurring on or after July 1, 2024. Shah said the first case under the new laws was about a motorcycle theft



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

registered in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior at 10 minutes past midnight. He also said the police dismissed the case filed against a street vendor for against a street vehicle for selling water and tobacco products from a cart that allegedly obstructed a public way in central Delhi's Kamala Market after an investigation. Setting aside apprehensions regarding the new criminal laws, Shah said that new laws do not give more powers to police and remand period

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

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

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

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

He said misinformation was being spread in this regard. 'We have been consulting on the new laws for four years. I have attended 118 consultative meetings. And in Parliament, there was a 9.29hour debate in the Lok Sabha, 6.7-hour in Rajya Sabha on the new laws...34 members in Lok Sabha and 26 in Raiva Sabha participated [in the debate]," Shah said

The Home Minister said organised crime, acts of terrorism and mob lynching had been defined, sedition was replaced with treason and video recording of all search and seizures made

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

NEET toppers' tally down to 61 from 67 after retest

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Allegations arose that the grace marks inflated scores, leading to six candidates from a single Haryana centre achieving a perfect 720, along with 61 others. Consequently, the top court ordered the cancellation of the grace marks and provided an option for a retest.
"At least 52 per cent — 813 out of 1,563

candidates — appeared for the retest. No candidates appeared in Chandigarh while the numbers were 291 from Chhattisgarh, one from Gujarat, 287 from Haryana, and 234 from Meghalaya," a senior NTA official earlier said.

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

Continued on Page 8

Airport canopy fall impacts 22,000 fliers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

IndiGo and around 925 passengers of SpiceJet were affected.

The Ministry said IndiGo airline provided alternate flights to 12,194 passengers while refunded airfare to 9,431 passengers. SpiceJet provided alternate arrangements to 250 passengers. Terminal was



Restoration and relief work underway at the Terminal-1 of the IGI Airport where a canopy collapsed amid heavy rain in New Delhi

Spicelet.

used for domestic flight T1to T2 and T3, and 17 flights operations by IndiGo and to T3, adding that all the flights are operational. The expanded Sources said 72 flights of T1, which had its capacity IndiGo have been shifted from increased to handle 40 million

passengers from the earlier 17 million, is yet to become fully operational.

According to the sources, it might be a few months before operations resume at T1.

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday visited the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) and held a meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, BCAS, DIAL, and airline operators where he took stock of the

The meeting focused on reviewing current operations and passenger handling

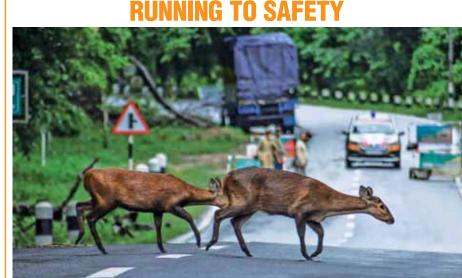
operations.

following the transition of flights from Terminal 1 to Terminals 2 and 3.

According to the Ministry, a comprehensive assessment was conducted, involving detailed discussions on ensuring smooth functioning and deploying additional

to manage manpower increased passenger flow. Minister Naidu advised all stakeholders to maintain rigorous standards to ensure seamless operations and prioritise passenger safety. All flights from T1 have been shifted to Terminal 2 (T2) and Terminal 3 (T3), and all of them were being operated

Continued on Page 8



Deer cross a National Highway near the flood-affected Kaziranga National Park, in Nagaon district, on Monday



Maya seeks strict steps against paper leaks

Samaj Party national president Mayawati on Monday said that paper leaks in examinations held in Uttar Pradesh and other states and corruption in government recruitments was very serious, sad and worrisome.

She said any kind of government negligence and politics towards these problems was not appropriate, rather strict not appropriate, rather strict steps were necessary to prevent it. Allegations of irregularities, including paper leaks, in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) have led to protests and litigation, with various quarters demanding a complete re-examination. The Union Health ministry later postponed NEET-PG, scheduled for June 23, as a "precautionary measure" amid the allegations. In a post on 'X', and also congratulate Mayawati stated that along with ily on this occasion.

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan the sanctity of various examinations held from time to time in the country, uncertainty prevails at present, especially regarding medical NEET-UG and NEET-PG examinations. It is natural that there is a wave of restlessness, worry and anger among the people, for which it is very important to find a quick and correct permanent solution. Further, she said that the paper

leak in examinations held not only at all-India level but also in states, including UP, and corruption in government recruitments was also very serious and worrisome. Meanwhile, Mayawati has con-

gratulated Samajwadi Party national president and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and MP Akhilesh Yadav on his birthday. Wishing him a long life, she wished him all the best and also congratulated his fam-

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

ANURA To ANSHULA AADYA

SINHA For all future purpose, Anshula Aadya Sinha D/o Abhishek Kumar R/o 84/58, J.K.Quarters

No.85/7, Anwarganj, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mukesh

Agarwal To Mukesh Kumar Agarwal for all future purpose, Mukesh Kumar

Agarwal S/o Late Satya Narayan Agarwal R/o 133/176,M- Block

NOTICE

I have changed my name Geeta

Jaiswal to Geeta Jaiswal Singh

for all future purpose, Geeta

Jaiswal Singh W/o Kaushal

Nagar Colony, Bargawan, Gonda.

NOTICE

THIS is to inform that I have changed my name from ANGEL PANDEY to

TRISHANKA PANDEY. In future 1 shall be known as TRISHANKA PANDEY, D/o Santosh Kumar

Pandey, R/o B- 105, B-Block, Indira

NOTICE

My name is mentioned as Alka Devi

Gangwar in passport, high school,

Aadhar card, PAN, bank account it is

mentioned as Alka Gangwar. Let me

be known as Alka Gangwar w/o

Gurudev Singh Gangwar in future,

1104 Indradhanush Apartment,

117/K/13, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur.

NOTICE

The general public is informed

that earlier my Son's name was

Anvit Singh, Now his name is

Anvit Pratap Singh son of Mr.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RICHI AGRAWAL D/o

Vijay Agrawal R/o S-21/68

Englishiya Line Varanasi Uttar

Pradesh-221001 changed my

name to MALIKA AGRAWAL.

I, ASHOK CHOUDHARY S/o,

Late Radhe Shyam Choudhary

R/o Near Purnima-Hospital

Nathupur Bhulanpur Varanasi

Uttar-Pradesh-221108

changed my name to Ashok

singh.

Nagar, Lucknow-226016.

Indra

New Gareedi Purwa,

Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur

CPI-ML protests new criminal laws

Lucknow (PNS): The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) observed statewide Protest Day on Monday against the three new criminal laws (criminal codes) brought by the Narendra Modi government and the bulldozer rule of the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh.
Party units sent memorandums to the President of India and

the Governor of UP through the district magistrates.

The party demanded that the Central government put on hold the implementation of the three criminal laws and reintroduce them in Parliament for proper examination and deliberations. The speakers at the protests said that many stringent provisions had been made in the new laws by bringing civil liberties and rights into the category of crime. They said changes brought about through these laws provided enough power to the government to weaken democracy and turn the country into a fascist state.



NOTICE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME PAVNEET SIAL TO PAVNEET BHATIA W/O KARAN SIAL R/O 118/491 LAJPAT NAGAR KANPUR

NOTICE

I have changed my name from BADARUN NISA to BADRUN NISA for all future purposes. BADRUN NISA W/O ABDUL KALAM R/O 102/58, COLONEL GANJ KANPUR NAGAR (U.P)

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Nasreen Bano To Nasreen Anas for all future purposes, Nasreen Anas W/o Anas Bin Yahva R/o 88/260,A1, Chamanganj Kanpur.

OBITUARY



SUBEDAR YOUDHVIR MALIK 09 NOV 1979 - 26 FEB 2024

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SUBEDAR YOUDHVIR MALIK

WHILE SERVING WITH 180MH. FROM: LT GEN KAVITA SAHA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

OBITUARY



NAIK MAHESH KUMAR MEWADA 13 FEB 1987-03 JUN 2024

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOS OF NAIK MAHESH KUMAR MEWADA HILE SERVING WITH 166MH.

FROM: LT GEN KAVITA SAHA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

OBITUARY



SEPOY BRIJ KISHOR SAKET 16 JUN 1997-30 APR 2024

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRAN STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAM ILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEPOY BRIJ KISHOR SAKET WHILE SERVING WITH 158BH.

FROM: LT GEN KAVITA SAHA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

Teenage couple found hanging in hotel room

The bodies of a youth and a teenage girl, believed to be a couple, were found hanging inside a hotel room in Naka police station area on Monday. The incident came to the fore on Monday morning when the Mini Mahal Hotel staff knocked on the door but received no response. The hotel manager subsequently alerted the police. The police arrived at the scene and broke open the door only to discover both

hanging.
The police suspect that the couple took their own lives some time during the night. The bodies were sent for the postmortem examination, while the police, along with a forensic team, are conducting an investigation.

The couple had checked into the hotel on Sunday night. They booked a room and provided their Aadhaar cards for identification. "The youth's address was identified through his Aadhaar card. No suicide note was found at the scene," the police stated.

According to police records, the deceased were identified as Munna (19) from Bahraich,

added.

The bodies have been sent for autopsy, and investigations are time of check-in.

Polytechnic institute while the deceased youth was doing a private job in Delhi. The police said they were making efforts to collect more information by contacting the bereaved family members.

They had arrived in Lucknow on Sunday and checked into the hotel in the Naka area. "They arrived here at 7:30 am

on Sunday, booked a room, and submitted their Aadhaar cards. They only came out once to fetch water and did not leave thereafter. When our staff went to check on them in the morning, there was no response," hotel manager Vikas explained. "We called emergency services and informed the police. Upon their arrival, they forced entry into the room and discovered the duo hanging. Their families have been informed," Vikas

ongoing. The hotel staff mentioned that there were no apparent signs indicating their intent to commit suicide at the Investigations revealed that the deceased girl was studying at a

Meanwhile, a grocery store



Police carrying out investigation at the hotel where the couple's bodies were found hanging

School Chalo Abhiyan kicks off

Pioneer

owner, identified as Sanjav Agrawal (54) from Model House locality, took his own life at his residence in Aminabad early Monday morning. He was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta around his neck around 5 am. His brother Arun Agrawal and

other family members brought him down and rushed him to Civil Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Arun informed the police that a suicide note was discovered in Sanjay's trousers' pocket. "He wrote that he was ending his life due to harassment and bullying by shop owner Dhruv Kumar Sahu," Arun stated.

Sanjay allegedly mentioned in the note that Sahu had subjected him to severe harassment and had threatened him with dire consequences. "My brother was under tremendous stress due to Sahu's actions, which led

Arun claimed.
The Aminabad police mentioned that they are investigating whether Sahu had lent money to Sanjay and if financial pressure was a factor. "We are looking into whether Sahu was a money lender and if Sanjay owed him money," they

Local sources revealed that Sanjay had been facing persistent demands from Sahu for repayment of a loan, as his grocery business had been struggling over the past few months, making it difficult for him to expand or repay the debt. Investigating Officer Ramesh Kumar Sonkar confirmed that

the case is under investigation, and Sanjay's body has been sent for autopsy. In a separate incident on the

same day, a 35-year-old man named Akhilesh Mishra from New Lakadmandi ended his life at his residence in Saadatganj. He was found hanging with a rope around his neck, and the room was locked from the inside. Police suspect domestic discord as a possible reason for his suicide. His body has also been sent for autopsy, and investigations are ongoing.

Lt Gen Sengupta assumes charge as GOC-in-C

Lucknow (PNS): Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta assumed office as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-In-C) of Central Command in Lucknow Cantonment on Monday. He paid homage at the Central Command War Memorial 'SMRITIKA', and reviewed a smrifika, and reviewed a ceremonial guard of honour. He extended greetings to all ranks, families, and civilian employees of Central Command, expressing his commitment to uphold the exemplary legacy of his predecessors and maintain the operational readiness at all times. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Lt Gen Sengupta was commis-sioned in the Punjab Regiment in June 1987. He has also com-

pleted courses at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, the Army War College, Mhow, and the National Defence College. During his military career spanning over 36 years, he has held key command and staff appointments in various operonal environments. He has been awarded the YSM and AVSM during his command of Counter Insurgency Force 'Victor', and the 'Uttam Yudh

Seva Medal' for commanding

the 'Fire & Fury' Corps.

PNS LUCKNOW

 $T^{ ext{he 'School Chalo Abhiyan'}}$ was launched in Lucknow on Monday. Principal Secretary, Basic Education, Dr MK Shamuga Sundaram, Director-General of School Education Kanchan Verma, and basic education officer attended the event at a primary school in Chinhat.

Ófficials welcomed the newly admitted children to Class I by admitted children to Class I by applying roli and tika on their foreheads, and garlanding them. The children were also provided with free textbooks, and uniforms.

Out of 143 enrolled children, 105 were present at the school. The principal secretary visited each class and interacted with the children, asking questions about addition and subtraction, and listening to the counting from the Class 1 students. The children also performed a dance related to the campaign. The principal secretary had a

special conversation with 17 children who were freed from begging and are now studying at the school. Mahi and Urmi, two of these children, expressed their aspirations to

In a discussion with the teachers, the principal secretary provided directives for the 'School Chalo Abhiyan', which will continue till July 15. He emphasised the importance of



Children appear to be excited as schools reopened after summer vacations on Monday

each school, organising parentteacher meetings twice a week, and holding school management committee meetings weekly to ensure 100% atten-

ring a daily action plan in Additionally he stressed the by spreading awarene need for conducting household surveys to enroll all eligible children in age-appropriate classes in the nearest council school. He also highlighted the importance of public relations

the communicable disease campaign and providing necessary information to parents, local people, and students regarding the prevention of communicable diseases.

CITYBRIEFS

Principal chief electrical engi-

neer of North-Eastern Railway

Sanjay Singhal conducted an

inspection of the 25KV AC,

single-phase, 50Hz OHE third line on the Gonda Kachhari-

Karnailganj section (23.65 km)

on Monday. At Karnailganj station, he reviewed various

superintendent's room, electri-

cal yard plan, IPS and battery

room, and provided technical

insights on safety measures

during rail fractures post-elec-

INSPECTION

Bus station on the anvil at **Jankipuram Extension**

Lucknow (PNS): Processes are underway for the construction of a state-of-the-art bus station at Jankipuram Extension on a PPP (publicprivate partnership) model. General Manager (IT) of Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) Yazuvendra Kumar stated that Jankipuram Bus Station has been selected for phase-2 development of bus stations on the PPP model. He mentioned that 48 bus sta-

tions across the state have been selected for phase-2 development. "The consultant selected for phase 2 is carrying out a feasibility study for these bus stations, and tenders will be floated for all those found feasible," he said. The Jankipuram Bus Station will feature a modern bus terminal and a commercial complex, covering an area of 18,445 square metres. Kumar noted that the land for the bus station has been purchased from the Lucknow Development Authority. "This bus station is being construct ed to manage the bulk buses travelling to Sitapur and Bareilly, preventing them from entering the city and thus avoiding traffic snarls," he

Despite diversities, India is one: RSS chief

Ghazipur: Whatever it might appear from the outside, love for the motherland prevails everywhere and India is one nation despite its diversities, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said Monday at the launch of a book on war hero Abdul Hamid.

The event was held in Ghazipur's Dhamapur village, where Hamid was born this day in 1933. He was posthumously decorated with the Param Vir Chakra for his bravery during

the India-Pakistan war in 1965. Bhagwat said India is a vast country with numerous languages and ancient traditions. Naturally, there will be many customs and forms of worship, he added.

"Despite these diversities, our country has been functioning as one nation for thousands of years, and we are one nation and one society," the Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh leader said. Giving an example, he said, "Whenever a country attacks our nation, as China and Pakistan have done, all countrymen forget their differences and stand together because unity is in our roots." This is because Indians not just love their country but worship it, he said. "Whatever it might seem on the outside, there is love and devotion towards motherland India everywhere. The ideals of our ancestors who shed blood and sweat for our

motherland and the ancient culture unite us all. These are the things that make us one." He called heroes like Abdul Hamid an inspiration for instilling courage among people beyond what scriptures and speeches can achieve.

Hamid's son Jainul Hassan was present in the launch of 'Mere Papa Param Vir'. Bhagwat travelled to Ghazipur from Varanasi, where he had taken part in another event.

DONATED

trification.

On the occasion of Bank Day, Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, Lucknow Circle, Sharad S Chandak donated a cheque of Rs 16 lakh to Kalpana Jan Jagrati Samiti for



the upgradation of two old age homes, orphanages, deaf schools, etc in Lucknow under Corporate Responsibility. Apart from this, 11,000 saplings were planted in the Lucknow Circle. Daan Utsay, blood donation camp and health camp for staff members were also organised. General managers, deputy general managers, senior officers and staff members were present on the occasion.

Vishal Singh & Mrs. Vibha Singh. So from now onwards he Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow will be known as ANVIT PRATAP SINGH House No.-539A/015, Sanjay Gandhi Development Authority (LDA) has recently decided to amend its layout plan to permit the construction of houses up to

Puram, Indira Nagar, Ayodhya Road, Lucknow, Pin-226016. THE PIONEER (Tripathi on Monday. The primary objective behind

allowed to construct residential buildings with up to three floors on plots ranging from 600 square feet to 2,000 square feet. However, a crucial stipulation mandates that the ground floor or basement must be designated for parking vehicles. This requirement is intended to alleviate the problem of street and service lane erly parked vehicles.

developers or property owners must submit detailed layout plans to the competent authority for approval before commencing any construction. Construction activities will only be permitted after the proposed plans have received official clearance.

of the city that have been recently transferred to the development authority by local gram samaj (village councils). In such cases, individuals seeking to build residential units will need to obtain prior permission, submit a layout plan, and pay the requisite fees to the authority.

LDA Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi emphasised that these measures are part of a broader strategy to streamline operational efficiency and enhance public confidence in the authority's

LDA to allow up to 3 DM: Ensure effective drainage system

District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar inspected the Gomti Barrage on Monday the Irrigation department and other officials were present

Municipal Lucknow Corporation and Irrigation department to develop a com-prehensive drainage plan to prevent waterlogging issues faced by the general public during the monsoon.

Speaking to mediapersons, Gangwar highlighted directions for the rainy season.

tives from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath regarding prepara-"Efforts will be made to activate drainage mechanisms in both urban and rural areas, as

Effective actions will be taken against encroachments on drains and areas where drainage cleaning is inadequate to prevent waterlogging," he stated. He mentioned that in

Lucknow, most urban water drains into the Gomti river, regulated at the Gomti Barrage. "Irrigation department officials are advising barrage operators on managing river levels during upstream water surges," he explained.

Gangwar added that Lucknow Municipal Corporation would gather real-time rainfall data from various city areas. "Based on this data, Gomti Barrage gates will be managed to facilitate swift drainage during heavy rainfall. Waterlogging causes severe inconvenience, including traffic disruptions, so an effective mechanism will be established by the Irrigation department and Municipal Corporation to mitigate sud-



उत्तराखण्ड सहकारी चीनी मिल्स संघ लि0 निकट रेलवे क्रॉसिंग, बढीपुर रोड, जोगीवाल, देहरादून–248001 (उत्तराखण्ड) दुरमाथ–0135–2974413, ई-मेल- uksugars@gmail.com वैबसाईट– www.uttarakhandsugars.com, GST No. 05AABFU7713K2Z1

पत्रांक- 446/क्रय/22/2024-25 चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट की नियुक्ति हेत् विज्ञप्ति उत्तराखण्ड शुगर्स के अधीनस्थ सहकारी एवं सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की चार चीनी मिलों क्रमशः किच्छा / बाजपुर / नादेही / डोईवाला में वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25, 2025-26

व 2026-27 में वाह्य चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट के स्तर से लेखा सम्बन्धी कार्यों क्रमशः-कम्प्यूटरीकृत लेखांकन का कार्य, इन्वेन्ट्री का कार्य एवं पर्यवेक्षण के कार्यो हेत् इच्छुक चार्टेर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट फर्मों के आवेदन पत्र आंमत्रित किये जाते हैं। उपरोक्त वांछित कार्य सम्पादन हेतु इच्छुक फर्म / संस्था अपने पक्ष में विभागीय वेबसाईट (www.uttarakhandsugars.com) में अंकित विवरणानुसार अनुभव पंजीकरण सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र एवं वांछित अभिलेखों को संलग्न करते हुए अपने दर प्रस्ताव विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित होने के तिथि से 10 दिवस अर्थात् दिनांक-11.07.2024

कार्यालय में जमा कराना होगा। तिथि समाप्त होने के उपरान्त किसी भी चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट फर्म के आवेदन पत्र पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। प्रबन्ध निदेशक, उत्तराखण्ड शुगर्स देहरादून को किसी एक अथवा सभी प्रस्तावों को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा। प्रस्तावों से सम्बन्धित नियम एवं शर्ते कार्यालय की वेबसाईड (www.uttarakhandsugars.com)

की सांय 04:00 बजे तक पंजीकृत डाक एवं स्वंय के माध्यम से उत्तराखण्ड शुगर्स

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

floors on small plots

three floors on small plots measuring up to 2,000 square feet. This decision was deliberated and approved during a meeting chaired by Indramani

this revision is to address the issue of unauthorised constructions that have been proliferating across different parts of the city, while also aiming to enhance revenue generation for the authority. According to the new provi-

sions, individuals will be

congestion caused by improp-

Furthermore, prospective

Interestingly, similar rules will apply to plots on the outskirts

urban planning initiatives.

morning to ensure an effective drainage system in urban and rural areas during the rainy season. Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh, Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Rakesh Singh, executive engineer from

during the inspection. The DM instructed the

Lucknow den heavy rain impacts," he emphasised. per the CM's directives.

Yogi slams Rahul over LS speech, says he hurt soul of Mother India

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has strongly condemned the objectionable statement made by leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi in Parliament regarding Hindus. Speaking to the media at his official residence here on Monday, Chief Minister Yogi stated: "Rahul Gandhi's condemnable remarks have wounded the soul of Mother India, for which he must apologise to millions of Hindus around the world."

The chief minister remarked that it was hoped Rahul Gandhi would mature after becoming the leader of the opposition in Parliament, but his statements reflect his childishness.

"Only an immature person would make such remarks. Hindus form the foundational society and soul of India. As Swami Vivekananda said, 'Say with pride that we are Hindus. Hinduism is not merely a caste or sect; it is the essence of India," Yogi asserted.

Rahul Gandhi's comments about Hindus are far from the truth and have wounded the very soul of India. He should apologise for this offence, he added.

The chief minister remarked further that the episode would have dispelled people's illusions about Rahul Gandhi. "Congress should urge Rahul Gandhi to apologise to the people of India," he added.

 F^{armers} are a priority for the Modi-Yogi double-

engine government, as

demonstrated by the numer-

ous schemes launched to sup-

port them. One such initiative

is the Promotion of

Agricultural Mechanisation for

In-situ Management of Crop

Residue(CRM) scheme, which

offers subsidies on agricultural equipment for crop residue

Agricultural Mechanization for

In-situ Management of Crop

Residue scheme, applications

for various agricultural equip-

ment such as super straw man-

agement system (Super SMS),

Happy Seeder/Smart Seeder,

super seeder, paddy straw chop-

per/shredder/mulcher, shrub

from July 2 to July 16.

Under the Promoti



ance, generosity, and gratitude. "How can the shehzada of the group that calls themselves accidental Hindus' understand this?" he quipped. He described the Congress as being deeply involved in the politics of Muslim appeasement.

REFUTES CLAIM ON AYODHYA

Chief Minister Yogi also issued a strong rebuttal to Rahul Gandhi's claim in Parliament regarding compensation provided to displaced people in Ayodhya. He clarified that Rs 1,733 crore has been distributed as compensation to those displaced by various develop-ment projects in Ayodhya. Chief Minister Yogi stated that Rahul's comments were intended to defame Uttar Pradesh and Ayodhya, calling the statements highly condemnable and shameful. The Chief Minister Yogi emphasised that Hinduism represents toler-remarks while speaking to restored, Congress is getting

crop residue management

master/rotary slasher, surface

seeder, hydraulic reversible MB

plough, baling machine, straw rake, zero till seed-cum-fertilis-

er drill, crop reaper (tractor

mounted/self-propelled), self-

propelled reaper-cum-binder, and custom hiring centers will

be accepted from noon on July 2 until 12 midnight on July 16.

Farmers can apply online by clicking the 'Remove Token

for Subsidy on Machine' link on

the departmental portal at

mobile number registered on

the departmental portal to book

the application. Each applicant

can apply using only one mobile

number, and the application

must be submitted using either

the applicant's mobile number

or that of a blood relative, as this

will be verified during the

process. Under the Promotion

of Agricultural Mechanisation on the departmental portal.

management. Farmers can apply for this subsidy online n An OTP will be sent to the



the media at his official residence on Monday evening. The chief minister stated, "We have all witnessed Rahul Gandhi making false and misleading statements during the Lok Sabha elections. They tried to undermine the Constitution and influence the elections using foreign funds, spreading misleading claims about the Constitution. They deceived the mothers and sisters of India by having them fill out a fake bond worth Rs 1 lakh. Once again, he has made a false statement, which is highly reprehensible and shameful."

Chief Minister Yogi stated that everyone knows who has deprived Ayodhya of its identity. "Rahul Gandhi and his colleagues not only neglected Avodhya but also stained the Saryu river with blood. Now, as Ayodhya is gaining global

for In-situ Management of

Crop Residue Scheme, a

farmer's family (husband or

wife) can purchase one or more

types of equipment from the

approved list within a financial

year. Rural entrepreneurs and

Organisations (FPOs) are eligi-

ble beneficiaries of this scheme,

which provides subsidies of up

to 50 per cent on agricultural

equipment for crop residue management and up to 80 per

cent on custom hiring centres. Applicants will receive informa-

tion about the location, date and

time of the e-lottery through

various channels of the district

deputy agriculture director con-

cerned. In cases where more

applications are received than

the specified target within the

allotted time frame, beneficia-

ries will be chosen according to

block-wise targets via e-lottery

Farmer Producer

Subsidies on farm equipment for

upset," he said. He added, "Congress is a web

of lies. The truth is that Rs 1,733 crore has been provided to the people of Ayodhya as compensation. Whether for Ram Path, Bhakti Path, Janmabhoomi Path, or the airport, those whose land, shops, or houses were affected have been compensated. We have built shops for those who had space at the back, and for those who did not, we have constructed multi-level com-

plexes."
"Rahul's statement is a fabrication and part of a conspiracy to defame UP and Ayodhya. This reflects a mentality aimed at tarnishing the image of India and Ayodhya, a mentality that these so-called Hindus have perpetuated since independence," the chief minister

According to the government, Rs 952.39 crore has been given as compensation to the affected people for the Ayodhya airport, Rs 295 crore for Ayodhya bypass (Ring Road), Rs 14.12 crore for Ram Janmabhoomi Path, Rs 23.66 crore for Bhakti Path, Rs 114.69 crore for Ram Path, Rs 29 crore for Panchkosi Parikrama Marg, Rs 119.20 crore for Chaudah Kosi Parikrama Marg, Rs 35.03 lakh for railway doubling between Rudauli and Rozagaon railway stations, Rs 163.90 crore for construction of NH 330A and Rs 21.09 crore under Package 3 of NH 227B. A total of 21,548 individuals have been compensated so far.

This process will take place in

the presence of an executive

committee chaired by the dis-

trict magistrate. During the e-

lottery, in addition to selecting

beneficiaries according to the target, a waiting list will also be

generated, prioritising up to 50

per cent of the target. If the tar-

get is not met initially, benefi-

ciaries will be chosen from this

waiting list in sequence based on

the e-lottery results. During

the application process, farmers

must pay the specified security

amount online for each

machine. This security amount

will be refunded if the target still

needs to be met or the farmer's

application is not selected in the

The security deposit for agricul-

tural equipment is priced between Rs 10,001 and Rs 1 lakh

is Rs 2,500. In comparison, it is

e-lottery.

The chief minister emphasised the need for fresh food and quality relief materials in flood relief camps. He also instructed officials to establish a health team for relief camps, ensure the care of animals, and provide immediate compensation to farmers whose crops are damaged due to excessive

To mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks during floods, the chief minister instructed the Medical and Health department to prepare health kits and distribute them to districts. These kits will include essential items such as chlorine tablets, ORS (oral rehydration salts), and an adequate supply of fever medications.

The chief minister's directives aim to minimise flood risks and ensure the safety of people and property in Uttar Pradesh. He stressed the importance of better coordination among all agencies involved in flood management and relief operations. By taking proactive measures, the state government aims to reduce the impact of floods and provide timely assistance

Safety of people, property top priority during floods: Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath convened a high-level meeting with senior officials to review the state's flood management preparations and safety measures. He underscored the impor-

tance of effective coordination, swift action and better management to ensure the safety of people and property during 380 on theft.

The chief minister noted that 24 districts in the state are highly flood-prone, including Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Gorakhpur, Basti, Bahraich, Bijnor, Siddharthnagar, Ghazipur, Gonda, Ballia, Deoria, Sitapur, Balrampur, Ayodhya, Mau, Farrukhabad, Shravasti, Budaun, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Sant Kabir Nagar, Pilibhit and Barabanki.

He instructed officials to ensure all preparations are made in advance to mitigate the impact of floods in these

To ensure effective preparedness, the chief minister directed the Jal Shakti minister and ministers of state to inspect flood protection projects in sensitive areas. He also instructed officials to maintain coordination with central agencies, issue daily flood bulletins, and ensure the timely completion of ongoing drainage and channelisation projects in Ambedkar Nagar, Balrampur, Barabanki, Sitapur, and Shravasti.

Rs 5,000 for equipment with subsidies exceeding Rs 1 lakh. and provide times to those affected.

First FIR under new criminal law registered in Lucknow

In what appears to be the first case registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the new legal code replacing the Indian Penal Code, the Nigohan police registered a theft case under the new law on Monday afternoon.

According to the FIR copy, the case was filed under BNS 2003, specifically under Section 305 (pertaining to theft), around 12:38 pm on Monday. This replaces the earlier IPC Section

The FIR was lodged based on a complaint by Lucknow resident Sonu Kashyap of Khusmohra village in Nigohan. In his complaint, Kashyap stated that in the early hours of Monday, two thieves entered his house and made off with Rs 30,000 in cash along with several pieces of gold jewellery. Rehra police station in Amroha district is also among the first police stations in Uttar Pradesh to register a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, taking note of a death due to electrocution, officials said on Monday. Three new criminal laws - the Bharativa Nyava Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha

Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), came into force from Monday onwards. The special thing is that these new laws have been implemented first in Uttar Pradesh. The first police report has been filed in UP under the new law. According to an official communiqué, the first case in Uttar Pradesh under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which came into force from Monday, has been registered in Amroha. This case has been registered under Section 106 of the BNS. According to information received from the police, this case has been registered against Rajveer alias Rajju and Bhoop Singh alias Golu for negligence leading to death. An FIR was registered against them at 9:51 am in Rehra police station of

Amroha. Sanjay Singh of village Dhakiya Khadar claimed that his father Jagpal died due to the current flowing in the electric wire installed in the field of the accused. Jagpal died of electric shock while working in the field at 6:30 am on Monday.

At the same time, after the implementation of the new law, the second FIR has been registered in the Baradari police station of Bareilly in the state. The case has been registered under Section 97 of the BNS. Earlier, this case was registered under Section 369 of the Indian Penal Code, for kidnapping of a child below 10 years

It may be mentioned that the Indian Penal Code has been replaced with the Bharatiya Nvava Sanhita, the Criminal Procedure Code with Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Indian Evidence Act with Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has 358 sections (instead of 511 sections of IPC). A total of 20 new crimes have been added to the BNS, and the imprisonment sentence has been increased for 33 crimes. The amount of fine has been increased in 83 crimes and mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes. The penalty of community service has been introduced in six crimes and 19 sections have been repealed or removed in the law. Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita has 531 sections (in place of 484 sections of CrPC). A total of 177 provisions have been changed in the BNSS and

Cong demands CM's resignation over Mathura water tank collapse

dozen others.

Uttar Pradesh Congress on Monday targeted Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over his tall claims of zero tolerance towards corruption after an overhead water tank, constructed just two years back, collapsed in Mathura leading to two deaths and injuries to a

The Party demanded immediate resignation of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Expressing his anger over the collapse of the water tank and expressing condolences to the deceased, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajay Rai said here on

Monday that after independence, there had never been such a corrupt government in the state.

'Yogiji's government is neck deep in corruption. Forget about man, this government has not spared even god," he said. Rai said that in the very first rain, water started leaking in the temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya and the Ram Path constructed at a cost of Rs. 311 crore developed a pothole. He said incidents of road caving in and potholes had become common, exposing the corruption in the Yogi govern-

Rai said what happened in Mathura was very shameful.

"The water tank standing on the pillar of corruption of the Bharatiya Janata Party collapsed and became the cause of death of innocent citizens. Yogiji, who is at the highest level of corruption, is trying to create the impression of a clean government through false news but the public has now recognised his real face. In the last seven years, lakhs of crores of rupees of the public have been lost to corruption," the UPCC chief alleged. Rai said that if Yogi had any morality, he should immediately resign from his post of chief minister, taking responsibility for the corrupt system rampant in the entire state.

UPNEDA to install solar-powered mast lighting systems

Tn a bid to promote solar and selected sites across various disov and raise public awareness about it, the Uttar Pradesh government has initiated the installation of solarpowered mast lighting systems across various districts.

Following the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a detailed action plan was developed to boost solar energy in the state. The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNE-DA) has started the process of selecting an agency through an e-tender to carry out installation of 2,500 solar mast lighting systems in different districts. Upon selection, the chosen agency will be tasked with supplying, installing, testing and commissioning these lights at a cost of Rs 29.78 crore within a four-month time frame. Additionally, the UPNEDA is actively developing an IVR and dashboard monitoring system to support the land bank management portal and other initiatives.

tricts of the state. These solarpowered mast lights offer unique features. They will utilise a lithium ferro phosphate battery system operating at 12.8 volts, and despite emitting white light, they will not produce ultraviolet rays. They produce light at a rate of 135 lumens per watt, ensuring effective illumination outdoors and reliable operation in temperatures ranging from zero to 60 degrees Celsius.

white LED high mast light systems will be installed at

The agency responsible for installation will ensure both the quality of these lights and their operation and maintenance throughout the 5-year warranty period.
In addition, UPNEDA has

begun work on the Land Bank Management Application. In this sequence, responsibility has been delegated to UP Electronics Corporation Limited, which will complete the work through its software development agency.
After the completion of the work, UPNEDA will be able to

complete all the tasks, like outline application management, regular compliance, documents and contracts assessment and tenant and financial manage ment, through the land bank portal on the website. It will also serve as an effective platform for engaging with stakeholders. This application will be based on a 3 tier-based system. UPNEDA has not only initiated the development of a Land Management Application, but is also advanc-

ing a generative artificial intelligence-based IVR and dashboard monitoring system simultaneously to oversee activities under the PM Surva Ghar Yojana and PM Kusum Yojana. This system will effectively track and manage beneficiaries participating in these two schemes. UPNEDA has entrusted both projects to the UP Electronics Corporation Limited. Additionally, UPNE-DA is creating a portal aimed at converting stubble into biofuel. This platform will enable farmers to sell stubble, which UPNEDA will then process

into biofuel.

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bypolls: BJP assigns constituencies to ministers

Lucknow (PNS): The BJP has intensified its preparations for the (Aligarh), Kundarki intensified its preparations for the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, deploying ministers in each of the nine assembly con-

stituencies going to polls.
These assembly seats have become vacant due to resignation of the sitting MLAs after their election to the Lok Sabha. The bypoll dates are yet to be announced by the Election Commission of India, but the political landscape in Uttar Pradesh is already heating up. The by-elections will be held for

(Aligarh), (Moradabad), Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Phulpur (Prayagraj), Ghaziabad (Ghaziabad). Majhawan (Mirzapur), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar) and Milkipur

(Ayodhya) assembly seats. As per its strategy, the BJP will assign a minister to each constituency to oversee the election preparations, campaign and voter outreach. This move aims to strengthen the party's grassroots presence and ensure a strong victory in the by-elections. The ministers who have been assigned responsibility are Katehari (Swatantra Dev Singh and Ashish Patel), Kundarki (Suresh Khanna), Milkipur (Surya Pratap Shahi), Karhal (Jaiveer Singh), Phulpur (Rakesh Sachan), Majhawan (Anil Rajbhar), Ghaziabad (Sunil Sharma), Meerapur (Anil Kumar). The ministers have been directed to interact with voters, listen to their concerns, and address their grievances. They

will also be responsible for boost-

ing the party's visibility and momentum in their assigned constituencies. "The BIP's decision to deploy high-ranking ministers reflects the importance they place on securing victories in these by-elections," a senior BJP leader said.

In addition to the designated ministers, the party's state and district-level organisations are working in tandem to galvanise support among voters.

The by-polls are seen as a crucial test for the BJP, after it got a drubbing in the just concluded Lok

Sabha polls. "The party is leaving no stone unturned to ensure a convincing victory, with Chief Minister Yogi himself monitoring the preparations," the BJP leader said. The opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party and the Congress, are also gearing up for the by-elections, and the contest is expected to be intense. Mayawati's BSP and Azad Samaj Party of Chandrashekhar Azad will also contest the by-elections, adding a new dimension to the Dalit politics in UP.

SP mouthpiece 'Samajwadi Bulletin' embraces English

In a break from the past strident **L**anti-English stance, the Samajwadi Party's official mouthpiece 'Samajwadi Bulletin', has for the first time published an article in English. The signed article by party president Akhilesh Yadav is an attempt to reach out to the millennials and new voter groups in English for the first time. The SP has made this move after consolidating its position in Uttar Pradesh by winning 37 Lok Sabha seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. The article informs the readers the logic behind fielding fresh faces like Iqra Hasan, Priva Saroj and Pushpendra Saroj, all MPs, in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Given its status as the third largest political party of India with 37 MPs, the SP is seen taking a step forward by embracing English in the Samajwadi Bulletin to establish itself as a pan-India voice and for reaching out to non-Hindi speaking states. Apart from the party's growing ambitions under the foreign educated Akhilesh Yadav, it also marks a generational change for the party found-

ed by his father Mulayam Singh Yadav in October 1992. Mulayam Singh Yadav, after becoming chief minister of UP for the first time in 1989 as leader of Janata Dal, had launched an anti-English campaign. The move was against the use of English as medium of education as well as language used by the government institutions. The SP was also against computerisation and in the 2009 Lok Sabha election, the party in its manifesto had opposed the use of computers arguing that it was limiting the employment avenues. While Akhilesh still restricts himself to Hindi when it comes to connecting with the masses much like his father who was known as son of the soil, the SP chief seems to have taken the plunge for reaching out to non-Hindi speakers and, more importantly, young voters. The June edition of the party's monthly magazine features a picture of Akhilesh holding a cycle titled 'Chaa gaya Akhilesh (It's Akhilesh all over); with a message encapsulating his vision behind fielding a significant number of young candidates. The message appears after detailed profile pieces on Igra Hasan (Kairana), Priya (Machhlishahr) and Pushpendra (Kaushambi). Elected

to Parliament at the age of 25 years. Pushpendra has broken the record of ex-Keonjhar MP Chandrani Murmu to become the youngest MP in the country. "Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that he decided in favour of Igra, Priya and Pushpendra because they are young and they will be able to better understand the new challenges that exist in modern society," the bulletin reads. "Iqra is from a political family, she is well-educated, young, people know her, she knows how to speak, give a speech," it quotes Akhilesh as saying. The piece recalls Akhilesh meeting Pushpendra and his father, Indrajit Saroj. "Pushpendra's age was becoming an issue and for this reason his father was a bit hesitant. However, the (SP) president told Indrajit, 'aap ladaiye apne ladke ko (you let your son fight), and to Pushpendra, "lado kuchh nahi hota (fight, there would be no any harm). He won by more than one lakh votes," it notes. He has rejected the accusations of nepotism given that all the three MPs come from political families. "These elections were very crucial and if a family member wants to come into politics, and because it is amongst the people that they are going to struggle, they

are going to prove themselves, so I gave them the opportunity to do so. And the people have clearly accepted them," the bulletin notes. SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary admitted that it was indeed for the first time that a message appeared in the Samajwadi Bulletin in English and that too from its national leadership. "Samajwadi Party's thoughts are national and now, messages will appear in the Samajwadi Bulletin in English, too. Akhileshii was the first leader in the country to distribute laptops for free to young students. SP has always encouraged Indian languages, but even Chaudhary Charan Singhji wrote over a dozen books in English, which were later translated into Hindi," he said. "The SP has always given priority to Hindi and Indian languages. But in the new system, English too will be used wherever needed. Keeping in view the new generation and technology, where people mostly use English, the party wants to ensure that our policies reach them too as well those adopting the new system. Our basic character remains the same, that Hindi and Indian languages be prioritised," he said.

According to the plan, solar PV

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Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Under Security and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security, Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the Powers conferred under section 13(12) and read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice as detailed here in below with our Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrowers/guarantors having failed to pay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing will be subject to charge of Central Bank of India. The borrowers attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors

Notice Date Borrowers: (1) M/S Gupta Garrage through Proprietor Mr. Santosh Gupta S/o Late 26.06.2024 Ramesh Chandra Gupta, R/o-192/8, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur, PIN-208005 (2) Mr Santosh Gupta S/o Late Ramesh Chandra Gupta, Proprietor of M/S Gupta Garrage R/o-192/8, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur, PIN-208005 and Guarantors (1) Mr. Sanjay Gupta S/o Late Ramesh Chandra Gupta, R/o- 192/8, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur, PIN-208005 (2) Mrs. Om Kishori Gupta W/o Late Ramesh Chandra Gupta, R/o- 192/8, Shastri Nagar

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of property situated at Industrial Land and Building on portion of Premises No.102 Presently Bearing Nagar Mahapalika No.123/695, Industrial Area, Fazalganj (Near Fakire

Lakhpati Glass House), Tehsil and District-Kanpur Nagar, Pin-208012. Description of Area measuring 1080.90 SQ Yards he Immovable bounded as under:- North: Road, South: Railway Siding/ New Guru Nanak Market, East: Portion of Premises No. 102, thereafter Premises No.101 of Mr. Jaiveer Singh, West: Portion of Premises No. 102, thereafter Premises

No. 103 of M/s Shunty Bunty Date: 02.07.2024 Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

DyCM inaugurates communicable diseases control campaign

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Brijesh Pathak inaugurat-ed the Communicable Diseases Control Campaign by flagging off the van at the Kashiram Hospital, Chakeri, here on Monday. In his address, he told about communicable diseases and their remedial measures. He administered oath to all to actively take part in the campaign. He also lit the ceremopaign. He also lit the ceremo-nial lamp to mark the inaugu-ration of the programme. District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Singh said all were required to participate in the programme and ensure that there is no filth and waterlogging around them. Later, talking to mediapersons, DyCM Dr Brijesh Pathak said the campaign will continue till July 31. Seeing heavy water log-ging in the hospital premises on his arrival, he assured to resolve the problem soon and said the issue will be looked into by the DM. He said efforts are on to resolve the problem of shortage of staff and other issues in the hospital to ensure better treat-



Campaign at Kashiram Hospital on Monday.

ment to masses. Additional Director (Health & Family Welfare) Dr Sanju Agarwal Secretary (Medical & Health) Ranjan Kumar, Principal, GSVM Medical College, Dr Sanjay Kala, CMS Dr Swadesh Gupta were also present.

MISHAP: A motorcyclist died in a head-on collision with another bike near Faridpur village under Hasanganj police station area of Unnao on Monday afternoon. His kin took the injured youth to a hospital by an ambulance where he was declared dead by the doctors. The police have started a probe in the matter. Anirudh Singh of Sheikhpur Bujurg,

Hasanganj, had gone to Lucknow on Monday for some urgent work. The accident occurred near Faridpur village when he was returning from there in the afternoon and was seriously injured. The residents informed the kin who took him to the CHC by an ambulance from where due to his serious condition, the doctors referred him to the district hospital. On reaching the district hospital, the doctors declared him dead. Anirudh used to do agricultural work to support his family comprising wife Shiv Kanti and a daughter. Meanwhile a youth was run over by a speeding SUV on the

GT Road under Bithoor police station area on Sunday night. The victim, who was killed on the spot, was identified as Ajay Sharma (25). The irate villagers stoned the SUV and blocked the GT road for about six hours. ACP Kalyanpur along with force and other district administration officers rushed to the spot and pacified the issue by assuring to pay compensation to the kin of the deceased. The body was then sent for autopsy. ACP Kalyanpur Abhishek Pandey said when Ajay (28) of Hora said when Ajay (28) of Hora Banger was returning home and crossing the road, the speeding SUV ran over him and dragged him up to 30 metres which led to his killing on the spot. Two other cars following the SUV also rammed into it. Hundreds of villagers stoned the three cars besides blocking the GT road. The police had diverted the traffic from Mandhana and Kalyanpur route. ACM and SDM City assured to pay ₹5 lakh compensation and ₹4,000 per month to eight-year old daughter of the deceased and pacified the issue.

MLA administers oath to officials to prevent mosquito-borne diseases

Malong with District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, flagged off anti-larva spraying workers and fogging machines from Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital here on Monday under a spe-cial communicable disease control campaign to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

At the hospital's auditorium, the MLA administered oath to the officials to prevent mosquito-borne diseases and ensure their participation in the community. Tiwari said the special communicable disease control and Dastak Abhiyan are very ambitious programmes of Adityanath. "This campaign will be run from July 1 for the whole month in which effective action will be taken to prevent mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, malaria etc. Teams have been formed by the Health department and Nagar Nigam for this and they will do intensive spraying and fogging in all the wards of the city", he said, adding that the sanitation workers of Nagar Nigam will

also solve the problems of regular cleanliness, garbage, water-logging, removal of dirt etc. The MLA suggested that if dif-ferent departments are given the responsibility of inspecting the cleanliness of each ward, then this campaign can be made more successful in a better way. He said just as we all have together controlled diseases like encephalitis and polio, in the same way, we can all prevent diseases like dengue, malaria, filariasis, kala-azar etc. "For this, the most important thing is awareness and effective action. During the campaign, people should be informed about the symptoms, causes, tests and prevention of these diseases by ASHA and Anganwadi workers", Tiwari

said, directing the Health department to keep the toilets of all hospitals clean regularly. He said that the Single Donor Platelets (SDP) machine available in SSPG Hospital should be started as soon as possible. The DM said that mutual coordination between all departments is very important to make the campaign successful and various responsibilities given to the departments should be followed completely. Also, it is important for the public to discharge their responsibilities. "Do not allow waterlogging, dirt or garbage to accumulate anywhere in or around the houses. Cooperate with the teams going door to door during the campaign. Be alert and aware" ,he added.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said all preparations have been completed to make the campaign successful and the teams of various personnel, including health workers, have been deployed in the city by the Nagar Nigam and in the rural areas by the Panchayati Raj department for spraying and fogging. Apart from this, teams have also been prepared by the Education, Secondary Éducation, Animal Husbandry and Agriculture departments, he said. The programme was conducted by District Health Education and Information Officer Harivansh Yadav. On the occasion, SIC Dr SP Singh, Nodal Officer and ACMO Dr SS Kanaujia, Deputy CMO Dr HC Maurya, District Malaria Officer Sharat Chand Pandey, Assistant Malaria Officer KK Rai, biologist Dr Amit Kumar Singh, Dr Shahid from UNICEF, malaria inspectors Ajay Kumar Mishra, Chandrasen Bharti, Virendra Kumar Singh, Yudhveer Singh, Om Prakash, Anurag Mishra, Isha Srivastava, corporators of various wards, hospital superintendent, doctors, staff nurses and other health workers were also present.

rive to protect kids from diarrhoea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Atwo-month long 'Diarrhoea Roko Abhiyan' was started in the district from Monday to protect children from diarrhoea during the rainy season. MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari and District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam inaugurated the 'ORS Corner' set up at SSPG Divisional Hospital located at Kabirchaura. This campaign will be conducted for the entire month of July and August.

The MLA said that the chances of children getting diarrhoea increase during the rainy season and they start falling ill due to lack of water in the body. In view of this the 'Diarrhoea Roko Abhiyan' has been started from July 1 to increase awareness about the use of ORS and zinc during diarrhoea in children under five years of age and its manage-ment, treatment and coun-self with prevention of diar-



MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari and DM S Rajalingam at ORS corner of SSPG Hospital in

selling. During the campaign, ASHA and Anganwadi workers will go door to door to make people aware and if symptoms of diarrhoea are seen in children, the patients will be asked to go to the near-est hospitals or health centres and contact the doctors. CMO)Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said this time the theme of the

rhoea, cleanliness and ORS". ASHA workers will go door to door and teach the family members of children suffering from diarrhoea the method of making ORS solution. Along with this, they will also give information about the benefits of using it and zinc as well as cleanliness. The CMO said in case of diarrhoea, the use of ORS and zinc leads to rapid improve-ment in children. ORS corners

are being set up at all hospitals, primary and community health centres and Ayushman Arogya Kendras. To make the campaign successful, cooperation will also be taken from the departments of ICDS, urban development, rural development, education and Mission Jal Shakti and Namami Gange. Special attention will be given to children who are suffering from diarrhoea, are malnourished, and are underweight. Apart from this, attention will be given to vulner-able areas like urban slums, remote areas, nomads, families of labourers engaged in con-struction work, families living at brick kilns etc. SIC Dr SP Singh, Nodal Officer and Deputy CMO Dr HC Maurya, ACMO Dr SS Kanaujia, District Health Education and Information Officer Harivansh Yadav, DMC Dr Shahid from UNICEF along with the hospital superintendent, doctors, staff nurses and other health workers were present.

Stationery trader murdered

A stationery trader was bru-tally killed in Ghemau village under Bilhaur police station area late on Sunday night. The incident came to light The incident came to light when the family members woke up on Monday morning and saw him dead. On receiv-ing information, the police rushed to the spot with foren-sic team, sniffer dog squad and other senior officers. The the body was sent for an autopsy after investigation.

ACP Ajay Trivedi said Ramji Tewari (30) of Ghemau village used to do the trade of school notebooks and books. As usual he slept on a cot in front of his house on Sunday night. Late night he was killed with a pointed object and iron rod. Due to multiple blows on his head and excessive bleeding, he succumbed to his injury on the spot. On the information on ice control room, many senior police officers with sniffer dog squad and forensic team rushed to spot and carried out investigation. The DCP also reached the spot and investigated the issue, he said.

MAN DIES: A man was killed while nine others were injured when a speeding truck hit a bus carrying pilgrims on the Agra -Lucknow Expressway under Usrahar police station area of Etawah late on Sunday night. Around 60 pilgrims were present in the bus. UPEIDA team and Usrahar police rushed to the spot and rescued the pilgrims trapped in the bus.

NER GM inspects works at Varanasi City station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Saumya Mathur on Monday conducted a window-trailing inspection and reviewed the progress of Bhatni-Varanasi City doubling works of Varanasi division of NER. She directed the officers concerned to maintain the visconcerned to maintain the vis-ibility of the signal. After her inspection, the GM reached Varanasi City station in the afternoon while doing win-dow-trailing inspection from Krishak Express Krishak Express.

At Varanasi City station, she conducted a thorough inspection of the construction work going on at the station. Along with the expansion of the station, she inspected the renovated entrance, expansion of circulating area, platform sheds, construction of new pay and use toilets, beautification of waiting room for the convenience of passengers, seating arrangements, signages, wat drainage, newly constructed reserved/unreserved ticket counter building and development works being done under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). Under the ABSS, Varanasi City station is being redeveloped and made state-of-the-art at a cost of ₹59.87 crore. Mathur physically inspected the work plan and proposed blueprint of the works to be done under the ABSS and the places identified for development. She inspected various works of passenger amenities, including beautifica-tion of Varanasi City station



building, expansion and beautification of circulating area, reserved and unreserved ticket counters installed in the new building, improvement of ATM, QR scanner and motivated the passengers standing behind in the queue of UTS counter to make their own tickets from ATM machine and get

the tickets in short time. In a formal chat with reporters on the occasion, the GM said Varanasi City is an important station of NER and the work of developing it as Amrit Bharat Station is in progress. For the convenience of passengers, the construction work of new waiting room, new passenger reservation centre building and pay and use toilet has been completed while the work of landscaping of old PRS centre and parcel office is in progress. The GM directed the officers concerned to complete the 12 metres pedestrian overbridge and the remaining construction works for the

within the stipulated time period with full quality. On the occasion Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Senior Engineer Divisional (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Engineer-3 Anui Verma, Senior I Commercial Manager Sheikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Operations Manager Ajay Pratap Singh, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Sameer Paul, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner

development of the station

Ramakrishnan, Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti) IC Subhash, Divisional Commercial Manager Ramesh Pandey and senior railway officers were present.

DM inspects construction work for flood protection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

DM S Rajalingam on Monday inspected the construction work of geotextile tube cutter in a length of 350 metres for flood protection in Dhakwas village. The cost of which is ₹223.49 lakh. The DM directed the officers concerned to issue notice to the working agency if the work progress is slow. He also directed the gram pradhan to ensure cleanliness in the gram sabha every day by the sanitation workers, laying emphasis on keeping the village clean.

Meanwhile, the district magistrate also conducted a surprise inspection of the composite school, Shivpur during the day. He took information from the principal about the number of teachers in the school and the enrolment of students. The total enrolment in the school was 333, out of which 119 students were present. After this, he also inspected the cleanliness of the composite school. During the inspection of the school, the DM expressed dis-

pleasure over the cleanliness of the premises and excessive dirt in toilets. For this, he directed the officers to concerned issue notices to the principal and attendant. He directed the principal to ensure nutritious food to the children under the Mid-Day Meal scheme as per the menu. He also directed that teachers should be present in schools regularly and ensure quality education. During the inspection, Rajalingam also talked to the children and tested the quality of their educa-

SEMINAR ON DOCTOR'S DAY: A seminar was organised on the occasion of Doctor's Day in Lecture Hall Number 2 of the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday under the aegis of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), IMS-BHU Cell. It was inaugurated by UP convenor of NAMS Dr Rajendra Prasad and former Vice- Chancellor, KGMU, Lucknow, Padma Shri Dr Saroj Chooramani.

BLW GM takes new initiative

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Locomotive Works (BLW) Abhay Bakre took a new initiative and planted saplings in the BLW campus with the officers and employees who retired in the month of June with a sense of dedication towards the enviwere also present and they also participated in the tree was attended by Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh Gupta, PCME Subrata Nath, PCE Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Janardan Singh. Principal Chief Security



ronment. The objective of this campaign was to promote environmental protection and green cover. The GM said tree plantation is not only beneficial for the environment, but it also enriches our lives. He inspired all the officers and employees present to play an active role in environmental protection. The officers and employees who retired in the month of June

Commissioner Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Chief Vigilance Officer Ankur Chandra, Deputy General Manager cum Secretary Anuj Katiyar and member of Staff Council. The programme was organised with the support of Personnel, Civil and Public Relations departments and employees of various departments of BLW also participated enthusiastically in it.

Blood donation camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

The Central India Regional Council (CIRC) of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) here observed the CA Day on Monday and organised various programmes.
After hoisting the flag at its



Lakhanpur office at 10 am, CA Atul Mehrotra of North India Regional Council, Chairman CPE-CIRC, welcomed all the members.

It was followed by a tree plantation drive in which all the members planted different saplings. On the occasion a blood donation camp was also organised in which members and students donated the

blood. CA Abhishek Pandey, DC Shukla, Shishir Shukla, Ankur Goel, Pankaj Pathak, Akash Gupta, Amit Agarwal, Nitin Omar, Prashant Rastogi, Awadhesh Mishra and Kailash Mishra were present.



सेन्ट्रल बेंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India

"CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur Demand Notice Under Sarfaesi Act, 2002 under {section 13[2]}

As per securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act 2002 the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India and Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 the undersigned had issued a Demand Notice to return the loan as per Amount described in the list within 60 days from the date of Demand Notice The undersigned had sent letters / demand notice to concerned debtors under registered post but returned without delivery. In connection with the above. Once again the borrowers/ guarantors are informed to make payment of the loan amount as per described in the list along with

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors Borrowers: (1). M/s M F Enterprises Through Proprietor Mrs. Musarrat Jahan W/o 24.06.2024 Mohd. Usman, R/O-115-A, Baba Nagar, Macchariya, Kanpur, Pin-208021, (2). Mrs. Musarrat Jahan W/o Mohd. Usman Proprietor of M/s M F Enterprises, R/O-115-A Baba Nagar, Macchariya, Kanpur, Pin-208021, Guarantor: Mr. Mohd. Usman, R/o-

Amt. Outstanding (Rs.) 25.06.2024 Rs. 15,14,314.29 as on 31.05.2024

Date of Demand Notice

115-A. Baba Nagar, Macchariya, Kanpur, Pin-208021 Property situated at: 1/2 Eastern Part of Private Plot No. A-115, Part of Arazi No. 846, Village-Budhpur, Machhariya, Kanpur, PIN-208021 Admeasuring: 148.808 sq. Meter

he Immovable

Description of

interest within 60 days of publication at concerned branch of Central Bank of India.

Boundaries of Premises: East: Plot No. A-116 (at Present House No. 116), West: Remaining 1/2 Part of Plot No. A-115, Thereafter Plot No. A-114 (at Present Part of Plot), North: 30 Feet Wide Road, South: Plot No. A-123 & 124 (at Present Other Houses) Date: 02.07.2024 Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

SP workers celebrate AKY's bday PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Samajwadi Party (SP) workers celebrated the 52nd birthday of party president Akhilesh Yadav here on Monday with joy by cutting cakes, planting saplings, performing havan-puja, Rudrabhishek, donating blood at various places etc. Under the leadership of Samajwadi Minority Sabha's city president Haider 'Guddu', pencils, notebooks, books etc were distributed as gifts to children apart from soft drinks in Aurangabad area. Besides, 51 mango, neem and banyan trees were planted by SP workers in Azad Park located in Lahurabir under the leadership of Shubham Seth 'Golu' to protect the environment. The chief guest was former SP city SP president Vishnu Sharma.

Awareness workshop on new criminal laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

I criminal laws in India marks a significant milestone in the country's legal landscape. These laws bring about crucial changes in the field of crime prevention, law enforcement and justice delivery. These views were expressed by Prof BP Singh, former Head of Law, AU while addressing a workshop on awareness on new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) organised by IIIT-A on Jhalwa campus here on Monday on the initiative of Union Education Ministry. Prof Singh delved into the details of new criminal laws, examining their background, provisions and challenges and opportunities they pose for India's legal system. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 is set to have farreaching implications for judicial decision-making processes. Judges will need to consider the new provisions and clauses in their rulings,

potentially leading to more consistent and equitable outcomes in courts across the country. Rishi Chaddha, The implementation of three new legal expert and advocate, High Court Allahabad said this new initiative is all about ensuring the well-being of fellow citizens. Acting Director, IIIT-A Prof OP Vyas said the introduction to the new criminal laws in India will deliver justice to the needy within a time frame. OSD Dr Akhilesh Tiwari, said the BNSS introduces robust safeguards to protect the rights and ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Prof Krishna Mishra and Dr Sangeeta Singh also shared their views on the implementation of the three new laws

in the country.

SEMINAR: In order to make the common man aware Police Commissioner Tarun Gauba informed the people about the details of the new laws in a seminar organised at Civil Lines police station on Monday. Meanwhile after the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyava Sanhita on Monday, the first FIR in the district was registered at the Dhoomanganj police station here. Dhoomanganj SHO Vaibhav Singh said the first case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was filed against two people on the complaint of a woman. FIRE IN SHOWROOM: A massive fire broke out in a paint showroom in Rajapur area on Monday. On getting information Chief Fire Officer Dr.RK Pandey arrived with the team. The CFO said the fire spread from the paint shop and the reason is not clear yet. The loss is estimated to be in lakhs.

DROWNS: A 20-year-old youth Kaif of Nau Bazar under Utraon police station area died after he drowned in the Ganga while bathing at Dumduma Ghat here. The body of the youth was found after 18 hours here on Monday.

RELIEF FROM HEAT: After the heavy downpour throughout Sunday night and drizzle since Monday morning, the denizens of Sangam city got a lot of relief from heat and humidity. The weather on Monday became pleasant due to the drop in temperature.

BJP, INDIA Bloc spar over new laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Criticising the laws, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said in a social media post "After the political and moral shock in the elections, Modi ji and the BJP are pretending to respect the Constitution, but the truth is that the three laws of the criminal justice system which are being implemented from today, were passed forcibly after suspension of 146 MPs.

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

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

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram also slammed

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

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

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

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

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

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

The initial impact will be to throw the administration of criminal justice into disarray, he said. "In the medium term, numerous challenges to the laws will be instituted in various courts. In the long term, further changes must be made to the three laws to bring them in conformity with the Constitution and the modern principles of criminal jurisprudence," Chidambaram said. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said the Congress' concern was that the bills were passed without discussion. Something as important and as far reaching as this. Many of us had called for an overhaul of

the IPC but we wanted a discussion and the discussion never took place and that is something very regrettable in a democracy like ours," he told reporters outside Parliament Congress MP Manish Tewari

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

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"misuse" of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, and against former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

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

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

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

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

Modi praises healthcare heroes on Doctor's Day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

On the occasion of Poeters of State Solution of State Solution and State of State Solution of State So said his government is fully committed to improving the health infrastructure in India and ensuring doctors get the widespread respect they

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

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

ensuring doctors get the widespread respect they deserve," he

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

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

They also contribute signifi-Day. This is a day to honour the cantly to economic growth and stability. They are equally integral to our financial well-being," he said.

Kharge seeks scrapping of Agniveer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

onstitution and people of India are supreme and the Modi government has failed to implement various policies on ground and instead indulge in speeches, Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday. He also demanded scrapping of Agniveer scheme. In its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the Congress has promised to scrap this new recruitment scheme and return to the older one where soldiers were recruited for 16 years of service.

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

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

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



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

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

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

in the Upper House on the in Ram temple, collapse of any mention of the Manipur canopy at three airports, increase in toll taxes and depreciation of rupee.

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

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

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

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

situation.

Kharge said the Prime Minister did not visit Manipur, which has been hurning s one year. He also said the Prime Minister visited nearly 14 countries and gave several speeches during the poll campaign but did not visit Manipur. Congress President said there was no vision or direction in the President's address to Parliament and attacked the ruling party for only giving slogans and not doing development works.

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

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

Doctors turn junkyard into fun

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

Kharge said Modi is an expert

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lt Gen Raja Subramani takes over as Vice Army Chief



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

MEA: 2,639 Indian fishermen repatriated from Pakistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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



Pakistan has shared the names of 43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen in its custody who are Indian or are believed-tobe-Indian, the MEA added. The government of India has called for "early release and repatriation" of civilian pris-

oners, fishermen along with their boats and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody, the ministry

"Pakistan has been asked to

triation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, who have completed their sen-

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

Pakistan has been requested to ensure the safety, security and

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

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

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

"As a result of sustained efforts by the government, 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014.

This includes 478 Indian fishermen and 13 Indian civilian prisoners who have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2023 till date," it added.

spot for kids with chronic diseases PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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



designed to promote physical activity and nurture mental well-being. Here, amidst laughter and play, children find respite from medical challenges, fostering a

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

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

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

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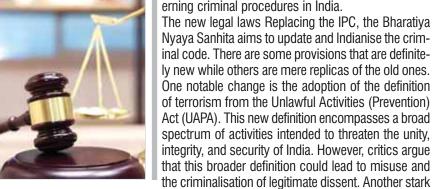
-PAPER WITH PASSION—

Cosmetic makeover

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

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

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



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



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

A new dawn in Tibetan diplomacy



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

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

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

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

had historically been.



ernment was insistent on giving the right of way to Red China, believe it or not.

The USA, or at least its State Department continued to believe for years that the Soviets and the Chinese were a single communist bloc. The extent of the animosity between the two was fully realized only after the Sino-Soviet clash along the Ussuri River in 1969.

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



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

CULTURE, HERITAGE

AND LANGUAGE

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

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

of that year itself. While expressing its delight at Nehru's message, China also laid down a few precondi- India's first prime minister, a tions. India would pass on to votary of international peace the new regime all properties—and brotherhood was obliviand assets of China. Secondly, India would not recognize any members of the KMT. Thirdly, India should support the expulsion of Nationalist China from the UNO, as well as its replacement by the

India's T20 World Cup victory

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

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

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

Unveiling the deception: Decoding food labels for healthier choices



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

and Clinical Nutritionist Ambassador of FIT INDIA Movement of GOI; views are

approach.

results. Yet, once Parliament convened, across the country. On the anniversary of the Emergency, Parliament was dividaccused the government of imposing an undeclared emergency and challenged

REFORMING JUSTICE

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

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

Noopur Baruah | Tezpur

A DEMOCRACY IN DISARRAY Madam — The signs were clear for all to see. We eagerly awaited the end of the elections and patiently anticipated the it quickly became apparent that walkouts and paralysis were the order of the day. The drama of democracy played out in full view, with heightened agitation ed, and the opposition was relentless in disrupting proceedings at every turn, reflecting the turbulence within our socalled democratic framework. Opposition leaders harshly criticized President Droupadi Murmu's address, dismissing it as a government-scripted speech riddled with falsehoods. They its claims of economic growth and

Leaders highlighted issues facing farmers, unemployed youth, and recent



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

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

and resilience, dominating the tournament with

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

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

Jayanty Subramaniam | Mumbai

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

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

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

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

Jayanthi S Maniam | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

THE EVOLVING PATH TO **SUCCESS WITH UPSKILLING**

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



RACHNA LAKHPATI

he saying "Where there's a will, there's a way" offers a reassuring belief that sheer determination can overcome any obstacle. However, navigating the complexities of real-world success involves more than just good intentions. It requires a foundation built on education, experience, and often, a blend of both. The path to achievement is multifaceted, demanding a strategic combination of willpower, continuous learning, and specialization. Enter the upskilling advocate. These individuals champion the importance of lifelong learning, asserting that the pursuit of new knowledge can unlock doors that even traditional qualifications cannot. The argument holds weight, especially in an era where technology evolves at breakneck speed. The ability to adapt to these changes is crucial. However, the journey of upskilling can sometimes feel like an endless treadmill—each completed course leads to another, creating a perpetual cycle of learning without a clear endpoint. On the other hand, we have the specialist.

Specialists possess targeted expertise, backed by rigorous education in a specific field. Their qualifications often serve as a shortcut past initial professional hurdles, providing a clear and direct path to success. Yet, this path can be fraught with its own challenges. As industries transform and new technologies emerge, specialization that once seemed advantageous may become obsolete. The clear road that once led to career success can abruptly end, leaving the specialist in need of new directions. So, who holds the advantage in this dynamic landscape? The truth, as with many aspects of life, is that the ideal path is a balanced



one. The most successful individuals often embody a blend of both approaches. They possess a solid foundation in a core discipline but are equally committed to continuous learning and adaptation. For instance, someone with a degree in marketing might pursue courses in digital analytics to stay relevant in an increasingly data-driven world. This duality-rooted in depth of knowledge but flexible in acquiring new skillsis what makes them particularly valuable. Employers who recognize the importance of this balance are making the smartest investments. They seek out candidates who not only have the expertise to excel in

their current roles but also the agility to navigate the shifting landscape of the professional world.

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

They understand that change is the only constant and that adaptability is the ultimate competitive advantage. Rather than seeing your career as a ladder to climb, envision it as traversing a vast, ever-shifting landscape. The willingness to learn and grow continuously is key to unlocking a fulfilling and successful career in an ever-evolving world. So, abandon the notion of being a finished product and embrace the journey of lifelong learning. It's a marathon, not a sprint. With the right mindset, you'll be well-equipped not just to survive but to thrive in the ever-changing world of work. Are you ready for the adventure?

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

Focus shifts to prudent public wealth management-



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

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

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

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

Under it, CPSUs were classified into two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic. The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors viz. industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing and so on. The government's intent was to sell all undertakings in the strategic sector with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sec-

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

Also tagged to this policy was government's intent to use the proceeds from disinvestment for meeting its fiscal deficit (excess of total revenue over total expenditure) or FD target. This part was a continuation from the past when the Modi - government started selling its shares in CPSUs in 2015-16 with particular focus on 'strategic' disinvestment. In the backdrop of devastation caused by Covid-19 pandemic and debilitating effect on its finances during 2020-21 (in that year, FD had scaled to 9.2 percent of GDP), in the budget for 2021-22, Sitharaman had put even greater reliance on proceeds of disinvestment by setting an ambitious target of Rs 175,000 crore. During that year, the government had planned big ticket disinvestments such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), IDBI Bank, NMDC Steel and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and

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

During 2017-18, the government sold



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

POCKETS

in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) yielding Rs 37,000 crore. In the following year, it undertook the sale of its 52.63 percent stake in the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) yielding Rs 13,000 crore. But, those sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC.

The results during 2021-22 and 2022-23 were particularly disconcerting. During 2021-22, against a target of Rs 175,000 crore, the proceeds from disinvestment were a meager Rs 15,440 crore. During 2022-23, against a target of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was nearly half at Rs 31,059 crore. For 2023-24, the FM had lowered the target to Rs 51,000 crore which during the course of the year was further revised downwards to Rs 30,000 crore. Even against this, the actual proceeds were a meager Rs 14,564

What does the interim Budget for

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

includes disinvestment proceeds besides receipts from asset monetization.

The very idea of garnering resources from the sale of government shares in CPSUs is inherently flawed. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty based on the existing tax rate and a reasonable assessment of the growth in nominal GDP, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment. In this case, a lot depends on the market scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the need to depend on 'miscellacompany in which share-sale is contemplated.

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

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc.,
- for approval. After AM's
approval, the Department of
Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moves a proposal for in-principal approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

In view of above, the government

shouldn't put any number to

preparing the budget as the end of the year, slippage is inevitable. Even so, the government's tax revenue is buoyant (for three years in a row since 2021-22, these have exceeded the target) and it is getting higher dividends from CPSUs as also higher dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (for its FY 2023-24, the RBI has made a huge dividend transfer of Rs 210,000 crore to the Centre for latter's use during 2024-25) and public sector banks (PSBs). These positive trends should be good enough for managing fiscal deficits; hence, no neous capital receipts'.

What happens to strategic sale? strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors, one gets sense that the government has completely abandoned the path of privatizing CPSUs in these sectors. As it is, under the 2021-22 policy, it had intended to retain at least one (and a maximum of four) undertakings in the strategic sector. Now, it seems it won't privatize even one. The government's decision to drop its plan for sale of BPCL which was on its agenda since 2019-20 is an indication of things to come.

Changing horses midstream won't be in the best interest of the country. Fundamentally, the State shouldn't be in the business of running enterprises. There always remains a risk of political interference and bureaucratic red tape which can seriously hamper the working of CPSUs. The government should continue the process of share sale and focus on debureaucratizing it.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

Surviving the scorch: Strategies for managing heat waves in India

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

he country is in the midst of intense heat waves causing severe hardship in the entire North, Central and Western India for more than a month. India may have recorded the hottestever temperature in 2024. On 29th May 2024 Delhi recorded 52.3 Degrees Celsius temperature at a weather station in Mungeshpur a suburb of Delhi though later on it was proved that it was slightly on the higher side. Even cooler places like Dehradun have noticed the highest temperature of the last 53 years this year. More than 30 crore people in India are prone to high risk due to lack of means to escape heat waves. The people are feeling severe shortages of power and water and many grids are collapsing due to overload lead-



ing to prolonged outages. Several people have died due to heat waves across the country. According to official sources, 150 people have died due to heat waves and around 30,000 people suffered heat stroke from March to mid-June 2024. The people from Delhi and other adjoining areas are rushing to hill stations of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and other hills to escape the heat torture and in the process causing heavy traffic jams and throwing in disarray the civic amenities in several towns and cities. The River width of Ganga in Varanasi has reduced by 35 % and similar reports are forthcoming of the narrowing of other streams and rivers.

The experts have been warning the government and the society at large about the changing weather trends of the country. Now the question for the policymakers, professionals and administrators is to assess the causes of such an unprecedented rise in temperature and how to mop up resources to deal with it. If the mandarins in power in the centre and state do not change the way to deal with it efficiently and effectively many disasters will be ruining the stability and cohesiveness in the One thing all must learn is the

fact that high temperatures are the results of the combined effects of global warming, increasing urbanisation/concretization leading to changing weather patterns. As far as Delhi and nearby areas are concerned the dry and warm westerly winds from Rajasthan and Haryana are the causes of the heat wave. Now these winds continue during the night and do not allow the night temperature to fall and this is further accentuated when these westerly winds lead to cloud formation in the sky which prevents cooling the temperature. To find the solution our planners and civic administrators in cities must meet the challenges of the 'urban heat island effect'. In nature trees and other vegetation in the landscape along with green roofs help in reducing the urban heat island effects by releasing moisture through transpiration, and by shading reflecting the sun radiation back into the atmosphere. Therefore, the massive dense urbanisation, buildings, roads and pavements absorb and retain the heat and hence the urban heat island effect with disastrous consequences. On the other hand, the effects of heat waves in rural areas are different; there is less or minimal heat island effect but the heat effects mostly relate to health issues like severe dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion and gastro-intestinal diseases exacerbated by the long power cuts and water

India is not the only country affected by heat waves. Europe is also suffering from heat waves since April 2024. The temperature is above 30 degrees Celsius in south Europe, particularly in Spain. This year in Europe the highest temperature was noticed in Zeneca and Bosnia at 33.3 degree Celsius on 14th April 2024. The European country's architecture is such that they cannot cope up well with continuous heat waves. The objective of this article is to stress that in India the Central and State governments should jointly devise a policy to effectively deal with summer weather.

The first thing to be done is to declare the temperature beyond a certain limit as a nat-

ural disaster/climate emergency and put in place standard operating procedures to deal with it for the different cities and rural areas. In rural areas, the government must ensure a supply of potable water and electricity as well as a mobile dispensary to provide quick health care services. In each village lakes and ponds should be created compulsorily so that people including farmers and cattle get water. It needs short-term planning risk assessment and early warning systems based on the Meteorological India Department forecast.

One of the fundamental requirements is the need to remould the district administration by creating an integrated and holistic approach so that climate-resilient develop-

ment is ensured and preparations are made in advance to deal with any emergent situa-

However, real change in the entire civic administration is essential in urban areas. The town and country planning needs complete overhauling as also revisit the power-centric civic bodies. The drainages are in shamble and must be protected so that the next emergency in rainy weather does not derail the life and property.Will Development Ministry set up a task national force to recom-

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

mend action?



Flogging of couple: BJP seeks resignation of Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $T^{\text{he BJP on Monday}}_{\text{demanded the resignation}}$ of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who is also the State's Police Minister for failing to control the "deteriorating law and order situa-tion" which according to the saffron outfit was evident from the public flogging of a couple at Chopra in Islampur block of North Dinajpur district on charges of extra-marital relationship.

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

Another senior leader of the party Gaurav Bhatia too



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

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

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

Meanwhile, State Governor CV Ananda Bose wrote a letter to the State Government demanding a report on Chopra

Raesi locals see sinister pattern behind terror attacks

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

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

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

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



plot in exchange for a paltry

sum of Rs 6000. To register their protest the residents in the Reasi district Monday observed a complete shutdown and demanded a high-level probe to expose the evil designs of those spreading a fresh reign of terror in the oth-

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

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

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

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

While 12 people were apprehended till Sunday, three more intervening night of Sunday and Monday. The total number of those taken into custody for questioning in the case stands at

5, a police officer said. He said the SIT is working on various clues to crack the case and requesting people to maintain law and order.

Police and paramilitary forces were deployed in strength in the sensitive areas as a precautionary measure to maintain law

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

"Anyone trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere will not be spared. It is an attempt to create hurdles and sabotage developmental activities, besides communal harmony.

"This is my guarantee.... We will not tolerate any attempt to damage peace in the district," the deputy commissioner had said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma reiterated her appeal to the people to maintain calm and communal harmony, assuring that the police were committed to solving the case and tracing the culprits at the earliest.

Manipur CM denies report on resignation

PTI ■ IMPHAL,

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

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

"Manipur is passing through a troubled time. In such a crucial time, the leaders of Manipur can't afford to be weak. We are fully confident of our abilities," the chief the chief

minister said. Addressing the Manipur issue is more important, Singh told reporters after attending a programme in Imphal on the created if speculative reports implementation of three new are

"The rumours (on resignation) are possibly spread by those who want to be CM and cent of the people in the state ministers, as well as the would start panicking," he



opposition," he said. The chief minister said that his government communicates regularly with the PMO and the Union Home Ministry on

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

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

"Panic situation might be published without tion Pub such unfounded reports may give pleasure to some people. However, chances are 90 per

He asked media outlets to come to Manipur and take stock of the actual situation to help bring peace to the state. Ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hill-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people since May 3, 2023, and rendered thousands of people

being a woman Chief Minister

should have been the first one

to come out and condemn this

incident," Bhatia said adding

the "Chief Minister is also in

charge of the Home Minister

and should have resigned in the

An alleged muscleman - nick-

named JCB — of Chopra MLA,

Hamidul Rehman, had alleged-

ly beaten up in public the cou-

ple for their extra-marital rela-

tionship. "This Talibani practice

first instance."

Earlier, addressing a gathering, Singh said, "The new laws allow registration of zero FIRs anywhere and also gives scope for registration in local

language or dialect.' "Law against mob justice commences today punishments imprisonment and even death... I want to appeal to the people of Manipur to give up mob justice" Singh said.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharativa Sakshva Adhiniyam (BSA) came into laws replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence respectively.

Army ready to face all challenges: Gen Dwivedi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

fellow citizens that the Indian Army is fully capable and ready to face all current and future challenges," he said. The newly-appointed Army age induction of indigenously-

built military hardware into the force to boost self-reliance in defence. "The geo-political landscape is



changing rapidly and technology is evolving at a very fast pace," he said. "The Indian Army faces unique operational challenges and to remain prepared for such threats and distinctive requirements, it is crucial that we continuously equip our soldiers with state-of-theart weapons and technology fighting strategies," he added. General Dwivedi said the Indian Army is on the "path to

transformation" and it aspires

to be 'Atmanirbhar' (self-

reliant) in defence. "To achieve this, we will

encourage indigenous initiatives and induct maximum war systems and equipment that are manufactured in our country," he said. General Dwivedi said he

would focus on ensuring that the Army is ready operate in the "full spectrum of conflict". ensure that the Indian Army is always ready to operate in the full spectrum of conflict, main-

the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and other stakeholders," he said. "This will ensure that India's interests are secured and we become a major pillar of nation building to achieve the vision of 'Viksit Bharat-2047'," Gen Dwivedi said.

The Army Chief said it is a matter of immense pride for him to lead the force "This is "It will be my endeavour to a moment of immense pride and honour for me to be assigned the responsibility to lead the Indian Army," he said taining complete synergy with "The glorious traditions of the 2022-2024.

BJP's partner in NDA, LJP leader and Union minister Chirag Paswan also slammed the

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha saying the Congress leader started opposing the devotees of Lord Shiva in his attempt to oppose the government. Paswan also accused the former Congress president of lowering the dignity of the post of the leader of Opposition.

While opposing the government, he started opposing Shiv bhakts, I am one of them. I believe in Lord Shiva. The way you were waving Shiva's image in the House for your political benefits, no follower of Shiva will tolerate that," he added.

State: TMC on three new laws

BJP asks Rahul to apologise for Hindu...

Indicative of repressive

Indian Army rest on the legacy of valour and sacrifice of our soldiers. On this occasion, I pay my solemn tributes to the bravehearts who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," he added.

The Army Chief said he was fully committed to protect interests of all the personnel in the force and to extend full support to ex-servicemen and their families. "It will be my priority to ensure that the interests and welfare of all ranks and defence civilians of the Indian Army are looked after," he said. "My responsibility towards veterans, 'veer naris' and their families is a sacred commitment and I assure this extended family, my full support," he said.

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

The Board of Patanjali Foods Ltd has approved the proposal of Patanjali Ayurved Limited's ("PAL") to acquire its Home and Personal Care ("HPC") Business, accelerating the Company's transition into a leading FMCG company. The HPC business of PAL currently has strong brand equity in India's FMCG space and enjoys a loyal consumer base across the country. It presently caters to four key segments, being (i) dental care, (ii) skin care, (iii) home care, and (iv) hair care. This strategic initiative for acquisition of HPC business shall strengthen the company's existing FMCG product portfolio with an array of marquee brands and also contribute to the growth in terms of revenue and EBITDA.

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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



time of split of the party, the 'cow and calf; constituted the symbol of the party. The Hand symbol proved the

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

Airport canopy fall...

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

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

On June 28, a canopy at the old departure forecourt of T1 partially collapsed amid heavy rains resulting in the death of a person and injuries to at least six people. Following the incident, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said structural engineers from IIT Delhi have been asked to immediately assess the partial collapse of the canopy. The official said the

structural engineers from IIT Delhi to do an independent assessment of roof collapse incident at T1 and they were expected to complete the assessment in one month. After the findings come in, a decision will be taken about recommencing operations at T1, the official added.

Indira Gandhi The International Airport (IGIA), operated by a GMR Group-led consortium DIAL, has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3 -and handles around 1,400 flights daily. In response to a set of detailed

queries related to T1, DIAL on

Sunday said its cross-

functional teams are actively evaluating the situation and with various stakeholders to ensure passenger safety and convenience. "We remain passenger committed to maintaining flight operations at T3 and T2, while operations at T1 are temporarily suspended. We appreciate the understanding support of DIAL stakeholders," spokesperson said in a statement on Sunday. To queries about business loss of concessionaries operating shops and services at T1, the spokesperson said as the evaluation process was still

under way it was not possible

to provide specific inputs.

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

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

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

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

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

'imposing three anti-people" laws --- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNA), 2023, The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, and The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 --which were implemented from Monday --- "in order to perpetrate a repressive State.

Calling it a "deep-rooted con-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Trinamool Congress has once again condemned

the BJP Government for

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

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



before drafting such draconian

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

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

"Ethically, I believe that it would be in the fitness of things to place these significant legislative changes before the newly elected Parliament for fresh deliberation and scrutiny. Given the wide-ranging reservations expressed in the public domain regarding the hurriedly passed new laws, fresh Parliamentary review of these attempts would demonstrate a commitment to democratic principles and foster greater transparency and accountability in the legislative process," Banerjee who had for the past several days been in touch with a number of other Chief Ministers and senior leaders of other parties nationwide wrote.

she asserted.

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

NEET toppers' tally...

From Page 1

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

AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. The allegations of irregularities, including

paper leaks, have led to protests and litigation, with various quarters demanding a complete re-examination. The Centre, however, has maintained that incidents of irregularities were "localised" and it could not jeopardise the careers of lakhs of

US Supreme Court rules Trump has partial immunity

Case now back to lower court, dimming chance of trial before election

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled for the first time that former presidents have some immunity from prosecution, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential elec-tion loss and all but ending prospects the former president could be tried before the November election.

In a historic 6-3 ruling, the justices returned Trump's case to the trial court to determine what is left of special counsel Jack Smith's indictment of Trump. The outcome means additional delay before Trump could face trial.

The court's decision in a second major Trump case this term, along with its ruling rejecting efforts to bar him from the ballot because of his actions following the 2020 election, underscores the direct and

possibly uncomfortable role the justices are playing in the November election. "Under our constitutional

structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. "And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts."

Roberts was joined by the other five conservative justices. The three liberal justices dissented.

"Today's decision to grant for-mer presidents criminal immunity reshapes the institution of the presidency. It makes a mockery of the principle, foundational to our Constitution and system of government, that no man is above the law,"

Iustice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a scathing dissent.

Sotomayor, who read a summary of her dissent aloud in the courtroom, said the protection afforded presidents by the court is just as bad as it sounds, and it is baseless".

Trump posted on his social media network shortly after the decision was released: "BIG WIN FOR OUR CONSTITU-TION AND DEMOCRACY. PROUD TO BE AN AMERI-Smith's office declined to com-

ment on the ruling.
The ruling was the last of the term and it came more than two months after the court heard arguments, far slower

than in other epic high court

cases involving the presidency, including the Watergate tapes The Republican former president has denied doing anything wrong and has said this prosecution and three others are

politically motivated to try to

keep him from returning to the In May, Trump became the first former president to be convict-

But if he wins, he could appoint

The Supreme Court that heard

If Trump's Washington trial does not take place before the 2024 election and he is not

given another four years in the White House, he presumably would stand trial soon there-

an attorney general who would seek the dismissal of this case and the other federal prosecution he faces. He could also attempt to pardon himself if he reclaims the White House. He could not pardon himself for the conviction in state court in

the case included three justices appointed by Trump — Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — and two justices who opted not to step aside after questions were raised about their impartiality. Justice Clarence Thomas' wife, Ginni, attended the rally near the White House where Trump spoke on January 6, 2021, though she did not go the Capitol when a mob of Trump supporters attacked it soon

Pak ATC issues NBW against Amin Gandapur

anti-terrorism court on Monday issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Ali

arrest warrants against Ali Amin Gandapur, the chief minister of Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. Gandapur is nominated in two cases of violence registered at the Sangjani and I-9 police sta-tions of the capital Islamabad. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and other leaders are also named in the

Judge Tahir Abbas Supra of the Islamabad-based court conducted hearings of the two cases where Gandapur and another leader Amir Mughal were absent.

The court rejected Gandapur's exemption plea, expressed dissatisfaction with his repeated absences, and issued arrest warrants.

It also issued similar non-bailable arrest warrants against Mughal.

block far-right candidates taking shape. The leftist coalition said it would withdraw its candidates in districts where they arrived in third position in order to support other politicians opposed to the far right. Macron's centrist alliance also said some of its candidates would step down before the

French far right leads

after 1st round of polls

France's National Rally surged into the lead in the first round of legislative elections, according to results released early Monday, bringing the far-right party to the brink of power and dealing a major blow to President Emmanuel Macron's centrists in an election that could set the country, and Europe, on a starkly different course. The results confirmed polling that showed the party — with a history of racism and xeno-phobia and once shunned by the mainstream — is no longer taboo, confined to the fringes of French politics. There remains another torrid week of campaigning before the decisive final voting Sunday, and whether the National Rally

will be able to win an outright

majority and form France's

first far-right government since World War II remains uncer-

Ministry.
When Macron dissolved the National Assembly on June 9, after a stinging defeat at the hands of the National Rally in French voting for the European Parliament, the deeply unpopular and weakened president

ular and weakened president

gambled that his rivals would-

n't repeat that success when the country's own fate was in the

He and his allies, as well as

politicians on the left, are still

hoping they can head off an outright win by the National Rally, and horse-trading began Monday, with some efforts to

Marked by high turnout of nearly 68 per cent that reflect-ed the high stakes, voters hand-ed the Marine Le Pen's National ed the Marine Le Pen's National Rally a strong lead, with about 33 per cent of the vote. The number includes the votes from a group of conservative candidates of The Republicans party who had allied with the far-right party in the first round. The New Popular Front, a leftist alliance, finished second with about 28 per cent. The president's centrist group Pen herself. That triumph provided an additional boost for the far-The president's centrist group came third with around 20 per cent, according to figures released by the Interior

To underline her party's tri-umph, Le Pen said that National Rally lawmakers would meet at the parliament

called on her supporters and voters who didn't back her party in the first round to push it over the line and give it a commanding legislative majority. That scenario would make the party's young leader, Jordan Bardella, prime minis-ter — and force him and and

power-sharing arrangement. Macron, first elected in 2017. has said he will not step down before his second term expires in 2027. "The French have almost wiped out the Macronist' bloc," Le Pen said Sunday night. The results, she added, showed voters' "willing-



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

right parties in Europe as Viktor Orbán's Hungary takes over the European Union's rotating presidency for six

on Monday and symbolically claim their seats.

Addressing a jubilant crowd waving French tricolour flags of blue, white and red, Le Pen

ness to turn the page after 7 years of contemptuous and corrosive power.

If the National Rally is able to form a government, it has promised to dismantle many of Macron's key domestic and foreign policies, including tak-ing a more confrontational approach to the European Union and stopping French deliveries of long-range missiles to Ukraine. The National Rally has historical ties to Russia, which invaded its neighbour

two years ago. At home, the party's plans include the rollback of Macron's pension reform that raised the retirement age and promises to boost voters' spending power without clearly detailing how it would pay for the pledge that could also spook European financial markets.

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

Israel orders Palestinians to flee Khan Younis

AP ■ KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP)

 $T^{\text{he Israeli army has ordered}}_{\text{a mass evacuation of}}$ Palestinians from the eastern half of Khan Younis.

Monday's order is a sign that Israeli troops could soon return to the southern city – the second-largest in Gaza.

Israel wrapped up an offensive in Khan Younis earlier this year and withdrew most of its forces. The evacuation order indicates that Hamas has regrouped in the area.

Israel has said it is in the final stages of an offensive in the nearby Gaza city of Rafah.Meanwhile, Israel released the director of Gaza's main hospital on Monday after holding him for seven months without charge or trial over allegations the facility had been used as a Hamas command centre. He said he and other detainees were held under harsh conditions and tortured.

The decision to release Mohammed Abu Selmia,

AP ■ SAN JUAN

Adangerous and extremely powerful Hurricane Beryl

made landfall on Monday on

the Caribbean island of

Carriacou after becoming the

earliest storm of its strength to

form in the Atlantic, fuelled by

Carriacou is one of the islands

of Grenada, where officials

said winds increased up to

150 mph (240 mph), blowing

off roofs and causing other

damage. "This is an extremely

dangerous and life-threatening

situation," the National Hurricane Centrw said.

Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, Grenada,

Tobago and St. Vincent and the

Grenadines as thousands of

people hunkered down in homes and shelters. The last

strong hurricane to hit the

southeast Caribbean was

Hurricane Ivan 20 years ago,

which killed dozens of people

Late Monday morning, Beryl was located about 30 miles (50

record warm waters.

(PUERTO RICO)

apparently taken in order to free up space in overcrowded detention centres, sparked uproar from across the politi-cal spectrum, with government ministers and opposition leaders saying he should have remained behind bars.

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

tions about them. Abu Selmia was released back into Gaza along with 54 other Palestinian detainees, many of whom also alleged abuse. The allegations could not be independently confirmed but matched other accounts of Palestinians who have been held in Israeli custody.

"Our detainees have been subjected to all kinds of torture

Beryl makes landfall on

Winds up to 150 mph blow off roofs causing damage

kilometers) northeast of the

island of Grenada, with maxi-

mum sustained winds of 150

miles (240 kilometers) per

hour, and was moving west-northwest at 20 mph (31 kph).

Officials in Barbados received

more than a dozen reports of

roof damage, fallen trees and

downed electric posts across

the island, said Kerry Hinds,

emergency management direc-

Once Beryl passes, drones will

assess damage and speed up response, said Wilfred

Abrahams, minister of home

affairs and information. Before,

it used to take two hours to

receive information as crews

fanned out across the island,

versus seven minutes with

A tropical storm warning was

in effect for St. Lucia, Martinique and Trinidad. A

tropical storm watch was issued

for Haiti's entire southern coast,

and from Punta Palenque in

the Dominican Republic west

to the border with Haiti. A hur-

ricane watch was issued for

drones, he noted.

island near Grenada

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

dogs. He said the medical staff at different facilities where he was held had also taken part in the abuse "in violation of all laws". He said some detainees had limbs amputated because of poor medical care. There was no immediate response from the prison service, which has previously denied similar accu-

Israeli forces raided Shifa Hospital in November, alleging that Hamas had created an elaborate command and control centre inside the facility. Abu Selmia and other staff denied the allegations and accused Israel of recklessly endangering thousands of patients and displaced people who were sheltering there. The military uncovered a tunnel beneath Shifa Hospital leading

Forecasters warned of a lifethreatening storm surge of up to 9 feet (3 metres) in areas

where Beryl made landfall,

with 3 to 6 inches (7.6 to 15

centimeters) of rain for

Barbados and nearby islands and possibly 10 inches in some

areas (25 centimeters), especially in Grenada and the

The storm was expected to

weaken slightly over the Caribbean Sea on a path that would take it just south of Jamaica and later toward

Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula as

a Category 1. "It should be emphasized that Beryl is fore-

cast to remain a significant hur-

ricane during its entire trek across the Caribbean region,"

the National Hurricane Centre

said. Officials in some south-

east Caribbean islands announced controlled shut-

downs of electricity and

warned of water outages ahead

of the storm, urging people to

seek shelter. They warned of

landslides and flash flooding as

they shuttered schools, air-

ports and government offices.

Grenadines.

to a few rooms, as well as other evidence that militants had been present inside the medical centre, but the evidence fell short of what it had claimed before the raid. Abu Selmia was detained on Nov 22 while escorting a UN-led evacuation of patients from the hospital. He said his detention was

White House.

ed of a felony, in a New York court. He was found guilty of

falsifying business records to cover up a hush money payment made during the 2016 presidential election to a porn

actor who says she had sex with

him, which he denies. He still

faces three other indictments.

Smith is leading the two feder-

al probes of the former president, both of which have led to criminal charges. The Washington case focuses on

Trump's alleged efforts to over-

turn the 2020 election after he

lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

The case in Florida revolves

around the mishandling of classified documents. The other

case, in Georgia, also turns on Trump's actions after his defeat

"politically motivated", adding that he had been brought to court at least three times but was never charged or allowed to meet with lawyers. Israel has since raided several other Gaza hospitals on similar allegations, forcing them to

shut down or dramatically reduce services even as tens of thousands have been wounded in Israeli strikes or sickened in the harsh conditions of the war. The army raided Shifa a second time earlier this year, causing heavy destruction after saying that militants had regrouped

Hospitals can lose their protection under international law if combatants use them for military purposes.

Prachanda-led govt faces uncertainty amidst Deuba-Oli talks

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

Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba went to the residence of Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman and former prime minister K P Sharma Oli, who is part of the ruling coalition, on Saturday to discuss the latest political situation in the politically fragile country. Although the details of the closed-door meeting have not been made public, there is speculation among some political circles that the two leaders might have discussed the formation of a new coalition government to oust Prachanda. Oli, eying premiership once again, was unhappy with the recent budget allocations made by the government for fiscal year 2024-25, which he had publicly spoken about. However, sources close to Prime Minister Prachanda have

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

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

include some other political parties like Nagarik Ünmukti Party which voted in favour of the government during the vote of confidence in the gov-

China's powerful rocket crashes into hills after 'accidental launch'

Apowerful Chinese rocket crashed after an "accidental launch" during a ground test on Sunday due to a structural failure, a private company responsible for the rocket said. Space Pioneer, also known as Beijing Tianbing Technology, said in a statement that the Tianlong-3 rocket was unexpectedly launched during a static-fire test at a facility in Gongyi county in Henan province.

Luckily it landed in a hilly area of the city of Gongyi and the company said there were no injuries as people in the area were evacuated in advance of the rocket test.

The nine engines of the rocket, stated to be the most powerful in the country, fired in the afternoon on Sunday were lifted off because of a "structural failure at the connection between the rocket body and the test platform", the compa-

Space Pioneer is one of several private aerospace companies that are developing medium-lift, reusable rockets to help China assemble its satellite

Swedes take a new step in parental leave

SpaceX's Starlink. Residents in flats in the coun-

ty-level city of Gongyi posted footage online showing the rocket climbing into the sky, leaving a trail of thick smoke before falling back to the ground on its side, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Sunday. The crash of the kerosene-liquid oxygen-propelled rocket caused a huge explosion. Some space observers criti-

cised Space Pioneer for "making a low-level mistake" and posing an imminent danger to residents.

"It was apparently not far from the densely-populated area of Gongyi, and the rocket was out of control," one user of Chinese social media Weibo wrote.

"However, the company did not even call it an accident in their statement. Instead, they were busy talking about the rocket parameters," the user said according to the Post.

Due to the structural failure of the connection between the rocket body and the test platform, the first-stage rocket was separated from the launch pad," Space Pioneer was quoted in

"After lift-off, the on-board computer was automatically shut down, and the rocket fell into the deep mountains 1.5 kms southwest of the test platform. The rocket body fell into the mountain and disintegrated," the company said. The rocket's product perfor-

mance is comparable to SpaceX's Falcon 9, Space Pioneer said, adding that it will be capable of launching the rocket over 30 times per year after the rocket's first successful flight. The incident happened days after China's Change-6 lunar probe brought first-ever samples from the far side of the moon. Space Pioneer said the test site

was far away from the city. "Before the test, we worked with the local government to improve safety measures and organised the evacuation of people in surrounding areas in advance. After investigations, there were no casualties," it said. The company said the rocket generated a combined thrust of 820 tonnes during the test – surpassing the 400 or so tonnes of combined thrust of other Chinese reusable rockets.

EU accuses Meta of breaking rules

AP ■ LONDON

in Grenada.

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

Users can pay at least 10 euros (\$10.75) a month to avoid being targeted by ads based on their personal data. The US tech giant rolled out the option after the European Union's top court ruled Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users the option of a service

users, in a decision that threatened its business model of tailoring ads based on individual users' online interests and digital activity.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said preliminary findings of its investigation show that Meta's "pay or consent" advertising model was in breach of the 27nation bloc's Digital Markets Act. Meta's model doesn't allow users to exercise their right to "freely consent" to allowing their personal data from its various services, including Facebook, Instagram, Marketplace, WhatsApp, and Messenger, to be combined to target them with personalised online ads, the commission

said. Meta's model also doesn't give

that's less personalised but still equivalent to its social networks, it said. The commission had opened its investigation shortly after the rulebook, also known as the DMA, took effect in March. It's a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from cornering digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties. One of the DMA's goals is to rein in the power of Big Tech companies that have collected vast amounts of personal data on their users, giving them an edge on rivals competing in online ad or social media ser-

The commission indicated that in order for Meta to comply, it would like to see an option that doesn't rely on a user's full personal information being shared

Grandparents can now get paid to take care of grandkids AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Sweden launched a groundbreaking new law on Monday, allowing grandparents to step in and get paid parental leave while taking care of their grand-children for up to three months of a child's first year.

The development comes after the Swedish parliament, the 349-seat Riksdag, approved last December the government's proposal on transfer of parental allowance. This comes 50 years after the Scandinavian country became the first in the world to introduce paid parental leave for fathers and not just mothers. Under the law, parents can transfer some of their generous parental leave allowance to the child's grandparents. A parent couple can transfer a maximum of 45 days to others while a single parent can transfer 90

days, according to the Social Insurance Agency, a government agency that administers the social insurance system. This Scandinavian country of 10 million, known for its taxpayer-funded social welfare system, has over generations built a society where citizens are taken care of from cradle to grave. In Sweden, you are entitled to be fully off work when your child is born. Parental benefit is paid out for 480 days, or about 16 months, per child. Of those, the compensation for 390 days is calculated based on a person's full income while for the remaining 90 days, people get a fixed amount of 180 kronor (USD 17) per day. There are also other

benefits for parents in Sweden — they

can also work reduced hours until the

child is 8 years old, while government

employees can get those reduced hours until the child turns 12.



Alexandra Wallin of the agency told Swedish broadcaster SVT the new law will "give greater opportunities".

Still, the rules for grandparents, she said, are the same as for ordinary parental allowance and require a person be insured for parental allowance, which

most people in Sweden are. There are conditions for parental allowance — a retiree can also take parental leave, for example, in which

person's pension. A person may not look for work or study during the time they receive parental allowance. In the central town of Avesta, about 140

case the compensation is based on the

kilometers (87 miles) northwest of Stockholm, Ritva Kärkkäinen told SVT she is considering taking time off work to care for her grandchildren. In 1974, Sweden replaced gender-spe-

cific maternity leave with parental leave for both parents. At the time, the so-called parental insurance enabled parents to take six months off work per child — with each parent entitled to half of the days. However, after that move, only 0.5 per cent of the paid parental leave was taken by fathers, according to the Social Insurance Agency. Today, fathers in Sweden take around 30 per cent of the paid parental leave, the agency said.

Sensex, Nifty hit fresh record

 $B_{\rm 443\ points\ to\ close\ at\ a}^{\rm enchmark\ Sensex\ rose\ by}$ new record high while Nifty settled above the 24,100 mark on Monday on buying in banking and IT shares in line with gains in Asian and European markets.

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

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

Mahindra, Finance, Hindustan Únilever, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel, Infosys, HDFC Bank,



Among Sensex shares, Tech
Mahindra,
UltraTech
Tata Motors and ICICI Bank
were the biggest gainers. were the biggest gainers. NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank were among the

laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher. European markets were trading with gains. US markets ended lower on sustained its upward momentum, with a reduction in US PCE inflation raising hopes for a rate cut by the US Fed in September. This optimism contributed to the strong performance of IT stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

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

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

exchange data.. The BSE benchmark declined 210.45 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 79,032.73 on Friday. During the day, it jumped 428.4 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a fresh record trading peak of 79,671.58. The Nifty went lower by 33.90 points or 0.14 per cent to 24.010.60. During the day, it 24,010.60. During the day, it climbed 129.5 points or 0.53 per cent to hit a new lifetime high of 24,174.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

said in a post on X.
The GST taxpayer base has increased to 1.46 crore in April 2024 from 1.05 crore as



of April 2018.

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

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

consumption implementation.

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

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

The ministry said mobile phones, TVs up to 32 inches, refrigerators, washing machines electrical appliances (other than air conditioners), geysers and fans which attracted 31.3 per cent taxes in the pre-GST era, are now in the 18 per cent tax slab in GST

regime.

It further said the compliance burden was reduced for small taxpayers, and the GST Council has recommended to waive off annual return filing requirement for taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of up to Rs 2 crore in fiscal 2023-24.

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

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



PTI MUMBAI

TVS Mobility group on Monday said its and strengthen its position in the global market.

partners includes the 100 per cent purchase of OEMs (Original l Roberto Nuti Group by TVS Manufacturers), Mobility indirectly, through its wholly-owned Indian suspension System suppliers subsidiary, SI Air Springs Private Limited and the full re-launch of the

It also said that both industrial and commercial companies will continue to vehicles. operate normally during the integration period.

the Bologna (Italy)-based group will now operate on a integration period, and we and product leadership of TVS Mobility, it said.

subsidiary SI Air Springs has acquired Italy-based Nuti Group's suspension automotive components systems expertise," said P supplier Roberto Nuti Srinivasavaradhan, Director Group, which will help it of SI Air Springs. broaden the product range

The pact between the two investments appropriate to company, TVS Mobility group said in a statement.

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

Following this collaboration, continue more international scale, are committed to ensuring a benefiting from the market smooth transition for all our "This acquisition marks a

significant step in our global expansion strategy, allowing on us to combine our its distinctive skills in air

> operates from Madurai in Tamil Nadu provides air spring solutions to major commercial vehicles, Bus OEMs (Original Equipment

and Indian Railways. On the other hand, Roberto Nuti Group produces and distributes shock absorbers and air springs for the aftermarket mainly for

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

"Both companies operate during normally stakeholders," said Luca General Randighieri, Manager at the Nuti Group.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Brainbees Solutions Ltd, the parent firm of online e-commerce platform FirstCry, has received Sebi's approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator

showed on Monday.
part from this, three more
companies -- SaaS platform
Unicommerce eSolutions,
Maharashtra-based Gala Precision Engineering and Interarch Building Products -- obtained the regulator's nod to float the initial share

These companies -- who filed their preliminary IPO papers with Sebi between

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

According to the fresh draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), Pune-based Brainbees Solutions' proposed combination of a fresh issue

of equity shares, aggregating up to Rs 1,816 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 5.44 crore equity shares by existing shareholders. Under the OFS, SVF Frog, a Cayman Islands-registered

entity of Softbank, will sell 2.03 crore equity shares of



25.55

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

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

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

per cent stake in

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

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

Unicommerce's issue entirely an offer for sale (OFS) aggregating up to 2.98 crore equity shares by the selling shareholders.

Under the OFS, Investment Holdings (UK) Ltd, an affiliate of Japan's SoftBank, will offload 1.61 crore shares, promoter AceVector Limited (formerly known as Snapdeal Limited) will sell up to 1.14 crore shares, and B2 Capital Partners will be selling up to 22 lakh shares.

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

Shares of these four companies will be listed on the BSE and NSE.

Rupee falls 11 paise to 83.45 against US dollar

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

In the domestic equity market, The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 443.46 points, or 0.56 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 131.35 points, or 0.55 per cent, higher at 24,141.95

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

As per the policy for Digi Yatra, facial biometrics are deleted from the local

passenger's flight.
"However, the rules related to

deletion of other information collected from the passengers, as well as any facial biometrics that are stored in other registries, must be clearly set out in the policy," the study said. Digi Yatra envisages an

identity management ecosystem for Indian airports, which can enhance the capabilities of Indian civil infrastructure. aviation digitise manual processes at airports, improve security standards and lower the cost of operations of airports.

"While the Digi Yatra Policy states that it is completely voluntary in nature, if the use of Digi Yatra is made mandatory in any way then airport's database 24 hours the same must comply with after the departure of the the principles laid down in



K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (case) relating to the necessity, legality, proportionality of the policy," the study said.

The verdict pertains to the cybersecurity audits and constitutional right to

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

vulnerability testing of the Digi Yatra platform to ensure that reliability, usability, ecosystem is a subject of continuous engagement and is adaptive to the rapidly evolving threats that exist in this sphere.

In addition to cybersecurity audits, it is imperative to establish a mechanism for performing algorithmic audits by independent and accredited auditors, prior to system deployment at periodic intervals, it added.

According to the study, the Digi Yatra SOP must specify timelines and purposes for retention of different types of data within the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem, beyond which personal data is deleted. "Internal SOPs for handling personal and sensitive personal data must

be identified," it said. The study also noted that there must be a provision for

the ongoing monitoring of the Amid persisting concerns performance of the entire system.

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

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

over user data privacy, the Digi Yatra Foundation, in April, said the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE) never stores any of the ID credentials data, which has Personally Identifiable Personally Information (PII) anywhere in any central repository. The foundation is the nodal

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



NEERAJ CHOPRA OPTS OUT OF PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE: REPORT

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

blocking leg when I throw because that's when my groin

gets pulled. We're working on that to see how we can reduce lympic and world the impact on the groin and control the pressure on it," he said, explaining the issue for which he will consult "different doctors" after the Paris Games. "I could have competed in

more events for sure and that was the plan. But I have realised that my health is paramount, that comes first. Even if I feel the slightest discomfort or like I am pushing myself too much in training, I've learnt to pause for

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

Chopra, who topped the field in last month's Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, with a throw of 85.97m, said he has become wiser over the years and no longer puts himself at risk to fulfill commitments like he used to do before his Olympic gold.

competition. I would definitely go and compete no matter what happened. But now with more experience, I am better placed to make correct decisions," he said.

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

Praggnanandhaa misses against Wesley So on another day of draws



PTI ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

Grandmaster R Praggnandhaa yet again squandered promising squandered promising position to settle for a draw position to settle for a draw against American Wesley in the fifth round of Superbet Classic tournament as none of the five boards produced any decisive result, here.

The lead positions remained unchanged with Fabiano Caruana of United States still Caruana of United States still ahead on 3.5 points, enjoying a half point lead over world championship challenger D Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa. French duo of Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia and Wesley share the third spot on 2.5 points each, a half point ahead of Anish Giri of Holland

Uzbekistan. Local hopeful Deac Bogdan-Daniel is still at the bottom with 1.5 points.
Gukesh also enjoyed some advantage that slipped away against Abdusattorov while Vachier-Lagrave played solidly

and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of

to hold Caruana. Bogdan-Daniel drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 10player double round-robin event, offering USD 350000 as prize money.

Praggnanandhaa is usually spot-on when it comes to accurate calculation or tactics but somehow here he has been missing on advantageous positions and also some winning moves.

Having missed out on a technically winning endgame against Gukesh, Wesley So found himself lucky as the Indian missed a not-sodifficult manoeuvre that he would find in seconds on another day.

another day.

Inspired by the presence of Garry Kasparov in the playing hall, Praggnanandhaa chose the King's Indian defense as black, faced the Fianchetto variation and did not have many troubles in maintaining the balance.

Wesley became a little ambitious towards the final stages of the middle game and this is where Praggnanandhaa could have penetrated his king side decisively. Wesley survived with the skin of his teeth.

Gukesh also had a chance

against Nodirbek through a tactical stroke that would have ensured consistent pressure and a long-term advantage. The game was drawn without much ado once Gukesh missed out on the opportunity.

Caruana showed his opening expertise to hold Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in a Ruy Lopez open. The American went for a little known variation as black and it was clear that his home-work ran deep. Vachier-Lagrave decided not to take his chances for too long and drew vide repetition in just 28 moves.

Monday is the only rest day in the tournament and the sixth round will be played on Tuesday.

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

strong bond, and they kept a

clean sheet against England."
That 0-0 against England was
a third straight draw for
Slovenia, one of six teams still

Kek joined in the mutual

respect, calling Martinez "a gentleman, he always behaves

The game is likely to follow a

pattern. Portugal leads the

ournament in most time

unbeaten at Euro 2024.

Canada Open: Fourth seed Lakshya Sen hopes to regain form

as defending champion PTI ■ CALGARY (CANADA)

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

The world No 14 Sen is the only Indian competing in the BWF World Tour Super 500 meet who will compete in the

Paris Olympics.
The reigning Commonwealth
Games gold medallist's form
has slipped since his Canada Open triumph around this time last year as he is yet to win

a title since then. Sen will look to find his rhythm back as he gears up for the Paris Olympics, which begins in less than a month's time.

With a No 4 seeding, Sen finds himself in the bottom half of the draw which also features the Japanese duo of Kodai Naraoka (WR 6) and Koki Watanabe (WR 20).

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

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

Rajawat recently had a notable last-eight finish in the US Open Super 300 event, wherein he lost to Lei Lax Xi. Kiran George will take on Yushi Tanaka of Japan, while Ayush Shetty is the fourth Indian in the draw, starting his campaign against the sixth seed Watanabe (6).

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

half of the draw which has WR 14 Nozomi Okuhara as the second seed. But her immediate next

challenge may be against WR 21 Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark. The Danish player has got a fourth seed and could be Malvika's last-16 challenger. If she is able to overcome the pre-quarters hurdle, Malvika may face fifth seed Sung Shuo Yun, who is WR 24.

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



AP DUESSELDORF (GERMANY)

Kylian Mbappé felt like he was in a virtual reality game when playing in a mask to protect his broken nose at the European Championship. The France star was smiling while telling the story Sunday on the eve of facing Belgium in the round of 16.

But clearly he does not enjoy playing his role as the masked man of Euro 2024 - "an absolute horror," he said.

"I had the impression in the first game that I was playing in 3D," Mbappé told reporters, vision, the sweat stays blocked so you have to keep lifting it to flow out," Mbappé said.

scored with a penalty in a second straight draw.

"It's really difficult. It limits the

"As soon as I can take it off, I will. It's annoying, it's annoying, it's annoying."
"Now, I don't have a choice, I

can't play without. So I have to nk you to the mask " he said. Those two draws dropped France to second place in Group D - won by Austria -

and sent Les Bleus into the top

half of the draw that few expected. Belgium also unexpectedly landed in the top half, by finishing runner-up in a group to Romania after a 0-0 draw with Ukraine as boos rained

down from its fans. It set up a rematch of a semifinal at the 2018 World Cup that France won 1-0 six vears ago en route to Mbappé's star role in the final.

The winner on Monday in Duesseldorf will find a difficult path to the final. Portugal, which plays Slovenia on Monday, is potentially waiting in the quarterfinals, then Germany and Spain are possible semifinal opponents. The teams that are considered

to be the big nations on paper, we're doing everything we can to stay in it," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "But actually it's something that's quite intense, highly,

highly intense." Deschamps acknowledged his team has not been scoring, but he at least has his biggest threat

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

AP FRANKFURT

 $P_{\text{Martinez knows to respect}}^{\text{ortugal coach Roberto}}$ the underdog, having already seen his team lose to Slovenia when the round of 16 opponents at the European Championship met in a friendly in March.

Portugal lost by the same 2-0 score to Georgia in a Euro 2024 group Martinez was asked Sunday about the underdog trend at the same time that Slovakia was frustrating England with a lead that lasted until the last seconds. "All the teams here have a lot

of personality. They believe that they can win," Martinez said ahead of Portugal facing Slovenia again on Monday. "The same applies to Slovenia. They are very well organized,



competitive, and believe in what they're doing," he said in translated comments.

Portugal, the European champion in 2016 and still with the veteran presence of Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe, is a big favourite.

Slovenia is playing its first elimination game in the knockout rounds at a major tournament, its fourth in 32

years as an independent soccer nation. "It's a historical moment for Slovenian football," Martinez said, his counterpart praising h Matjaž Kek.

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

possessing the ball and Slovenia has the least, with UEFA assessing their scores as 64.3 per cent and 36.7 per cent. "They don't need a lot of possession to be dangerous,"

Martinez said. Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes expects patience to be key to beating goalkeeper Jan Oblak, who he described

"They attack very quickly. (Andraž) Šporar and (Benjamin) Šeško have a very

as one of the world's best.

Playing its fourth game of Euro 2024, Spain had yet to concede a goal all

tournament. That soon changed when Otar Kakabadze surged down the right flank for Georgia and crossed low. Le Normand chested the ball past his own goalkeeper, with the defender apparently distracted by Khvicha Kvaratskhelia arriving behind him to meet the cross.

Spain took its time to get back into the game, but Rodri -- back from a onegame suspension -- leveled the score in the 39th with a low shot from just

Spain beat Georgia 4-1 to reach Euro 2024 quarterfinals, next plays host Germany **AP** ■ COLOGNE (GERMANY) Spain will play host nation Germany in

Spain recovered from conceding an early own-goal to beat Georgia 4-1 for a spot in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals, ending one of the tournament's most compelling underdog stories.

Goals from midfielders Rodri and Fabián Ruiz brought Spain back into the game after Robin Le Normand's own-goal in the 18th minute had given Georgia a shock lead. Nico Williams and Dani Olmo took the game out of Georgia's reach with two more goals late in the game as heavy rain fell.

the quarterfinals on Friday in Stuttgart. The loss ends Georgia's first ever major tournament campaign, which included 2-0 upset win over Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

Despite the lopsided score, Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili had another standout game with nine saves to prevent a rout.

Spain had beaten Georgia 7-1 in qualifying last year, but this game was a close contest until the last 20 minutes and testament to Georgia's rapid improvement under coach Willy



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

Tude Bellingham needed to produce something special to keep England at Euro 2024.

And he did. England was seconds away from slumping to one of the biggest upsets in the history of the European Championship when trailing 1-0 to Slovakia deep into stoppage time in the round of 16 on Sunday.

But Bellingham's spectacular overhead kick in the fifth of six added minutes at Veltins Arena sent the game into extra time, and Harry Kane sealed a 2-1 win that keeps alive England's hopes of a first major trophy since 1966.

the European Championship," Bellingham said.

of his head and mimicking

"I saw people but I had the

feeling it was not me that was

playing," he said of his

comeback in a 1-1 draw against

Poland on Tuesday. Mbappé's nose was broken in

an accidental collision with an

Austria defender's shoulder

during a 1-0 win for France in

Without its captain and key goalscoring threat, France drew 0-0 with the Netherlands

and on his masked return he

played tentatively though

its opening game on June 17.

wearing a VR headset.

"It's hard to deny that it was one of the most important moments of my career so far." He's had a few.

The midfielder, who turned 21 on Saturday, has just completed a stunning debut season at Real Madrid, winning the Champions League and the Spanish title. At such a young age, he is one of England's most important players at Euro 2024 and delivered a moment of magic when all hope seemed lost. "His world is different to

pretty much every other 21-year-old in the world... What

AP GELSENKIRCHEN "I think it was 30 or 20 he can provide are these (GERMANY) seconds until we were cut of moments where he grabs things by the scruff of the neck and his character and his personality creates moments that can change in a big game," England manager Gareth Southgate said.

England - one of the pretournament favorites and runner-up at the last Euros trailed 1-0 to 45th-ranked Slovakia after Ivan Schranz's 25th-minute goal.

With the clock running down, Bellingham's time came. Kyle Walker launched a long throw from the right. Marc Guehi leapt to flick the ball

Bellingham was in the box and had to readjust his body



to execute a perfect overhead kick, sending the ball into the bottom corner to leave Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dubravka stuck on his line as he watched it nestle into the

back of the net. Some England fans had already left the stadium. Those inside erupted.

"I had a funny feeling the game wasn't dead and I know that sounds ridiculous. We were pushing and probing," Southgate said. Bellingham's

Bellingham's goal was England's first shot on target in the match.

It didn't have to wait long for its second as Kane headed home to score his seventh goal in his last seven knockout

games at major tournaments. It was also a record-extending 65th for his country. England will play Switzerland

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

Iceland at Euro 2016. "It's knockout football and anything is Southgate said. possible,"

England had faced fierce criticism for its performances in the group stage and boos rang around the stadium in the first half as frustration grew among its fans following Schranz's strike.

It needed to improve in the second half. Phil Foden had a goal ruled out by VAR, Kane headed wide from close range and Declan Rice hit the post in the 81st.

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

They scored a goal from a player who is valued at 100 million euros. This was a team worth 1.5 billion (euros). You concede just half a meter and you will get punished," Slovakia coach Francesco Calzona said.

SIX INDIANS IN ICC TEAM OF TOURNAMENT









a match-winning knock in the final against South Africa.

Kohli had an underwhelming World Cup before rising to the occasion in the big final where he was adjudged man-of-the-

All three white ticked

tick it: Dravid to Kohli

dressing room celebrations take him at least two days to shared by the ICC on its fully grasp the enormity of the

said.

210 kmph.

a charter flight.

Indian

off; one red to go,

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

Staying true to his no-nonsense taskmaster image,

outgoing India head coach Rahul Dravid had an

assignment for star batter Virat

Kohli even on his last day at work and within hours of India

winning the T20 World Cup.

"All three white ticked off, one red to go. Tick it," Dravid told

Kohli in a video of the Indian

By three white he meant the

limited-overs global trophies --

the T20 World Cup, the ODI

World Cup and the Champions Trophy -- all of which Kohli has collected as a

player. What's left now is winning the World Test

India have lost the WTC Final

twice (against New Zealand in

The 35-year-old Kohli, who

Internationals after the World

Cup triumph here on Saturday,

merely smiled at Dravid as he

repeated himself to assert his

point, albeit with a warm smile

The 51-year-old Dravid, who

was appointed India coach in 2021, ended his tenure with

India defeated South Africa by

seven runs in the humdinger to

claim their second overall T20

world crown, having won the of about 70 members.

from

2021 and Australia in 2023).

Championship Final.

retired

on his face.

"Go tick it."

this event.

match for his 59-ball 76. India pipped South Africa by seven runs in a sensational comeback in the death overs to win their second T20 World Cup title after 17 years.

skipper Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and two pacers in Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh.
Rohit led from the front with

257 runs at a splendid strikerate of 156.7 to his name. He

title in its inaugural edition in

South Africa back in 2007

under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

In the ODI format, India won the 1983 and 2011 World Cups before snaring the 2013

The congratulatory video also

featured Suryakumar Yadav,

whose blinder of a catch to

dismiss David Miller proved

The Mumbaikar said it would

"No feelings right now, I don't

Pacer Arshdeep Singh flaunted

a couple of polaroid shots of

his, one taken on the morning

of the final and the other with

the winner's medal around his

neck and the trophy in his

"This is what belief can do," he

The Indian team is currently

stranded here as Barbados has

been shut down due to

hurricane Beryl, originating in

the Atlantic. The category 4

hurricane has intensified with

maximum sustained winds of

The Indian team was supposed

to take an Emirates flight from

New York via Dubai. A source

told PTI that the plan now is to take the team back to India on

including support staff, families, and officials, consists

hands in the afternoon.

know what to say," he said.

Champions Trophy.

crucial in the final here.

run-getter after Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz. The Player of the Tournament

and India's trump card in their title win, Bumrah returned with 15 wickets. But more than his wickets, his

impact in restricting the scoring rate of teams made India's Bumrah most important player right through the tournament.

His economy rate of 4.17 was the best ever by any bowler in a single edition of the men's T20 Following their historic semifinal finish, Afghanistan found three players in the ICC team, including left-arm quick Fazalhaq Farooqi, who topped the wicket-takers chart jointly with Arshdeep (17 wickets each).

Wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who topped the runs scorers' list with 281 runs as an opener for Afghanistan, also found a place alongside skipper Rashid

crafty leg-spinner

brilliantly led Afghanistan in their historic run and returned with 14 wickets with a tidy economy of 6.17. Marcus Stoinis of Australia

and Nicholas Pooran of the tournament co-hosts West Indies completed the XI. Runners-up South Africa did not find a player in the XI and pacer Anrich Nortje was named the 12th man.

Nortje began the tournament with a brilliant 4/7 against Sri Lanka and took at least one wicket in all but one match.

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

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

Courtney Sippel, Tayla Vlaeminck, Tahlia Wilson.

One-day squad: Maitlan Brown (2nd and 3rd matches

only), Maddy Darke, Sophie Day, Nicole Faltum (wk), Tess

Flintoff, Kim Garth, Charli

Knott (vc), Katie Mack, Tahlia

Knott (vc), Katie Mack, Tahlia McGrath (c), Grace Parsons, Megan Schutt (1st match only), Courtney Sippel, Tayla Vlaeminck, Tahlia Wilson.

Four-day squad: Maitlan Brown, Maddy Darke (wk), Sophie Day, Emma de Broughe, Nicole Faltum (vc), Tess Flintoff Charli Knott (c)

Tess Flintoff, Charli Knott (c),

Katie Mack, Lilly Mills, Grace

Parsons, Kate Peterson,

Courtney Sippel, Georgia

Seniors will be there in CT and WTC; next T20 captain to be decided by selectors: Shah

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Monday asserted that "seniors will be there" in next year's Champions Trophy and the World Test Championship final if India qualifies for it, while a decision on whether Hardik Pandya succeeds Rohit Sharma as the next T20 captain will be taken solely by the selectors.

Talking to select media here, Shah lauded the contribution of senior players in the side's T20 World Cup triumph at the end of which skipper Rohit, senior batting star Virat Kohli and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja announced their retirement from the shortest format's international assignments.

Transition has already happened with three greats retiring," Shah said when asked about his thoughts on the team's next phase following the retirement of the seasoned trio. "The way this team is progressing, our target is to win the World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy. There will be a similar squad playing there. The seniors will be there," he added. This means that fitness

permitting, senior players are likely to be available for the

nine ODI matches that India will play before the Champions Trophy scheduled in February-March in Pakistan.

India's ODI assignments before that include three games each against Sri Lanka (away), New Zealand (home) and England (home).

On Hardik Pandya's all-round performance in the World Cup and chances of him taking over captaincy from Rohit in the T20 format, Shah said: 'Captaincy will be decided by the selectors and we will announce it after discussing with them.

"You asked about Hardik, there were lot of questions over his form but we and selectors showed faith in him and he proved himself."

Pandya served as Rohit's deputy in the format.

India broke the shackles of a tormenting 11-year run during which the side failed to win a single ICC title.

After losing two ICC finals over the last 12 months, the trophy drought finally ended here and Shah hoped the winning run will continue.

"I would want India to win all the titles. We have the biggest bench strength, only three players from this team are going to Zimbabwe. We can field three teams if the need

he International Cricket Council has picked six Indians in its 'Team of the Tournament' for the justconcluded T20 World Cup but there was no place for star batter Virat Kohli, who played

In his new role as an opener,

The ICC XI featured Indian

was the second most leading

India to tour Australia for multi-format Women A series in August

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India and Australia will lock horns in a multi-format women's A series in Queensland next month, in what is seen as a preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in less than four months' time. The tour will comprise of

three T20Is in Brisbane, three ODIs in Mackay and a four-day match at Gold Coast. Cricket Australia on Monday confirmed the schedule and named three Australia A squads for the series.

Australia vice-captain Tahlia McGrath will lead the 20-over and 50-over sides, while

ormer India wicketkeeper-

forms of cricket last month

Former Illula Wickelberg

announced his retirement from

on Monday was appointed as batting coach and mentor by

Royal Challengers Bengaluru.
"Welcome our keeper in every

sense, Dinesh Karthik back

into RCB in an all new avatar.

DK will be the batting coach and mentor of RCB Men's

team," RCB posted on 'X',

You can take the man out of

cricket but not cricket out of

the man! Shower him with all

the love, 12th Man Army," the

Terming this an exciting

opportunity, Karthik stated: "Coaching at a professional

level is incredibly exciting for

me and is something I'm truly

passionate about as a new chapter in my life. Hopefully,

the breadth of my experiences

as a player can contribute to the

development of the group and

"I believe that cricket success

hinges not only on technical

proficiency but also on match

bring added value.

formerly twitter.

post added.

PTI BENGALURU

Charli Knott will be in charge

of the four-day game.
"I'm really looking forward to being a part of this series and for the challenge that India A will pose," McGrath said in cricket.Com.Au. "It presents those of us not

playing in The Hundred with the chance to prepare for a huge summer against a strong opposition," she added. Fellow Australia quicks Megan Schutt, Kim Garth and

Tayla Vlaeminck will also feature in the white-ball matches, which will be their first hit-out since April's tour of Bangladesh as they begin preparations for the T20 World Cup scheduled in

batting coach, mentor

intelligence and composure. I am eager to coach and mentor our batting group, helping them to not only refine their method but also to develop the

keen match awareness needed

"It's also great that I can

continue my association with RCB as the franchise continues

to move from strength to

strength," he stated in a release

The cricketer, who is also into

commentary, had a spectacular

last season for RCB where he

played the role of a finisher and

scored 326 runs at an average of

to excel under pressure.

issued by RCB.

appoint Karthik as

First T20I: August 7: Second T20: August 9; Third T20: August 11 (at Allan Border Field).

First one-dayer: August 14; Second one-dayer: August 16; Third one-dayer: August 18 (at Great Barrier Reef Arena, Mackay).

Four-day match: August 22-25, Gold Coast District Cricket Club.

AUSTRALIA A SQUADS
T20 squad: Maddy Darke,
Sophie Day, Nicole Faltum
(wk), Tess Flintoff, Kim Garth, Charli Knott (vc), Katie Mack, Tahlia McGrath (c), Grace Parsons, Megan Schutt,

36.22 with a massive strike-rate

He was given an emotional

farewell after RCB lost the

Eliminator to Rajasthan Royals.

batter played 257 matches in

IPL representing five franchises

Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab and RCB. He had amassed

4,842 runs at an average of

26.32. Playing for India, Karthik scored 1,752 runs and

struck nine half-centuries in 94

In 26 Tests, Karthik has 1,025

runs to his name, which

includes a century against Bangladesh. In 60 T20Is, he has

scored 686 runs at an average of

26.38 with a 142-plus strike-

Speaking about Karthik's

appointment, RCB Director of

be just as impactful as a coach.

Cricket Mo Bobat said he will

"His longevity and track record as a player speaks volumes

about his skill and dedication. I

know he will bring that same

quality and commitment to

this new professional chapter,"

ODI matches.

Kolkata Knight Riders,

Overall, the wicketkeeper-

of 187.36.

Stay in moment, keep flexible mindset: Bindra's advice to Paris-bound Indian athletes

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

s India's first individual As India's first individual Olympic gold-medallist, Abhinav Bindra knows a thing or two about handling bigstage pressure and he simple piece of advice for those aiming for the podium in the upcoming Paris Games -- stay in the moment and have a flexible mind.

Bindra, who won the yellow metal in men's 10m air rifle event in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, wants Indian athletes to enjoy their time at the world's greatest sporting extravaganza.

'I want to wish all the athletes the very best of luck. They've done us all proud already by giving it their all and doing consistently well over so many competitions. And now it's their moment to shine on the world stage," Bindra said during a meet and greet programme organised by the Athletics Federation of India

(AFI) here on Monday.
"The Olympics is the greatest platform to sport in the world, and the whole world is waiting to welcome them. The whole country is waiting for our



athletes to do their best and make us all proud.

'I would just want them to give their best to stay in the moment, to remain flexible in mindset and just back the work that they had put in. You know, true confidence comes from the effort that has been put in over a consistent period of time, which I'm sure they have," the 41-year-old added. Two-time Asian Games goldmedallist and Asian champion shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, who is bound for Paris, said star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's gold-medal winning feat in Tokyo has inspired

other track-and-field athletes. "Our athletes are performing well and they will win medals in the Olympics. Since Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics, other athletes also want to win medals for their country," he said.

Asian Games silver medallist javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena, who will also be participating in the Paris Olympics along side Chopra, hopes India will clinch its bestever medal haul in athletics in Paris.

"We take pride in representing our country. It is a matter of happiness that many have qualified for the Olympics from India, and we hope to win the highest number of medals," he said.

"The journey has not been easy, it has involved a lot of hard work, staying away from home, and practising day and

Jena said he is satisfied with his preparation for the Paris Games. "Preparations are going well,

and we are determined to perform at our best and give 100 per cent.

India overcome resilient South Africa to win one-off Test by 10 wickets

Tndia were made to wait a tad longer for the winning moment by centurion Laura Wolvaardt, but they eventually went past the line convincingly by 10 wickets on the fourth and final day of the one-off Test women's Test against South Africa here on Monday.

India were required to chase a modest 37 after bowling out South Africa for 373 in their second innings and the hosts accomplished the task in 9.2 overs without losing a wicket. India had declared their first

innings closed at 603 for six.
The opening duo of Shubha Satheesh (13 not out) and Shafali Verma (24 not out) steered their side home comfortably. This is India's second 10-wicket triumph in Tests after a scoring a similar win over the Proteas at Paarl

contingent,

After getting bundled out 266 in their first innings, South Africa fought well through hundredmakers Wolvaardt (122, 314b, 16x4) and Sune Luus (109, 203b, 18x4) in the second innings. However, SA could only delay the

inevitable. Resuming at the overnight 232 for two, and trailing India by 105 runs, Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp appeared to be in good touch.
The former brought up her maiden

Test century, also becoming the first

woman batter to score a Test, ODI and T20I ton in the same year. However, Kapp was soon trapped leg-before by Deepti Sharma for 31, while Sneh Rana ousted Delmi Tucker for a duck as the tourists slipped to 266 for four.



With still work to be done for the innings but was dismissed for 122 South Africans to take the lead, when Rajeshwari Gayakwad Wolvaardt tried to anchor the trapped her in front to reduce the went past the 300-run mark, their on a lead they struggled to get the Gayakwad knocked her out for 61.

visitors 281 for five.

highest team total in Tests against the Indians. The previous best was the 266 that made in their opening innings here. South Africa needed less than 50

runs to take the lead at this stage. Nadine de Klerk and Sinalo Jafta stuck together until the lunch break and SA were 302 for five then.

However, in the post-lunch session, Iafta retired hurt due to cramps, as the visitors sent Anne Dercksen to join De Klerk.

But Dercksen departed for five, falling to Pooja Vastrakar with SA trailing by 27 runs.

Meanwhile, the tourists went past 316 to register their highest score in Test cricket, going past the 315 they made against England at Shenley in 2003.

partnerships going. The next stand was worth 14 runs

between De Klerk and Tumi Sekhukhune before the latter was run out for six. Jafta returned to bat, but she could

add just nine more runs and departed for 15 and they went to tea at 336 for eight. The hosts eventually conceded the

lead in the final session. This was the third instance of India giving away the lead after enforcing a follow-on and the fifth overall.

The partnership between De Klerk and Masabata Klaas produced 23 runs before the latter fell to Shafali, who cleaned her up.

De Klerk, who was dropped on fifty

by Renuka Singh and Vastrakar during a mix-up, brought up her

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