

Modi silences critics on Manipur



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

National Disaster Response

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

Modi said the Centre is length on the alleged working with the State irregularities in the conduct Government and others to of competitive exams, and of competitive exams, and asserted that tough action will restore normalcy in the State. Addressing Rajya Sabha members, Modi said Manipur is also grappling with floods, prompting the Centre to dispatch two teams of the

be taken against those involved in paper leaks. "We wanted there should be no politics on a sensitive issue like paper leak, but the Opposition is used to it. I assure the youth of India that

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

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

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

and peace in Manipur. The Prime Minister has been facing the wrath of Opposition led by Congress which has charged that Modi is yet to creak on the floor of is yet to speak on the floor of Parliament on the burning issue of Manipur violence and had again given a miss to the subject in his more than two-

subject in his more than two-hour long speech in the Lok Sabha a day earlier. The Opposition also alleged that the Prime Minister did not address the issue of paper leaks about which Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had written to the Prime Minister requesting

3-member judicial panel formed to probe Hathras case CM visits tragedy site, meets victims

PNS/PTI HATHRAS/LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced a judicial probe into the Hathras tragedy while not ruling out

Hathras tragedy while not ruling out the possibility of a "conspiracy" behind the stampede that killed 121 people here on Tuesday. The Commission will be headed by retired judge of Allahabad High Court, Justice Brijesh Kumar Srivastav. Retired IAS officers Hemant Rao and Bhavesh Kumar have been made the two members of the Commission, according to the information provided by the state government. The Commission has been tasked to complete the

He also said the "sevadars" (volunteers working for the 'satsang' organisers) should have taken the victims to the

incident at the venue of the religious congregation here and obtained information from the eyewitnesses about the course of events preceding the tragedy.

Asserting the government will ensure that such incidents do not recur, the chief minister said a standard operata discussion on NEET and NET paper leaks. Continued on Page 8 Adityanath said the government had

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

RAJESH KUMAR **–** RANCHI/NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

Continued on Page 8

collapse of an under-

construction bridge in the Madhubani region on June 28 which was being built by the Rural Works Department of

the Bihar government at a cost

of ₹3 crore since 2021.

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

PTI NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday took a strong note of an undertrial

THEFT

Seventh bridge collapse in 15 days alarms Bihar ARCHANA JYOTI panchavats. This incident follows the

Haryana and one each from Madhya

Asked why religious preacher Saakar

Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba has not been

named in the FIR as an accused,

Adityanath said, "Prima facie, the case has been filed against those who

Continued on Page 8

with Nepal.

a foot.

The bridge that collapsed in Bihar's Thakurganj was built in 2007-08, and had been

rendered unusable after it

developed a crack and sank by

Pradesh and Rajasthan.

PATNA/NEW DELHI

Even as a high-level panel of Ethe Bihar Government has launched a probe into the recent spate of bridge collapses across the State, yet another incident on Wednesday involving a bridge over the Gandak river in Siwan district of the State has raised serious concern about the quality of infrastructure and public safety. The latest bridge collapse marks the seventh such incident in a span of just 15 days in the State and second in Siwan district in the last 11 davs. Mercifully, however, despite the severity of these collapses, there have been no casualties thus far. With the State's rivers swelling due to continuous heavy rain, the possibility of more such incidents occurring in the coming days cannot be discounted, members of the Bihar Engineering Services Association (BESA) have warned. The troubling series of incidents began on June 19 with the collapse of an under-construction bridge in Araria, followed by collapses in Siwan on June 22, East Champaran on June 23, and Kishanganj on June 24.

investigation within two months. formed a Special Investigation Team led by the additional director general (ADG) of police, Agra, which has given its preliminary report. "She (ADG, Agra, Anupam Kulshreshtha) has been asked to get to the bottom of this incident, he said. hospital. People were dying and the "sevadars" fled, he claimed. Adityanth met those injured in the

The chief minister said among the 121 killed in the stampede on Tuesday, six were from other states — four from

prisoner lodged in a Manipur jail not being taken to a hospital for treatment just because he belonged to minority 'Kuki' the community, saying it does not "trust the State".

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

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

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

LETTINI ALC: NO.

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

Manipur has been in the

grip of an ethnic conflict between the minority Kuki and majority Meitei and

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

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

the treatment cost. Manipur descended into chaos and violence in May last year over a high court order directing the State Government to consider

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

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

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

Wednesdav has severed essential connections between several villages and Mahrajganj, leaving the locals at the receiving end.

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

"A portion of a bridge in Deoria block collapsed this morning. The exact cause is being investigated," he added. "The incident took place around 5 am. As per initial information, the bridge was constructed in 1982-83. Repair work was going on the bridge for the last few days,"

Kumar added. Villagers suggested that heavy rainfall over the preceding days may have contributed to the collapse, with a surge in Gandaki river potentially weakening the bridge's structure.

Similarly, a bridge in Thakurganj block succumbed This incident follows closely to rising water levels in the Bund River following heavy on the heels of another bridge collapse in the district just 11 rains, causing it to sink by a foot and crack, rendering it days ago. On June 22, a portion of a bridge collapsed in Darounda area, prompting too dangerous for use. the Bihar Government to set The bridge, located in Khoshi Dangi village of Patharia panchayat, was constructed in 2007-2008 with funds from up a high-level committee to investigate these occurrences. The cave-in was also reported the MP budget of the then MP from the Bheja police station area of Madhubani district, Md situated in the State's northern Thakurganj extreme, along the borders connecting

Following the collapses, the blame game has already begun, intensifying concerns about accountability and oversight in Bihar's oversight oversight in Bihar's infrastructure management. Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge took a swipe at the bridge cave-in in the State while Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi smelled a possible conspiracy behind the conspiracy incidents, implying a deliberate attempt to defame

the BJP-led State Government. "Why has the State suddenly started witnessing incidents of bridge collapse? Why is it happening after the Lok Sabha polls? Why were such incidents not taking place a month before? I suspect some conspiracy behind it. Authorities concerned must look into this aspect," Manjhi said. He also acknowledged the use of sub-standard materials by contractors as a contributing factor and assured that the State Government is taking action against those responsible.

Continued on Page 8

Twitters of Koo set to fall silent

ASAD NEW DELHI

 $T^{he \ Indian \ dream \ of \ having \ an}_{has \ been \ shattered \ as \ the \ 'desi' \ social}$ media platform launched in 2020 with much fanfare, and with many top Indian politicians and Government departments joining in, is to shut down.

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

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

"This shutdown will be a significant setback for those who believe in the democratic values of social media, as

dominance of Western media and their colonisation of the social media app space," he said.

In an emotion-filled post on LinkedIn, co-founders Aprameya Radhakrishna and Bidawatka shared Mavank their frustrating journey and insurmountable challenges, and writing, "We explored partnerships with multiple

larger internet companies, conglomerates, and media houses, but these talks didn't yield the outcome we desired."

They expressed their regret, saying, "While we would regret. have loved to keep the app running, the high cost of technology and services to maintain a social media platform has highlights the unending forced us to take this tough

decision. Founded in India, Koo soared to

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

conflict This prompted calls to expand the ecosystem of homegrown digital platforms, echoing strongly across the virtual platforms, world and propelling Koo to prominence. For a while, it seemed that this homegrown platform would significantly

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

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

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

Sensex breaches 80,000 mark for first time

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PTI MUMBAI

 $B_{\text{breached}}^{\text{enchmark}} \xrightarrow{\text{BSE}}_{\text{breached}} \xrightarrow{\text{Sensex}}_{\text{historic}}$ 80,000 level intraday for the first time while Nifty raced more than 162 points to close at a fresh lifetime high on Wednesday following heavy buying in banking and FMCG shares amid firm global market trends.

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

The index later closed near the 80,000 level at 79,986.80, up by 545.35 points or 0.69 per cent over the last close. As many as 24 Sensex shares closed with gains and six declined.

The BSE Sensex breached the 78,000 level on June 25 and 79,000 for the first time on June 27.

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

Among the Sensex pack, Adani Ports rose the most by 2.49 per cent.

Continued on Page 8







Encroachments main cause of traffic snarls in Aminabad

SHARMILA KRISHNA I UCKNOW

It is 12 noon on Wednesday morning and entering Aminabad is itself becoming a tedious process. Right from the Kaiserbagh crossing through the Latouche road one has to face traffic snarls which become more acute as one reaches the Aminabad police station.

Haphazardly placed carts, wrongly parked vehicles and numerous vendors lined up in front of shops make the Aminabad roads look like clogged arteries. All the roads of Aminabad, whether it is the road in front of the Burma bakery, on the four sides of the Jhandewala Park, roads around

Hanuman temple, near Gadbadjhala, Pratap market, the Sri Ram road, Prakash Kulfi road and the medicine

market, face snarls during the peak hours. Two-wheelers, three-wheelers move at a snail's pace and pedestrians struggle through the same chaos despite barriers being placed at two points in the busy area for traffic regulation.

Nitin Maheshwari, a resident of Aminabad, says that it is a big illusion that the roads of Aminabad are narrow, "One should have a look at the roads at midnight or during a VIPs arrival and one would be able to estimate their correct width. The excessive number of encroachments give a wrong perception that the roads are

narrow. Both the residents and the traders have been dealing with this problem of encroachment for a long time. God forbid if there is a fire, the results will be disastrous. Several complaints have been made in this regard but there has been no permanent solution to the problem," he said.

Sanjay Gupta, president of the Adarsh Vyapar Mandal, said that illegal encroachments were slowly destroying the tradition-al market of the city in this area which counted amongst the renowned markets of the coun-

People don't want to come to Aminabad and the traditional trader is thinking of migrating from this market. Those who have set shops after spending

crores of rupees are facing losses while those who have set shops on the footpath and do not pay any taxes are minting money. There is laxity on the part of the police, the admin-istration and the nagar nigam because of which roads have been encroached upon completely, he said.

Recalling old times, Gupta said that during his childhood days buses would easily run through Aminabad area and today the situation is such that one cannot even walk on foot through the market.

Several times campaigns have been carried out to remove the unauthorized vendors and points have been identified for them with yellow lines drawn. This occurred over one and

half years back but the vendors have returned. The market was so well known that it drew customers from the nearby dis-tricts at one time," he lamented.

Another trader on conditions of anonymity while making allegations of connivance between local nagar nigam staff and the police said that encroachment was not possible without their tacit support. "Whenever a campaign is car-ried out these vendors disappear and return no sooner that the campaign ends. They have prior knowledge as to when the drive will occur," he said.

He further pointed out that the Aminabad market, which was at one time called the first

choice of the city denizens, was fast becoming the last choice, "The residents of the city who would not shop from any other market except Aminabad now choose to visit the market if any product is not available in any other market of the city," he

added. President of Lucknow Vyapar Mandal Amarnath Mishra said that for the last 30 years they have been raising the plea that if Aminabad was not a vending zone then the vendors should be removed from the area, "When the roads have not one or two but three layers of vendors then how will the traffic move through the roads. Until the nagar nigam creates a vend-

ing zone and rehabilitates the vendors, exercises carried out

to remove them will not vield 2006 but it has vet not been implemented. Only a political results. Connivance with local officials is obvious," he alleged. will to remove encroachments can make a difference," he said, He pointed out that the traders are highly affected as cus-Municipal Commissioner tomers cannot park their cars, Inderjit Singh said that talks "The basement parking which is provided at the Jhandewala Park is always full with permawere on with the police department, "Action will soon be taken and all unauthorised nent cars stationed and there is vendors will be removed from no space for the traders to park Aminabad," he said. their cars," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Police He warned that if this contin-(Traffic) Kamlesh Dixit said ues the traders might close that encroachments were the business, "Products are of good main reason for the cause of quality and at a discount here traffic snarls in the area, 'We are having continuous but traffic snarls have created talks with the nagar nigam in such a situation for the traders," he added.

this regard and soon a drive He emphatically pointed out that a policy was required to remove the encroachments. will be carried out. However there has been some decrease in the traffic snarls in the recent years," he added. "The vending policy came in

city 02

Miscreant dupes cop's colleague

ants.

Lucknow (PNS): An unidentified miscreant demanded money from the colleagues and friends of a woman constable of the local intelligence unit while displaying her DP on her mobile phone number in Para police station area on Wednesday.

The miscreant succeeded in duping a woman constable of Rs 10,000 by this trick. The victim, Poonam Yadav, filed a complaint at Para police station. As per complainant, her mobile phone stopped functioning around 5 am on June 29, and it switched off on its own. The mobile phone restarted after much effort.

"As soon as the mobile phone was switched on, I got calls

from my friends and acquaintances who told me that someone had demanded money from them while using my mobile number displaying my photo as DP," she said. She further said a woman con-

stable, Seema Pal, transferred Rs 10,000 to two UPI numbers provided by the caller.

Seema Pal told me the DP of the mobile number showed my photo in the police uniform" she said. Police registered a case in this

connection. Meanwhile, unidentified miscreants stole ornaments from a he said. house when the entire family Sadatganj, Shanshah Raza informed the police that thieves was present at the house in Banthra. The owner of the house, Kaushal Kishore

सूचना

मैं युग धवन S/o अजय कुमार धवन

R/o D1/37 Sector H, Jankipuram

Lucknow UP- दिनाँक 02/07/2024 को

शपथ पत्र के माध्यम से घोषित करता हूँ

कि मेरे पिता का नाम अजय कुमार धवन

और अजय धवन दोनों एक ही व्यक्ति के

नाम है। भविष्य में सभी उद्देश्यों हेतु अजय

NOTICE

धवन के रूप में जाने जाएँगे।

Mohammad

Srivastava, filed a complaint ments from his house when he was at his workplace0 and his against unidentified miscrewife and their daughter were in Srivastava, in his own com-

the market on July 1. The police registered a case. plaint, stated that his daughterin-law found ornaments miss-The Mohanlalganj police ing when she checked them on arrested two thieves on Wednesday and claimed to have solved several cases of June 28. "She was looking for earrings which she had placed on the dressing table and searched for it in almirah in theft reported in the area. Those arrested were idenwhich she had put all her orna-

tified as Angad Kumar Verma ments and Rs 45,000 in cash, and Pawan Kumar, both of thinking she may have put it among the other ornaments. To Barabanki district. Both work as labourer and used to conduct her surprise, she found all the recce while working at conornaments and cash missing," struction sites in the area.

ADCP South Shashank Singh said the miscreants had In another theft reported in recently stolen a trolley and a solar panel. Both confessed to made off with all gold ornatheir crime.



Water accumulated outside Charbagh Railway Station after showers in Lucknow on Wednesday

Pionee



NOTICE

My son's name has been recorded as Hardik Kumar (HARDIK KUMAR) in my service record which is wrong. Whereas my son's correct name Aayush Kumar (AAYUSH KUMAR) should be recorded in the military records. Vinod Kumar son of Ram Badan, Village = Kadipur, Post = Basdevpur, Tehsil = Kasimabad, District = Ghazipur I am working on Army Rank Number 2804905N RANK -HAV.

NOTICE

paasport my name

Youth drowns in Gomti

youth 17-year-old Adrowned in river Gomti when he was taking a bath along with his friends in Thakurganj on Wednesday afternoon.

The divers fished out the body of the victim, identified as Faizan of Thakurganj. According to police, Faizan along with his friends Prince

Gautam, Aman Qadir and Raj Sharma, all of his colony, went to Gau Ghat for an outing in the pleasant weather. Later the group planned to take a bath in

I have changed my name from the river. Sheikh Mohammad Yousuf To A police spokesman said all the Yusuf S/o four entered into the river Mohammad Nafees R/o 40/100, olding each others' hands and started moving to the mid The eunuchs were irked at the alleged apathy of police and they started protesting at the Mohanlalganj police station while accusof the river. Faizan was leading the group and he was carried away by the ing police of not hearing them sympathetically because of their gender. strong current in the river. They then took to Lucknow-Rae Bareli highway where they started protesting to press their demand for registering a case of mur-"His friends attempted to save Faizan but in vain. Later they derous assault. came out of the river and By the evening the police agreed to hear them and to register a called the police and other case against the culprit. people present at the bank of evening. the river. The divers were The Lucknow police, in a statepressed into action to save ment, said that the bus driver Faizan but his body was recovered," he said. was taken into custody. The police sent the body for "The deceased was identified as autopsy and started an investi-Wahab, 42, son of Wahid, who ran a motorcycle repairing gation. shop near Shubham Cinema, KILLED

Eunuchs stage protest, demand action against attacker

Lucknow (PNS): Angry over the bashing of one member of their community, a group of eunuchs staged a protest inside the Mohanlalganj police station and later at the Lucknow-Rae Bareli highway on Wednesday evening. As per reports, the victim eunuch Priyanka reached near the house

of one Anil aka Sonu Hari. Later both had a verbal spat and Sonu hit Privanka on her head with a brick, causing a deep cut.

Sonu later took to his heels while Privanka was taken to a hospital by her colleagues. Later her colleagues reached the Mohanlalganj Kotwali to file a complaint against the miscreant and had a verbal spat with some cops, allegedly after they pressed for registering a case of murderous assaul

Kushinagar on the way to development

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is taking sig-nificant strides forward in tourism. Recognising the immense potential and importance of tourism in the uplift of the economy and social fabric of the region, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism department, with the support of the World Bank, has initiated the Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project.

This project aims not only to enhance tourism infrastructure but also to uplift the economic and social status of the ocal residents by generating employment opportunities. As part of this endeavour, various infrastructural and tourism development projects are being undertaken in cities and areas of immense tourism importance. Kushinagar, being a significant destination for Buddhist pilgrims worldwide, holds a special place in this development project. It is here

that Lord Buddha achieved Mahaparinirvana, making it a sacred pilgrimage site for Buddhists.

The undertaken projects in Kushinagar include the renova-tion of Rahi Pathik Niwas, which encompasses a tourist information centre, the upgra-dation of food plaza and toilet blocks, the construction of a footbridge on the Hiranyavati river, and the rehabilitation of Vipassana Upvan. These projects, with a revised project cost of Rupees 1,786.81 lakh, are progressing swiftly," said a

Kushinagar International Airport and Gorakhpur railway iunction, travelling to this sacred land has become more accessible. Furthermore, the proposed Kushinagar-Sarnath Buddha Expressway aims to enhance connectivity between these two vital Buddhist pilgrimage sites, thereby facilitating seamless travel for pilgrims," he said. Uttar Pradesh Tourism and

also significantly improved

connectivity to Kushinagar.

With the operational

Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said. "Uttar Pradesh gove ment and the Tourism department remain committed to the holistic development of tourism infrastructure, ensuring that visitors to Kushinagar have a wonderful, hassle-free, and comfortable experience, while also enhancing the livelihoods of the marginalised and underprivileged sections of society.

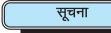
written as Farid Ahmad by mistake, which is wrong. Whereas correct spelling of my name is Fareed Ahmad, which is also written in all my documents, such as Aadhar and Pan card. Fareed Ahmad S/o Mohammad Naqi, R/o Deva Barabanki-225301.



I have changed my name from FATMA ZIKRULLAH FATIMA ZIKRULLAH. In future I Shall be known as ZIKRULLAH. FATIMA FATIMA ZIKRULLAH, D/o Zikrullah Ansari, 154/2B/13J, Mak Town Karelabagh GTB Nagar, Prayagraj

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Amit Jain to Amit Chand Jain. In future purpose, I should be known as Amit Chand Jain. Amit Chand Jain S/O Prem Chand Jain 7/182 Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur Nagar 208002



सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरा सही नाम सविता केसरवानी पत्नी श्याम बिहारी गुप्ता है जो मेरे शैक्षिक अभिलेख, पैन कार्ड नंबर CLJPK 8266 J एवं आधार नंबर 657 2918 43123 में अंकित है त्रुटिवश एडीएफ फूड के शेयर सर्टिफिकेट नंबर 0018687 एवं फोलियो नंबर S001558/0220773/18680 में मेरा नाम सविता गुप्ता पत्नी श्याम बिहारी गुप्ता अंकित हो गया है भविष्य में मुझे मेरे संही नाम सविता केसरवानी पत्नी श्याम बिहारी गुप्ता पता 212/1 शास्त्री नगर रसूलपुर प्रयागराज के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए सविता केसरवानी

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सूचित हो कि मेरे पति स्वर्गीय श्री राम सिंह (Ex Sub) के रिकॉर्ड ऑफिस (AMC) लखनऊ में मेरी पुत्री सुमनलता की जन्म तिथि 25/9/1962 दर्ज है प्रमाणपत्रों के अनुसार सही जन्मतिथि 25/9/1963 सभी अभिलेखों में दर्ज किया जाए। कृष्णा कुमारी , C-2200, इंदिरानगर, लखनऊ

NOTICE



I have changed my name from Nazeen Khanam To Nazneen Khanam W/o Mohammad Shadab R/o 67/24, Pokharpur KDA Colony, Jajmau, Kanpur for all Future Purpose



I have changed my name from Anjuara To Anjum Ara W/o Subhanullah R/o L 17/18, KDA Colony, Ganga Vihar Jajmau. Kanpur for all Future Purpose

NOTICE

My name and date of birth in Aadhaar and PAN cards as Shailkumari, 6th October 1946 have been corrected as Shail Kumari, 2nd July 1946 as mentioned in Family Pension record of Soldiers' Board which should be read as correct. Shail Kumari W/o Late Jagdish Singh SPR 1443445. Ex

Village.Rahsupur, Post Shadipur, Distt. Fatehpur 212 665.



Be it known to all that due to Misconduct & misbehavior of my Son Tarang Rastogi, I evict him from all my properties from 01/07/2024. Now onwards I and my family will not be responsible for all his conducts. Father Kanahiya Lal Rastogi, S/o Late Ram Rastogi, R/o 215/78 D-2, Subhash Marg, Raja Bazar, Chowk, Lucknow

A mechanic was killed while two youths were seriously injured after a Roadways bus hit the scooty they were riding near the Jai Narayan College trisection under Hussainganj police station late on Tuesday

under Kaiserbagh police sta-tion," the police said. The police added that the injured were identified as Mohit Dhanuk, 18, of Bhedi Mandi and Lucky Kumar, 16 years, of Mahavir Puri. After the incident, scores of

people gathered in the area, bringing traffic to a halt, and they reportedly pelted stones at the bus as a mark of protest. The bus was going to Charbagh when it hit the scooty coming from Jai Narayan College side. All three riders on the scooty were seriously injured and taken to Civil Hospital where doctors pronounced Wahab dead. Police said the trio were

going to have some fast food accident.

when they met with the

Kushinagar's significance as the final resting place of Lord Buddha amplifies its importance in the Buddhist circuit. The Mahaparinirvana temple, Mahaparinirvana Stupa, Ramabhar Stupa, and Mathakaur Shrine are some of the key attractions for pilgrims visiting this holy site. "The government's efforts have

irism offic

City transport bus catches fire

Sr No

Lucknow (PNS): A Lucknow City Transport Services bus (UP 32 CZ 6689) of Dubagga depot which operates on Mall-Ghantaghar route caught fire on Wednesday afternoon.

There was no loss of life as no passenger was in the bus. The incident occurred near Balaganj. A senior official of the Lucknow

City Bus Services said that because of sudden smoke and flames, the bus was brought to the side of the road.

He said after stopping the bus, fire extinguishers were immediately in an attempt to douse the flames. "An attempt was made to extinguish the fire with the help of the fire extinguisher but the

Property Address

Property Situated at Gata No 393

394, 424, 385, 380, 427, 379, 384

220, 381, 379, 372, 423, 378, 395

425, 432, 376, 428, 429, 431, 435

430, 437, 386, 388, 374, 435, 437,

422, 421, 389, 390, 382, 385, 226,

373, 426, 422, 378, 383, 354, 375

436, Situated At Vill- Bhaukapur

Tehsil- Sarojani Nagar,

Distt-Lucknow.

operty Situated at gata No. 1441.

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1536, 1551, 1542SA, 1554, 1556,

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flames became very high. The driver and conductor informed the Fire department," he said. The fire-tenders that rushed to the spot brought the fire under control. "The fire broke out when the propeller shaft under the bus broke and rubbed against the road. Some seats at of the bus were destroyed," he said.

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Tomato prices soar in Lucknow

PNS LUCKNOW **¬**ome rainy season and the

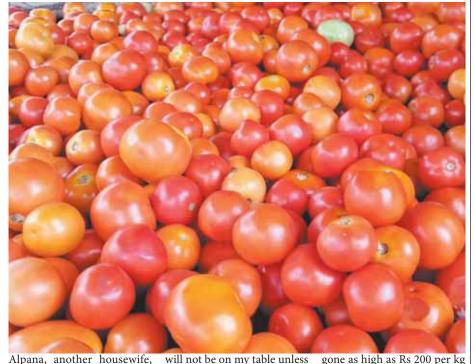
have touched Rs 100 per kg in the city and spoilt the budget of the common householders Director Horticulture VB Diwedi said that because of the rains the arrival of tomato from Andhara Pradesh and Maharashtra had been impacted bringing an escalation in the

prices of tomatoes sky-

rocket. The price of tomatoes

prices. "Once the rains slacken and the supply is restored the prices are expected to get stable" he said. Meanwhile housewives have already set aside tomatoes from their kitchen ingredients.

Renu Sahai a housewife from Gomtinagar said that at Rs 100 per kg the tomato was even more expensive than mango. "I will not be using tomatoes in my daily meals and will opt for a puree. Rainy season brings an escalation in the prices of vegetables and tomatoes is one vegetable which always becomes pricey," she said



Alpana, another housewife, said she had already planned that her salads will be without tomatoes. "The tangy tomato the prices of tomatoes had

will not be on my table unless it gets humble," she said. forcing a popular b It may be noted that last year to forgo tomato burgers.

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property to HDFC Bank. If any person and n in this regard, please contact HDFC Bank's n 4 days from the date of publication of this notice. No claim of any kind will be considered after the completion of the above time period



city 03

Acid attack on BBA girl student, medico cousin

In a chilling reminder of inci-dents of acid attacks that had forced previous state governments to bring stringent laws to ban the sale of acid in the open market and speedy trials of such cases, a 21-year-old girl pursuing her BBA from a pri-vate college was attacked with acid by a youth when she was going along with her younger cousin near Lohia Park (Chowk Stadium) in the Chowk police station area on Wednesday morning.

As her cousin attempted to save her by covering her from acid, he also suffered injuries on his back.

Both have been admitted to King George's Medical University, where their condi-tion is said to be stable.

A relative of the girl said she suffered burns on her entire face, while her cousin suffered burns on his back. He said the name of a vouth had surfaced in connection with the attack and police were hunting for him.

The relative thanked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's son Neeraj for helping them in their hard times.

Zone, Vishwajeet Srivastava, the BBA student and her younger male cousin, a medical student, were walking towards KGMU. As they neared the Chowk Stadium, an unidentified man confronted them. He left and then returned minutes later and threw acid on them

before fleeing the scene. Onlookers quickly alerted the police, and the victims were initially taken to SPM (Civil) Hospital from where they were referred to the KGMU Trauma Centre.

Senior police officers are working to apprehend the attacker and determine the motive behind the acid attack.

The father of the 21-year-old victim, a member of the city's trade union, told newsmen that his daughter was in a critical condition and hoped for her speedy recovery. He also mentioned that the condition of his daughter's cousin was serious, as he suffered more severe burns.

The police suspect the accused attacker was stalking the girl. "In cases of acid attacks, it has been seen commonly that the attacker has developed a fancy for the victim and launched the

attack on being spurned by her. The KGMU Trauma Centre According to ADCP, West doctors said the victims were being given treatment and were under the constant watch of a team of doctors. They said they were also taking the opinion of the doctors of the plastic surgery department.

Meanwhile, a video grab of the suspect youth shows him in a black T-shirt and he is carrying a bag in which he had put a bottle filled with acid.

The father of the victim alleged in a video statement that one Abhay Verma had been making calls to his daughter for the last two days and she had blocked his mobile phone number.

'The accused had introduced himself as Abhay Verma. He kept making calls from another mobile phone number after being blocked several times and snubbed. Every time he expressed his liking for her, and even threatened her with dire consequences. The accused had made the call the previous night also," the victim's father

alleged. He said the police were helping him in the difficult times, and he hoped the miscreant would be brought to justice. He gave a description of the face and complexion of the accused, saying the middle-statured, dusky youth was scolded by his nephew when he first approached the girl for a dialogue and shooed him away. The accused moved away and came back again, and this time

he launched the acid attack. On the other hand, the police said more than one person could be involved in the crime. "It is possible the prime accused was helped by his aide to flee the scene on a twowheeler," sources in the police said.

According to doctors, the girl has sustained 5 per cent burns on her face.

"We are currently assessing the extent of the damage. Depending on our findings, we will determine if reconstructive surgery is necessary," a doctor said. The boy, who suffered more severe injuries, has burns covering 10 per cent of his back. "The burns on the boy's back are being treated with specialised dressings," a doctor said. Both victims are being treated in the plastic surgery department under the supervision of Dr Ravi Kumar Singh and Prof Brijesh Mishra.

'Bhole Baba' has a criminal past, went to jail in sexual exploitation case



Police personnel outside the Bhole Baba's Ashram in Bichhwa of Mainpuri district on Wednesday

PNS LUCKNOW

Suraj Pal aliaa Sakar Narayan Hari alias Sakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba, who is known for his controversial 'satsangs', has a history of legal troubles, including allegations of sexual assault. Despite multiple cases filed against him in various jurisdictions including Agra, Etawah, Kasganj, Farrukhabad and Rajasthan, he continues to command a considerable following, drawn to his promises of spiritual enlightenment and blessings.

Born in Bahadur Nagar, Kasganj, Suraj Pal had a stint in the police department before facing legal troubles in 1997 related to allegations of sexual assault, for which he served time in prison. Upon his release, he reinvented himself as 'Saakar Vishwa Hari Baba', attracting devotees to his ashram in his ancestral village. He completed his journey from a common man to a self-proclaimed baba in a very short

time. Baba completed his studies in the village itself. 'Bhole Baba' has three brothers: the eldest brother has died, the second brother's name is Suraj Pal while the third brother is a leader in Bahujan Samaj Party and has also been the pradhan of Bahadur Nagar village 15

years ago. Bhole Baba's name is Suraj Pal. Before becoming a baba, he was a head constable in LIU. He left the job in 1999. After becoming a baba, white suit has been his identity. His

wife's name is Prem Bati. Allegations have been made that many 'agents' are working for 'Bhole Baba'. He gives money to the agents to mis-lead people. To confuse the public, the agents say that a chakra is visible on Baba's fin-

ger. Saakar Narayan has also been accused of illegally occupying the land of the village and building an ashram. The ashram has been built by illegally occupying the inhabited

Govt, admn responsible for

Hathras incident, says AKY

land of the village. It has also been alleged that beautiful girls live in his ashram. Apart from the girls, only special people are allowed to enter his room. Other people are not allowed to enter Bhole Baba's room. No outsider is allowed to enter his room at all. Bhole Baba has many expen-

sive luxury cars. However, none of the luxury cars used by the Baba are registered in his name. All the cars are registered in the names of other people, especially devotees. Bhole Baba' has not registered anything in his name. It is said that he has also gone to jail once, but Baba's popularity has been increasing continuously for some time. Last year, former UP chief minister and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav also visited Baba's court. Pictures of Akhilesh visiting Baba's court are going viral on social media.

The main ashram of Suraj Pal, who does satsang in the name

of Bhole Baba, is in Bahadurnagar village of Patiyali in Kasganj district, but he has many ashrams in other cities as well. One such ashram or say a house is also in Agra. He has a house in D Block of Kedar Nagar Colony of Shahganj in the Agra city in which he earlier used to live. A few years ago, a huge crowd of his devotees used to gather to see Baba, now it is just locked. Despite this, even today his disciples pass by this closed house and bow down. Meanwhile, retired DGP Vikram Singh said that many cases were already registered against the Bhole Baba who was holding the satsang. This includes a case of sexual exploitation.

He said that the local administration should take action against these babas who talk about miracles as this is a legal crime. Action should be taken against these babas under the Magic Remedies Act, he added.

UP Roadways to ensure smooth transportation to Kumbh Mela

PNS LUCKNOW

As part of the Yogi Adityanath governments ongoing extensive preparations for the grand Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, the UP State Boad Trayagraj Comporting in Road Transport Corporation is implementing a comprehensive plan to ensure smooth transportation of devotees during the mega event.

This initiative includes deploying new buses, shuttle bus services, as well as constructing both permanent and temporary bus stations in order to facilitate the seamless arrival and departure of pilgrims from the Kumbh City.

According to the Kumbh Mela administration, over 3.50 crore

devotees are expected to arrive in Prayagraj by UP Roadways

buses during this Kumbh Mela. UP Roadways Regional Manager MK Trivedi disclosed that to transport these devotees to and from Kumbh city, roadways will operate 7,550 buses. These buses will be operated from 75 district headquarters of 112 depots in 19 roadways regions of the state.

To prevent congestion within the city and ensure smooth bus operations despite the crowds, nine temporary bus stations are being constructed in the city. These temporary bus stations will be located at Nehru Park, Rajarshi Tandon Residential Complex, Saraswati Hi-Tech City, Andh Vidyalaya, Leprosy

Chauraha, Saraswati Gate, Katka, Jhusi and Durjanpur. He further added that the land acquisition process for their construction has already begun. In addition to the temporary bus stations, land is being acquired at three locations to set up charging points for 200 electric buses for urban transport service. The three chosen locations for this purpose are Phaphamau,

Trivenipuram gate and Nehru To facilitate the transportation of devotees and tourists arriving for the Maha Kumbh 2025, the Roadways is making arrangements both inside and outside the fair area. UP Roadways Regional

Manager M.K. Trivedi men-tions that 550 shuttle buses will also operate within the Kumbh Mela area, serving the city and the fair area. These buses will be operated from 18 locations within the city. If any issues arise with these buses operating within the fair area, a bikers group will be deployed for their maintenance. Additionally, these bikers will be present in the fair area with

their smart bikes. If any shuttle bus encounters a problem, the bikers group will attend to it on-site and resolve the issue. Initially, seven biker groups will be formed within the fair area, each consisting of two road-ways personnel equipped with maintenance instruments.

alitpur Bulk Drug Pharma Park to be equipped with world-class CIF

Park.

PNS LUCKNOW

In a bid to attract investments and promote industrial growth, the Uttar Pradesh government has initiated plans to equip the Bulk Drug Pharma Park in Lalitpur in Bundelkhand region with world-class common infrastructure facilities (CIF). The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSI-DA) has commenced preparations for the park's development.

In this sequence, the UPSIDA has issued a Global Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of the park. This strategic move aims to establish the park as a hub for manufacturing crucial components like key starting materials (KSM) and active pharmaceutical ingredi-

1,120 acres. The objective of the project is to develop the area to meet the needs of the country's pharma sector. The goal is to produce high-quality, affordable medicines and increase India's self-reliance in bulk drug produc-

tion. To achieve this, the development of the Bulk Drug Park in Lalitpur is being promoted. According to the action plan prepared for the park's development, the path will be paved for the development of large-scale industrial townships, sectoral specific industrial parks and

ents (API), pivotal for the the EOI issued by the UPSIDA, pharmaceutical sector's a developer agency will be a developer agency will be determined to complete all advancement.

The pharma park will be based these development works. It is worth mentioning that the Lalitpur Bulk Drug Pharma on PPP (public-private partic-ipation) model and spread in Park is being connected to world-class basic infrastructure and excellent connectivity through road and rail net-

works, which will ensure convenient logistics and smooth transportation. The Lalitpur Bulk Drug Pharma Park will serve as the state manufactur-

ing powerhouse for pharmaceutical products. Additionally, it will serve as an incubator for emerging pharmaceutical and bulk drug manufacturing industries in Lalitpur. It will be equipped with several worldclass facilities, including standard practices like zero liquid discharge for chemical disother industrial areas. As per

charge management.

The development of the Bulk Drug Pharma Park in Lalitpur will be based on global parameters.

The park will be equipped with solid waste management and incinerator facilities, a stormwater drainage network, common solvent storage systems, and solvent recovery and distillation plants. It will include steam generation with inclusive cooling towers, common warehouses, dedicated power stations and distribution systems, and facilities for raw, portable and demineralised water. Additionally, an advanced laboratory testing centre, emergency response centre, hazardous operation audit centre and a Centre of Excellence will also be developed there.

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has blamed the negligence and "dereliction of duty" by the district administration of Hathras for the tragic incident in the district. The stampede during the religious congregation in Hathras killed over 120 people on Tuesday. "The Uttar Pradesh government and administration are fully responsible for this incident. Some injured persons died due to lack of proper treatment. Standard operating procedure for large gatherings should be made to ensure that such incidents do not occur again," Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday.

He said that the district administration failed to assess the turnout of the people in the religious gathering and subseHe said the district administration failed to assess the turnout of the people in the religious gathering and subsequently made no arrangements for safety and security

the response of the administraquently made no arrangements for safety and security and tion? Why measures like putting up barricades to conthere was insignificant deploytrol the crowd were not taken? Blaming the government for the tragic incident, the SP chief He said despite the huge gathering additional force was not asked if against the estimate of deployed to maintain the order. SP MP, R K Chowdhary alleged 50,000, the turnout was over one lakh people, then what was that the Uttar Pradesh govern-

ment's intention was not right after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asserted that a probe would reveal if the Hathras tragedy was an accident or a conspiracy.

The gathering was organised by Saakar Naravan Hari or Bhole Baba, who is abscond-

ing. "The Yogi Adityanath government wants to make it a Hindu-Muslim issue. The chief minister's intention is wrong," the SP leader said. "Hathras is an accident. It is the failure of the administration and the organisers," Chowdhary claimed. He also said the police officials deployed at the religious gathering could be seen folding hands before the Bhole Baba. "They were happy with what the Baba was saying- 'na khata, na bahi, jo Baba bole wahi sahi'," the MP said.

Over ₹78.31 cr given by govt to 3,749 patients in 26 days for treatment

PNS LUCKNOW

Tmmediately after the code of conduct was lifted, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a Janata Darshan at his official residence in Lucknow on June 6. During the event, he directed that victims seeking financial assistance for medical treatment be promptly aided, ensuring that funds were released to hospitals within the stipulated time frame.

As a result, within just 26 days, over ₹78.31 crore was sanctioned for the treatment of 3,749 patients.

Funds were released to the victims on the basis of reports on the letters of public representatives. Between June 6 to

July 1, ₹78,31,54,134 was released to 3,749 affected

individuals. The amount helped people from all walks of life receive treatment for serious illnesses like kidney issues, cancer, brain hemorrhages and surgeries.

Notably, as per the chief minister's instructions, Janata Darshan is held daily from 9 am to 2 pm at his official residence.

From time to time, he himself attends these in Lucknow and Gorakhpur. In June, he personally listened to people's problems and directed time-

Îv solutions at the Ianata Darshan held on June 6, 8, 20 and 30 at his official residence in Lucknow

Attire colour of Ram temple priests changes from saffron to yellow, mobile banned

PTI 📕 AYODHYA

kurta and dhoti.

of the same colour.

turbans.

Till now the priests in the sanc-

tum sanctorum were seen in saffron clothes. They used to

wear saffron turban, saffron

The priests have now started

wearing yellow (pitambari) dhoti with a kurta and turban

According to the temple offi-

cials, the new dress code has been made effective from July

1. The new priests have been

given training to tie the yellow

The 'chaubandi' kurta has no

 $T^{
m he\ priests}$ at the Ram temple here have changed their have been given attire and have been banned training to tie the from carrying mobile phones yellow turbans. to the shrine, according to officials of the temple trust.

> tie it. The yellow 'dhoti', a piece of cotton cloth, is tied around the waist and covers the legs till the ankles. There is a chief priest along with four assistant priests in the temple. Now each assistant priest is also accompanied by five trainee priests.

Each team of priests renders its services for five hours in shifts between 3.30 am and 11 pm. The priests have also been banned from carrying mobile phones to the temple.

MAINPURI MUSEUM, CULTURAL CENTRE Slow construction of draws minister's ire PNS LUCKNOW

ment of police.

Uttar Pradesh's Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh expressed dissatisfaction over the sluggish pace of construction of the museum and multipurpose cultural centre in Mainpuri district.

He has directed the officials that all construction work must be completed by March 2025 without fail. The newly-constructed Natural Science Museum building needs installation of a gas suppression system by July 15 of this month, as instructed by the tourism minister. He highlighted that under the guidance of the Culture Directorate of Uttar Pradesh, construction projects are ongoing in various districts. A review meeting has fixed deadlines for completion of all construction works, ensuring timely delivery for public benefit. The responsible agencies have been directed to ensure quality completion of these

projects within stipulated timelines, emphasising adherence to high standards.

Regarding the management of the State Buddhist Museum in Gorakhpur, the minister confirmed that all infrastructure facilities have been completed. He further directed the implementation of sound systems to ensure high-quality performance and provid-ed guidelines for a five-year warranty. Additionally, in Balrampur district, efforts are underway to conserve Tharu tribal culture through a newly built museum in Emilia Koder or its vicinity. Instructions have been given for finalising internal embellishments and overseeing the handover process. Maintenance and restoration work for the open stage at Ramgarh Tal in Gorakhpur have also been successfully concluded, with directives issued for the submission of utilisation certificates and closure reports as per specified formats.

JD(U) expresses grief over Hathras deaths

PNS I UCKNOW

 $P^{\text{resident of Uttar Pradesh unit of Janata Dal}_{(\text{United}), \text{Anoop Singh Patel, expressed deep} grief over the death of hundreds of people, includ$ ing women and children, in a stampede at the satsang of Bhole Baba in Phulrai village of Sikandrarao

in Hathras district on Tuesday. Expressing condolences to the deceased, he demanded that the government make arrangements for the proper treatment of those injured in the stampede.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, Patel said that the local administration was responsible for it. He demanded that the Uttar Pradesh government provide financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh to the injured and take strict action against those involved in the incident by conducting a thorough investigation. He said that a delegation of Janata Dal (United) Aligarh and Agra division leaders would visit the spot in Hathras district, meet the local people and submit a report to the state leadership.

buttons and a thread is used to

The new priests





Demand to provide proper security to UPCC president

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $T_{\rm urged\ the\ police\ adminis-}^{\rm he\ local\ Congress\ leaders}$ tration to ensure proper security to Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) president Ajay Rai. In this direction on Tuesday evening Ajay Rai's wife Reena Rai, along with Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders submitted a written application to Chetganj police station and informed the latter about the entire incident that took place earlier in the afternoon, expressing surprise and grief over it. "The administration is respon-

sible for the safety of my hus-band and family", said Reena Rai. According to the Congress leaders, in the afternoon, suddenly more than a dozen antisocial elements of a particular party, carrying the effigy of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and shouting slogans, started moving towards the house of Ajay Rai in Lahurabir. On receiving this information, city Congress Raghavendra



Congress leaders at Chetganj police station in Varanasi on Tuesday evening demanding security to UPCC chief Ajay Rai

informed the local police as well as Congressmen on the spot. Later, the police force along with the Congressmen reached there and foiled the intentions of the protesters by president stopping them at Chetganj Choubey crossing itself and provided

security to Aiay Rai's house. After submitting a written application to the police, Reena Rai said that her husband, along with being a five-time MLA, former minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, contested the last three Lok

Sabha elections with full strength and vigour against Varanasi MP and the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She said as her husband continues to openly oppose the 'anti-people' policies of the Modi government with full courage and strength and being state Congress president, he also travels continuously for party work and organisational work, in such a situation, she stays alone with her children at home. "The day's incident has created fear in me and my children", she said, demanding strict legal action against the people involved in the incident to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future. On the occasion district Congress Committee president Rajeshwar Singh Patel, city chief Raghavendra Choubey, Shailendra Singh, Manish Morolia, Vishwanath Kunwar, Rishabh Pandey, Prince Rai, Rohit Dubey, Chanchal Sharma, Anubhav Rai, Ashish Gupta, Parvez Khan, Saman Yadav, Dheeraj Sonkar, Ashish Patel and others were also present.

Grief expressed over Hathras tragedy Mahant Vyas Muni, secretary of Bada Udasin Akhara, also expressed grief over the inci-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

The tragic incident that occurred during the reli-gious congregation in Hathras district has increased the concern of the saints of Sangam city. Mahant Devendra Shastri, Secretary of Nirmal Panchavati Akhara, expressed grief over the Hathras incident and said that many things should be kept in mind in any religious event.

should take special care. Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad President Mahant Ravindra Puri too expressed grief over the unfortunate incident. Mahanirvani Akhada Secretary Srimahant Yamunapuri said preparations should be given priority. Acharya Swami Shridharanand

dent. He said the organisers

Brahmachari of Mankameshwar temple too expressed sorrow over the loss of lives in the incident.

PROTEST: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal workers are angry over the statement made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi about 'Hindus' in the Parliament on Monday. In protest the VHP workers reached the Collectorate and sent a memorandum to the President

through the district adminis tration. They reached with saf-fron flags in their hands and raised slogans against Rahul Gandhi. Prominent among those present were VHP Prayag North president Ajay Gupta, organisation secretary Anshuman, organisation coor-dinator Suresh Shukla, Digvijay, Dhananjay, Dhirendra Kushwaha, Vishnu Srivastava, Shivam Dwivedi, Vijay Pandey, Deshraj and others.

Health check-up camp organised PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Under the Arogyam cam-paign of Rotary Club of New Kanpur, a health check-up camp was organised at BNSD Balika Vidyalaya Inter College, Meston Road, on Wednesday. Dr Gauray, Dr Swati and medical college team checked the weight, haemoglobin etc of 160 children from classes III to VIII. Children were also provided health check-up cards. Club President Sangeeta Gupta, Secretary Shikha Gupta and other members distributed biscuits and fruits. Vinod Rishi, Dr G Dubey and others were present.

Stress on promoting plantation PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $M_{asked}^{\rm LA}$ Saurabh Srivastava the students to make the city green by promot-ing plantation. He was speak-ing as the chief guest at a tree plantation programme organised on the occasion of Van Mahotsav at Sunbeam Academy (Samne Ghat) under the joint aegis of Srijan Samajik Vikas Nyas, Forest department and 95 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, special guest and DIG (CRPF) Surendra Chaudhary asked every one present there to

NCL receives award for excellence in GST compliance



pledge to plant one tree each. District Forest Officer Swati Srivastava said conservation of forests is very important. School secretary Jagdish Madhok said we get life from trees, so its conservation is necessary. CEO Rohan Madhok said that our school has always been making everyone aware about forest conservation and

tree plantation.Deputy Director Dr KK Panda said that the role of students is very important in keeping the earth green. Principal Anuj Sharma said that trees and plants give us life so their protection is necessary. At the end of the programme, all the guests planted trees in the school premises. The programme was conducted by Sanjeev Iha. Commandant of 95 Battalion CRPF RS Balapurkar, 2nd Command Rajesh Singh, PRO of Praveen Singh, president of Srijan 'Van Mitra' Anil Singh, school's administrator Dr Nishant Singh, PRO Ramkumar Ghale and many others were also present.

DM for timely disposal of complaints

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam heard the pub-lic problems during the Jansunwai (public hearing) programme at the Collectorate office here on Wednesday. He directed the officials concerned to ensure quality and timely disposal of the complaints received. He also asked the officers to take the problems of the people seriously, ensuring quick and quality solutions. He added that no laxity should be done.

Earlier, at a review meeting held in the Commissioner's Auditorium, the DM instructed the officers concerned to get the pending revenue cases resolved at a fast pace. He strictly instructed the revenue officers that they should ensure timely disposal of pending cases in relation to the target in every case. "All officers and subordinate employees should be present in the offices on time and perform departmental work. Officers must also receive all incoming phone calls," he directed.

Rajalingam directed the revbe taken to remove encroach-



DM S Rajalingam listening to complaints of people in Varanasi on Wednesday.

"All revenue officers should

form a team of block develop-

Magistrate (Finance/Revenue),

sional magistrates (SDMs),

tehsildars, naib tehsildars and

world's oceans, rivers and lakes.

Sumit Singh, Pintu Bind, Arjun

Prasad, Sunita, Pragya Singh

and others were also present in

GRAMME: The three-day

Induction programme for the newly admitted research schol-

ars at the Institute of Management Studies, Banaras

Hindu University (IM-BHU) con-

cluded on Wednesday. The pro-

gramme aimed to equip the

research scholars with essential

knowledge and skills to develop

a roadmap for their doctoral

journey. It was attended by 24

newly admitted research schol-

ars. The induction programme

encompassed a total of 13 ses-

sions over three days each focus-

ing on crucial aspects of the

the event.

INDUCTION

roads and chak roads immedidisposal of revenue matters. ately. "The cases of departmenreview by holding regular tal proceedings should not be kept pending at all and ensure meetings with their subordi-nates", he said, directing to prompt action as per rules. Action for disposal of cases received from Chief Minister's ment officer, naib tehsildar reference/higher level should be ensured at the expected and police officer in each tehsil and settle the disputes related speed", he said. Giving strict instructions, the district magto land of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana by going on the spot. Additional District istrate said that old pending cases of revenue disputes should be disposed of without ADM (City), chief revenue officer, ADM (Administration), delay. "No case older than three to five years should remain pending", he said. ADM (Protocol), all sub-divi-

enue officers that action should He clearly said that action will be ensured against officers



The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a flagship arm of Coal India Limited, (CIL) received an award for excellence in GST compliance and significant contribution to the exchequer by the CGST department, Jabalpur. On this achievement NCL

Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) B Sairam and Director (Personnel) Manish Kumar, Director (Finance)



Rajneesh Narayan, Director (Technical/Operations) litendra Malik, Director (Technical/Projects & Planning) Sunil Prasad Singh and Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) Ravindra Prasad congratulated the team NCL. The award was presented by the Principal Commissioner

Branch, Shantam Bose during

the 7th GST Day celebrations

held in Jabalpur. Manager (Finance) Dr Hemant

On the eve of seventh GST Day celebrations NCL was felicitated as the leading GST payer for contributing Rs. 6362.28 crore in the financial year 2023-24 in MP Zone. The NCL has contributed Rs (Income Tax), CGST Jabalpur

5204.39 crore through cash ledger and Rs 1157.89 crore through Input Tax Credit (ITC) to the Madhya Pradesh exchequer in the financial year 2023–24.

Sindhwani received the honour

on behalf of NCL.

Man killed Nearly 27K MT wheat purchased in Varanasi div

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

About 27,000 metric tonnes (MT) wheat was purchased from the farmers through 361 wheat purchase centres in Varanasi division.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

A sper the instructions of the government, for the imple-mentation of Trained Agricultural Entrepreneur Self-Reliance (Agri junction) Scheme in the financial year

Scheme in the financial year

2024-25, a target has been pro-posed to establish 20 'one-

stop shops' (Agrijunction cen-

tres) for Varanasi district. At

these centres or shops, the

farmers will get the facility of

seeds, fertilisers, agricultural

equipment, agricultural chem-

icals under one roof at one

place. Apart from this, agri

junction centres will also do

works like repair and mainte-

nance of agricultural equip-

ment, animal feed, sale of agri-

cultural products and

processed agricultural prod-

ucts, providing weather and

other related information.

Divisional Food Controller Pulkit Garg said that the work of wheat purchase started from March and till the end of June 15, 26,938 metric tonnes of wheat has been purchased through 361 wheat purchase centres that were set up in

him, Varanasi division has secured 12th position in the state in wheat purchase. "This time wheat of 5,875 farmers has been purchased and the amount of 6178.51 lakh for the purchase of their crop has been transferred to the farmers' account", he said, adding that along with saving the cost of transportation of the farmers, they are also free from the clutches of middlemen.

trict food departme The d

ments so that the farmers get the right price for their hard work while sitting at home. The department was also sending mobile vans to the farmers' homes to buy the crop. Regional Food Marketing Officer Pradeep Kumar Kushwaha said that the government had made arrangements for mobile purchase centres along with pur-chase centres this year to increase the purchase of wheat. He said that on the

ment, this time wheat has also been purchased from their homes. The state government had fixed the support price of wheat at Rs 2275 per quintal this time. This is Rs 150 more than last year. Last time the support price was Rs 2125. This year exemption from verification was given for sale of upto 100 quintals of wheat. Along with Rs 2275 per quintal of wheat, Rs 20 for weighing has also been sent to the farmer's

in mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

A 37-year-old man was killed after he was crushed by a speeding DCM truck while standing on the roadside with his bike in an area under Phoolpur police station here on Wednesday. The man died on the spot while his sister and niece were seriously injured. According to a report, Abdul Ahad, a resident of Kohna

ments on public places, drains,

Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about

registration under Part I of Chapter XXI

[Pursuant to section 374(b) of the

Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 4(1)

other officers concerned were

who do not show seriousness in present.

PRO-

Varanasi division. According to had made complete arrange-

Deputy Agriculture Director AK Singh said that for the

establishment of agri junction

centres, Agriculture graduates/

Agribusiness Management

graduates/ graduates residing

in the district who hold degrees

in agriculture and allied sub-

jects such as horticulture, ani-

mal husbandry, forestry, dairy,

veterinary, poultry and similar activities from any state/central

university or any other univer-

sity recognised by ICAR/ UGC

will be eligible. Apart from this, experienced diploma

holders/ intermediate qualified candidates in agriculture sub-

ject will be considered. After

selection, beneficiaries will

also be provided 13 days train-ing of Rural Business

Development Scheme (RIDP).

Candidates having the above

qualifications can contact the

instructions of the governaccount.

Prof Pathak felicitated Giving this information, Deputy Agriculture Director,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Varanasi office on any work-ing day and get detailed infor-President Vinay Trivedi and Treasurer Dr Brijesh Bhadauria of Uttar Pradesh mation. Candidates can submit their application along with all the forms at Krishi Bhawan Collectorate Farm Self-Finance College Chandpur by 5 pm on July 15. Association felicitated the Vice-After selection, the candidates Chancellor, CSJM University, will submit an affidavit declar-Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak with the turban and 'angvastra' on ing that they will run the 'one-stop shop' for three years; otherwise, they will be blackhis assuming the charge of President of the Association of listed from all schemes of the Indian Universities (AIU) on Wednesday. Trivedi said with Agriculture department and the expenditure incurred on the use of latest technology, them will be recovered by the grievances of Kanpur University students were TAKES CHARGE: Prof Jyoti resolved online and they need Rohilla Rana on Wednesday not now run from pillar to post for them. Besides, the univerjoined as head in the Department of History of Art, sity was also designing newer Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu courses in coordination with global institutions like IIT University. Former Head, Prof Atul Tripathi handed over the according to requirements of the industry.

Mohalla of Phulpur town, was going on his bike to the hospital to get medicine with his sister Abida Bano and niece Yumna Rehman, who had come from Jaunpur. He stopped the bike at the shop of his brother who works as a mechanic. He was just parking his bike when the speeding DCM truck coming from Prayagraj crushed him and collided with a pole. As a result Abdul Ahad died on the spot while his sister Abida Bano and niece Yumna were also seriously injured. After the accident with the help of the villagers, the police admitted the injured mother and daughter to the Phulpur CHC. From where they were referred to the city's SRN Hospital. On the complaint of the family, the police have registered a case against the driver and the DCM has been taken into possession. MEETING: A meeting of all the block development officers was called in the auditorium of Vikas Bhawan here on Wednesday to discuss development plans of the district.

Man's body found near rly track máking Ganga river free from plastic wastes, everyone has to fulfil their responsibility in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

river, it is the soul of India. The responsibility of protecting it from plastic and pollution is The body of man was found near the railway track not only of the government but under mysterious circumalso of the society", said Shukla, stances in Phulpur here on Wednesday. On receiving the adding that every day about 2,000 garbage trucks full of information, the police sent the

PhD journey.

body for postmortem. According to the police, there report. were serious injury marks on his head.

The body of Harishchandra (45), a resident of Sanvdih Bhoraikapura village of Phulpur Kotwali area, was spotted near the railway track in front of the village around 6 am and a huge crowd of vil-lagers gathered. The Phulpur police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem examination.

Inspector Deendayal Singh said the body was found lying near the railway track in front of Bhoraikapura village. There were serious injury marks on his head. It is being said that he died after being hit by a train. Ashutosh understood that it was a case of fraud. The police have registered a case under the The three sons and three daughters of the deceased are IT Act and started investigaall minors. Wife Asha Devi is tion. in inconsolable. Police said Meanwhile another incident was registered at the Puramufti that the cause of death will be clear only after getting the police station. A sum of Rs 1.12

lakh was realised by threatenpost-mortem examination ing a girl. Her brother in a writ-FRAUD: A youth from Allahpur of George Town ten complaint alleged that his sister received calls and police station area was cheated WhatsApp calls from two numin the name of getting a job. bers on her mobile. The callers started threatening that her obscene photos will be Ashutosh Tiwari in a written complaint the the police alleged uploaded and will be made that he was promised a job in an online company through WhatsApp. After seeing the documents of the company viral if she does not send the money. The girl transferred the money to the account menetc he fell into the trap of the tioned. The police is investigatfraudsters. The fraudsters ing the matter. demanded Rs 1.70 lakh on Station House Officer (SHO) some pretext. Ashutosh sent the amount in five instalments

Puramufti police station Arvind Singh said a case of to the account mentioned by fraud has been registered under the fraudsters. After this they the IT Act and investigation has kept giving assurances. Finally been started.

Computer training classes inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

charge to Prof Jyoti.

department.

The Jagriti Mahila Mandal of NTPC Auraiya through its welfare 'Samarpan' initiatives, inaugurated computer training classes for the daughters of contract workers at NTPC Auraiya on Tuesday. This significant event aims to empower young women by equipping them with essential computer skills. The ceremony was graced by the presence of several esteemed guests, including Jayadev Parida, CGM NTPC Auraiya, Sanghamitra Parida, President of Jagriti Mahila Mandal and committee members of Jagriti Mahila Mandal. Tanmoy Dutta, Head of HR, and Akhilesh Kumar Yadav, senior manager IT, Alok Adhikari, Manager (HR) and Janet (CSR) were also present. The training programme set to run for two months, will benefit 20 students, providing



them with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today's digital world. ELECTROCUTED: A youth was electrocuted after he touched the supporting wire of an electric pole on Sandila road near Mandi Yard in Unnao on Wednesday morning. Sanjay (17), son of Virendra Yadav of Bhadohi, Sarsaiyanpurwa under Thathia police station, Kannauj, was coming to his maternal grandparents' house in Behta Mujawar, Unnao. On the way, he met his maternal uncle

Arvind Yadav in Bangermau. From there they left for Gosha Prayagpur village on a tractor. On the way they took a halt near Krishi Utpadan Mandi Yard on Sandila road and started having 'samosa'' at a shop. Suddenly Sanjay caught the supporting wire of an electric pole and sustained serious burns. Virendra somehow rescued him and took to the community health centre (CHC) where he was declared dead by the doctors. Police have started investigating the matter.

International Plastic Bag Free Day observed plastic are dumped in the

of the Companies (Authorised PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI to Register) Rules, 2014] Notice is hereby given that in **r**o make Ganga completely

pursuance of sub-section (2) of plastic free, Namami Gange section 366 of the Companies Act, started a campaign on 2013, an application has been made Wednesday on the occasion of International Plastic Bag Free to the Central Registry Centre at Manesar, Harvana, that Laxmi Oil Day. At Dashashwamedh Ghat, Trading, a partnership firm may be the activists pledged to protect registered under Part I of Chapter XXI the environment by removing of the Companies Act 2013, as a plastic and other polluting subcompany limited by shares. stances from the bottom of . The principal objects of the river Ganga. To ensure that our company are as follows: To future generations get pure produce biofuels such as ethanol for water, air, soil and environment, an appeal was made to

bags were distributed among

inspiring environmental pro-

tection. Regional coordinator

Rajesh Shukla said that for

this work. "Ganga is not just a

selling to petroleum Marketing companies to enable them to blend in everyone to pay special attenpetrol tion to environmental protec-A copy of the draft memorandum and tion and not to use plastic and

articles of association of the promote tree plantation. Cloth proposed company may be inspected at the office at 24/67-A, the people with the appeal to First Floor, Birhana Road, Kanpurkeep Ganga ghats plastic free. They were carrying placards 208001

. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at 571Y, Nirala Nagar Juhi, Juhi Kalan, Saket Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh 208014, with in twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office

Name(s) of Applicant 1. Vishendra Sonker 2. Amar Kapoor Dated this 3rd day of July 2024

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH) Tel No.: (0240)2333536-40 Address: Chhatrapati Sambhajinaga Municipal Corporation. Executive Fax No.: (0240)2331213 Engineer (Mech) Head Office : Town Hall, Pin No.4311 E-Tender Call CSMC (For Help) Mob No: 9764999780 No.CSMC/ Mech/448 /2024 Dt. 02/07/2024 Corrigendum

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

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

Executive Engineer (Mech) Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

20 'one-stop shops' proposed

nation 05



Opp walkout during Modi reply a disgrace: Dhankhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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



over the disruptions that marred the proceedings". Witnessing seasoned members conduct themselves irresponsibly was particularly disheartening. I wish to reiterate that disruption not only impedes the transaction of the listed business but also erodes the prestige of this esteemed institution,"

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

the scheduled time".

Putin, envoys condole devotees' deaths in Hathras stampede

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

Russian Embassy in India said in a social media post. The stampede took place on Tuesday at Phulrai village in Sikandra Rao area of the Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. The victims were part of the crowd of thousands that had gathered near Phulrai vil-

preacher. Meanwhile, envoys of several countries, including Germany, France, China and Israel have

mourned the loss of lives in a stampede in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras and extended condolences to the victims' families. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a social media post on on Tuesday had said he was deeply distressed by the tragic incident.

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

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



known as Jagat Guru Saakar

German envoy Philipp

Ackermann in a post on

Tuesday evening offered con-

dolences to the families that

lost their loved ones in the

stampede and said he was

deeply saddened about the

tragic incident.

Vishwahari's Bhole Baba.

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

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

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

"Deeply saddened about the tragic events in Hathras. My Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon also echoed the sentiments condolences to the families expressed by the other envoys. that lost their loved ones. We Deeply saddened about the hope that help quickly reaches loss of lives at the tragic stamthe injured," he wrote on the pede in #Hathras, UP. Our socialmedia platform. thoughts are with the families Later on Tuesday night, of the victims. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. Such incidents are truly heart-

Chinese envoy Xu Feihong also took to X to mourn the loss of lives in the incident. breaking," he wrote on X.

New law makes sexual offences gender neutral

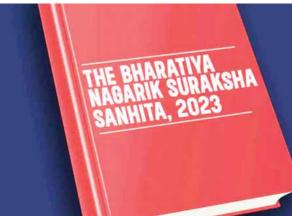
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

Also, the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which replaces the British-era Indian Penal Code, has made sexual offences "gender neutral" for the victim and the perpetrator, according to official documents.

The BNSS, which replaced the British-era Code of Criminal Procedure, has introduced "a new insertion" as Clause 172 in 'Preventive Action of the Police'. It states that people must conform to directions of the police issued in the course of preventing the commission of a cognizable offence, officials arrested person can conduct

said. The pi allows a poli officer to detain such person and produce them before a magistrate or, in petty cases, release the person as soon as possible within 24 hours, they said. Under the BNSS, police officials have been given a layer of immunity in cases of dereliction in carrying out duties on the orders of an executive magistrate to disperse unlawful assembly. In such cases, police officers cannot be prosecuted without the sanction of the government.



Under clause 58 of the BNSS, officer to get permission from police personnel can now proan officer ranked Deputy Superintendent of Police or duce an arrestee before any above in case of offences punmagistrate within 24 hours even if the judicial officer does ishable with imprisonment below three years and the not have jurisdiction, officials said.A provision has also been accused being infirm or above made under Clause 53 that a 60 years of age. Information related to an arrest medical practitioner conducting an examination of an can now be furnished to "any other person" apart from the

MPs for RS walkout

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday flayed the opposition mem-bers for staging a walkout during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in the Rajya Sabha and said their intention was to only create ruckus in the House as they did not have the "strength" to hear the truth. The opposition parties' INDIA bloc, led by the Congress, staged a walkout of the Rajya Sabha after the Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was not allowed to intervene during Prime Minister Modi's reply on the motion thanking President Droupadi Murmu for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

"The opposition is demorthe Raiva Sabha IP Nadda said



Rajya Sabha in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address. This will become a roadmap for the progress of people and rapid development of the country, he added.Nadda said the last 10 years under Prime Minister Modi's leadership have been marked by "revolutionary decisions, historic progress and upliftment" of people."This journey of development will acquire new dimensions in 'Modi government-3.0'," the BJP chief said. "We will take the global prestige of the nation to new heights," he added.

the Leader of the Opposition spoke in the Rajya Sabha for about 90 minutes and the treathe Oppos surv benches listened to him "peacefully"."They started making noise when the prime minister was speaking. This clearly means that they did not intend to hear the truth. Their objective was not to hear the reply to their questions but only create uproar," the BJP MP charged.

India-Mongolia joint military exercise to defence boost ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

the last session. They created July 2023. uproar (in the Lok Sabha) in Giving details about the latest the current session as well and drill, officials said Indian conboycotted (PM's speech) in the Rajya Sabha. This shows tingent comprising of 45 personnel is being represented by a battalion of Sikkim Scouts that perhaps, as the prime minister also said, they do not along with personnel from other have the strength to hear the arms and services. The truth," he told reporters in Mongolian contingent is being represented by personnel from 150 Quick Reaction Force Parliament complex, when asked for comment. On the Opposition's charge that Kharge was not allowed to intervene during the prime minister's speech, Trivedi said Battalion of the Mangolian Army.The Opening Ceremony of the Exercise was attended by His Mongolian envoy to India Dambajavyn Ganbold and Maior General Prasanna Joshi, General Officer Commanding 51 Sub Area of the Indiar Army. The aim of the Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous

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

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

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

alised, aimless and anarchic due to its defeat (in the Lok Sabha polls) for the third time in a row. It is disrespecting our constitutional values and is busy in conspiracy to hide its defeat," BJP chief and Leader of

lage in the Sikandrarau area for the 'satsang' by religious a **BJP flays Opposition**

Cabinet panels on security, economy, political affairs formed

PNS NEW DELHI

The Modi government on Wednesday constituted various cabinet committees, including the country's highest decision making bodies on security, economic and political affairs. According to an official notification, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) comprises Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Apart from Prime Minister Modi, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs comprises Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Heavy Industries and Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy. Others in the committee are: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of Panchayati Raj and Fisheries Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

deems it fit the officials said.

one more medical exam if the

To misuse arrest provisions by could be informed regarding the police, an additional obligthe arrest of an arrestee has ation has been cast on the state been expanded to include 'any governments under BNSS other person, apart from the clause 37/B to designate a existing provisions related to police officer who would be informing any relative or a responsible for maintaining friend," an official said. information about all arrests Clause 48/3 of BNSS makes it and arrestees. mandatory that an entry of the

The information will have to be prominently displayed in every police station and at district headquarters. The new criminal law also as the state government may

makes it mandatory for a police provide

in pregnancy, says study

Aspirin can reduce flu-induced

inflammation in blood vessels

'The category of persons who in a social media post.

present arrangement of "rela-

fact as to who has been

informed of the arrest shall be

made in a book to be kept in the police station in such form

prevent preeclampsia, as it

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

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

Slamming

"It's sad. They had boycotted the prime minister's speech in



First Indian woman Naval officer scales Mt Kilimanjaro

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tn a historic feat Surgeon Commodore Diviya Gautam has become the first serving Naval Woman Officer from India to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, at a height of 19,341 ft on 6 June, Coast Guard said here on Wednesday. Mt Kilimanjaro is world's highest freestanding mountain and Africa's tallest peak. Giving details, officials said

NEW DELHI

Diviya Gautam is posted as Principal Director Medical Services at Coast Guard Headquarters on deputation from Indian Navy. She joined the Indian Navy as a Doctor after graduating from Government Medical College Patiala in 1995.

She climbed the peak along with her husband Commodore Gauary Gautam (Retired) and 8 other Indian friends now set-

tled in the US. Though the couple did not have adequate physical preparation due to

service exigencies but they owe their success to their military training, mental grit, endurance and proper acclimatisation, given the high altitude and varying weather conditions.

Despite the physical and mental challenge involving diverse climatic zones making it an even more challenging endeav-or, Diviya Gautam demonstrated remarkable perseverance and determination. The couple's ascent to the snow-clad peak is a testament of their good order training, will power and support of their organizing team and the teammates. They had started the final trek

at 12 midnight and reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Uhuru Peak on 6 June 2024 at 7:20 am after trekking non-stop for 7 hours.

Congress predicts fall of Modi Govt any time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $T^{ ext{he Congress on Wednesday}}_{ ext{claimed that Prime}}$ Minister Narendra Modi's legitimacy has been diminished to "one-third" and his Government is on its "last legs" and can fall anytime. Hitting out at the Prime Minister over his remarks on Manipur in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress also said he made an "astounding claim" that the situation is normal there when in actuality it is still tense and pointed out that he has still not visited the State since violence

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



third PM'. Reacting to the remarks, Congress general secretary Ramesh said, "As always, the 'one-third' Pradhan Mantri is distorting. The label of 'ek tihai (one-third)' does not refer to his government's tenure. It refers to our very own non-biological PM." "After the resounding personal, political, and moral defeat of June 4th, it is his legitimacy and aura that has been diminished to one-third and he himself is dependent on two other Ns for his political survival. His Government is anyways on its last legs and can fall anytime," Ramesh said in an apparent reference to JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu.In his speech in the Rajya Sabha, Prime Minister Modi said the 2024 general election verdict showed people have rejected propaganda and voted for per-formance. He said the politics of misleading people has been

defeated. Modi said for his party BJP, the Modi's remarks were an apparent dig at Congress leader Constitution is not just a com-Jairam Ramesh, who has been pilation of articles but its spirreferring to the PM as 'oneit and words are very important

too. As regards Manipur, Congress criticism came after Prime Minister Modi said violence in Manipur is continuously declining and the schools have reopened in most part of the state, and efforts are being made to ensure a return of complete peace. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Modi said the Centre was working with the state government and others to restore normalcy in the state. In his reaction to the remarks, Jairam Ramesh said, "Today in the Rajya Sabha, after months of absolute silence on the issue, the non-biological PM made the astounding claim that the situation in Manipur is normal."

"In actuality, the situation is still tense as the MP from Inner Manipur pointed out in the Lok Sabha on 1st July. And the nonbiological Pradhan Mantri has still not visited Manipur since it erupted on the night of May 3rd, 2023 - nor has he met with the political leaders of thestate. The President's Address too was silent on the issue," he said

spirin, commonly used to Aspirin, commonly used to manage preeclampsia (a type of high blood pressure) in pregnant women, shows potential in alleviating flu-induced inflammation in blood vessels when administered in low doses, according to a first-ofits-kind study in the world. This approach could enhance placental blood flow, critical for foetal development during pregnancy, said the study led by Dr Stella Liong, a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The researchers investigated whether therapies used for preeclampsia could be adapted to mitigate the effects of flu infections. Influenza A infections during pregnancy is a big concern as every pregnancy overlaps with part of a flu season.The outcomes were promising in mice, highlighting aspirin's role in reducing inflammation and improving foetal outcomes, found the study. It was conducted in collaboration with Professor John O'Leary from Trinity College Dublin and Professor Doug Brooks from the University of South Australia.Low-dose aspirin is commonly taken to the blood vessels.

stops the body from creating NEW DELHI chemicals that cause inflammation. "When the vascular system is inflamed, it leads to poor blood flow and affects the aorta's function," she said."This is especially a problem during pregnancy where good blood flow to the placenta is crucial to the development of the foetus."The research found foetuses and placenta from mice with influenza A were smaller than those from uninfected mice. Markers of low oxygen to the blood and poor blood vessel development were also evident in the foetuses. However,

RMIT University. mice treated daily with lowdose aspirin had less inflammation and improved fetal development and offspring survival. Brooks said influenza A infections during pregnancy were a big concern. "There are long term implications for both the mother and the foetal, and aspirin might provide a simple solution for preventing this influenza associated pathology," Brooks said. As per health experts, the flu virus during pregnancy could trigger a damaging hyperactive immune response, causing the virus to spread around the body from the lungs through

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Innocent lives lost

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

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



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

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

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



Pandemonium in Parliament



nion 06

KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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



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

Article 93 states two Lok Sabha members will be selected as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Om Birla has been re-elected as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha, bringing continuity and stability to the House. After being congratulated, the newly elected Speaker took out a paper and read a resolution against the 1975 Emergency imposed by

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

Fourthly, some opposition parties thought the presi-THE PRESIDENT'S dent's inaugural speech to a joint session of Parliament **INAUGURAL SPEECH** ignored the country's most TO A JOINT SESSION serious problems. Also, the Opposition called for remov-OF PARLIAMENT ing the Sengol, which the Prime Minister had installed **IGNORED THE** with much fanfare before the COUNTRY'S MOST Election. Fifthly, Rahul and other Opposition MPs pro-SERIOUS PROBLEMS. posed discussing the leakage of the NEET question paper ALSO, THE first. The Speaker, however, **OPPOSITION CALLED** insisted that a discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the FOR REMOVING THE President's address, a significant issue, should be held first. SENGOL, WHICH THE The first week's confrontation PRIME MINISTER HAD INSTALLED

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

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

tively in addressing the pressing issues facing the nation. Both sides must recognise the truth and collaborate to make Parliament more organised. After all, the Government is accountable to Parliament. The parliamentary system emphasises collecshows despite the decrease in tive responsibility, accountnumbers, the BJP is unlikely ability, and flexibility. As former President Pranab Mukherjee said, its functioning is based on Debate, Dissension, and Decision.

WITH MUCH FANFARE BEFORE THE ELECTION

ods. An energised opposition will also be belligerent. The proceedings in Rajya Sabha also saw disruptions and adjournments as Opposition mem-bers raised slogans demand-

to change its working meth-

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

Farmers carry paddy saplings for plantation in an agricultural field, in Nadia

Modernising Govt IT: Imperative shift to a multicloud future



SRINIVASCHARY T

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

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

Our technology infrastruc-ture should receive the same attention and investment as our roads, bridges, energy, and broadband infrastructure. Instead, current policies deter govern-ment IT leaders' ability to choose the best solutions to meet modern challenges. Public agencies are too often using outdated tech-nology and face too many barriers to effectively modernize their systems.

With modern technology and data availability, the government will be able to better track life-threatening illnesses, while policymakers would be armed with relevant data to chart robust policies for prevention and treatment.

According to a Deloitte research report, BFSI sector is also investing more on cloud to transform systems.



Federal and state agencies have been slowly upgrading IT infrastructure over the past decade by shifting to a public cloud computing model. This is primarily driven by the promise of increased efficiency, lower costs, and improved continuity to enhance the services they offer to the public. While many government organizations have taken advantage of the flex-ibility public cloud computing offers, given privacy, compliance and security concerns, this approach does not work in every situation. It is critical that IT leaders have flexibility to choose the most cost-effective solutions.

Government agencies should consider a multi-

While a single-cloud stratwhich often costs more in the end.

better data control, allows access to the best services from each provider, and offers more flexibility as IT leaders can optimize workload placement based on workload requirements. While government agencies - and ultimately taxpayers--that adopt multicloud approaches can also have greater control over cost, which is critical at a time when research firm IDC estimates that nearly twothirds of organizations are spending more on cloud than initially budgeted.

Policymakers need to make this multicloud modernization process a reality by investing in the technology modernisation fund allow-

ing government agencies to replace legacy equipcloud by design approach, ment with upgraded multi-

where you use cloud ser- cloud computing solutions vices from multiple public that will ensure agencies and private cloud providers. can provide critical services quickly and securely. egy might seem simpler, it This will require that all limits service offerings and agencies conduct multioften commits organiza-tions to a single vendor, assessments through an evaluation of current IT infrastructure, processes, A multicloud approach to cloud computing is used for the best path for adoption.

The assessment should look at things like are the agency's applications considered cloud-enabled, what is the cost of migration, do cloud computing solutions meet security and compliance requirements, as well as what is the impact on

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

Solution Architect, Dell Technologies India; views are personal)

LETTERS HE EDITO

CYBERCRIME ON THE RISE

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

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

Ganpathi Bhat| Akola

RAHUL GANDHI MUST INTROSPECT

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



ore than 100 people died and several others were injured in a stampede at a religious congregation in a village in Hathras district on Tuesday, 2 July, police said.Senior Superintendent of Police, Etah,

ground realities but also exposed his blatant pandering for political gain.Gandhi's speech was aimed more at scoring political points than offering any genuine insight or understanding.

His condescending tone towards Hinduism reeked of arrogance and ignorance, further alienating him from the sentiments of millions of Hindus who hold their faith in high regard.Instead of engaging in meaningful discourse on issues that truly matter to the people,

Gandhi delivered a sermon that was hollow, shallow, and devoid of substance. His misguided attempt to redefine Hinduism through a narrow political lens was a slap in the face to the diversity and richness of our cultural heritage.As citizens, we deserve leaders who respect and uphold our values, not those who manipulate them for their selfish ends. It's time for Gandhi and his ilk to introspect and understand that India deserves leaders who inspire unity, not division

Sandeep Sharma Bengaluru

Tragedy strikes Hathras

Rajesh Kumar Singh said the incident occurred at a 'satsang' in Pulrai village. The people had gathered large numbers for the event. The stampede occurred due to overcrowding, Sikandara Rao police station SHO Ashish Kumar said.Victims, dead or unconscious, were brought to the Sikandara Rao Trauma Centre in trucks and other vehicles. The bodies were laid outside the health centre as people milled around them. One video clip showed a woman crying, sitting among five or six bodies in a truck. Another picture showed a man and a woman lying lifeless in another vehicle. Eyewitness Shakuntala Devi said that the stampede took place while people were leaving the venue at the end of the 'satsang'. With this the tragedy struck at the Hathras

Bhagwan Thadani |Mumbai

CONCERNS ON NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

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

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

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRSTCOLUMN UNDERSTANDING THE DIVINE HAND

Recognise and reciprocate God's boundless efforts by embracing dharma



AJIT KUMAR **BISHNOI**

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

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

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



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

Wake-up call against rising plastic pollution



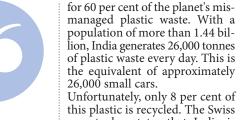
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SRIRAJ KOTA

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



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



THE VARIOUS of microplastic into water bodies by the end of 2024. Second only WATER BODIES IN THE COUNTRY to China. With abysmal condi-ARE RIFE WITH tions such as these, Índia's grip on plastic pollution can at best be

record time. While India continues to construct a circular economy that reduces plastic waste, the focus must now be firmly shifted to handling the plastic pollution problem on large scale basis. As a part of this India must set up large-scale waste sorting facilities that can use artificial intelligencereport also states that India is based algorithms to automaticalpoised to release 391,879 tonnes

same.

on the surface of the water after which they are simply skimmed off. The process is simple, scalable with no side effects and can be applied to a variety of water bodies be it freshwater, seawater or even wastewater.Furthermore, ly sift through various types of plastic waste and identify the the science of biochemical research can be leveraged to access plastic-degrading enzymes This as compared to traditional recycling methods can speed up plastic waste in record time. This

that can degrade and consume can go a long way in accelerating

the process of recycling and there.

MICROPLASTIC described as feeble. The efforts to rein in the runaway plastic pollu-CONTAMINATION. tion have to begin at the grassroots IN THIS REGARD, level. The International Plastic Bag Free INDIA CAN TAKE A

Day focuses on the same by increasing awareness about the LEAF OUT OF THE harmful impact of plastic bag INNOVATIVE usage and pollution. Additionally, stress is also laid on encouraging INITIATIVE TAKEN individuals, businesses, and BY GERMANY. organisations to adopt sustainable alternatives for SUP products. WASSER 3.0 IN The special day urges governments across the world to step up **GERMANY HAS** policy changes and introduce rad-PERFECTED THE ical systemic solutions to reduce plastic use and waste.

PROCESS OF NOT The current statistics of plastic pollution in India demand serious **ONLY REMOVING** and innovative solutions that look MICROPLASTICS beyond the traditional answers such as simple unsorted recycling BUT ALSO MICROof plastic, landfilling or co-pro-POLLUTANTS cessing.

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

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

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

a year's plastic waste recycling activity to a few months.

The process followed is called

"Agglomeration Fixation" which clumps microplastics together

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

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

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

Unveiling the leadership legacy of Narendra Modi: A definitive exploration

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

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

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



MADHU SEN

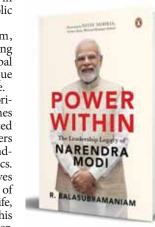
in-depth exploration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership journey, meticulously capturing his contributions to India's socio-economic landscape. Launched amidst notable dignitaries such as former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh, and Prof. B Mahadevan from IIM Bengaluru,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

development, particularly in the realm of digital public infrastructure.

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

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

The book is particularly compelling in its discussion of PM Modi's role in the digital trans-



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

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

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

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

Notable figures such as Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, and Falguni Nayar, Founder and CEO of

Nykaa, have praised the book for its thought-provoking insights and its ability to shift perceptions on leadership. Mahindra hails it as a work that will "undoubtedly change perspectives and perceptions on powerful leadership," while Nayar emphasizes its relevance in understanding the dynamics that have propelled India to new heights. Power Within is more than a biography; it is a guide to understanding the essence of leadership. Dr. Balu's reflections on the nature of leader-

ship, emphasizing the importance of sensitivity to purpose and the courage to act, resonate deeply.

His portrayal of leadership as a labor of love, a way of giving meaning to our lives by contributing to others, is a pow-

erful message that underlines the entire narrative. The book is a must-read for

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

(The writer is a senior jour-

nalist and an arts critics; *views are personal)*

nation 08



Army Chief visits areas along LoC in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHAR JAMMU

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

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



During his day-long visit, Army Staff along with other

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

areas south of Pir Panjal to flush out the foreign terrorists who may have carved out fresh hideouts deep inside the thickly forested jungles and the natural caves to dodge the security forces. According to official sources, between October 2021 and May 4, 2024, the Indian army

suffered huge collateral Commanders on the ground. damage in these ambushes orchestrated in the areas COAS lauded All Ranks for South of Pir Panjal to spread maintaining high standards of the 'arc of terror' across the professionalism & exhorted Jammu region. The standoff them to remain steadfast in meeting all current & between the Indian and security Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh also impacted the when General Upendra Dwivedi commanded the Northern security scenario with the shifting of a large number of troops to beef up Indian defenses in the cold desert Command he outlined the 'Strat 24' for operational focus in the year 2024 to defeat the region.Statistics revealed a inimical designs of our adversary and sponsored total number of 35 Army personnel were 'killed in action' in different targeted Currently, the Indian army is strikes across Jammu and

carrying out intensive anti-Kashmir during the same terrorist operations in the period. In contrast, only five terrorists were neutralized in these operations.

Interestingly, the foreign terrorists adopted the same modus operandi in these 'audacious[†] strikes.

The chief of Army staff also interacted with some exservicemen at 93 Infantry Brigade.

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

TDF to promote self-reliance in defence production

PNS NEW DELHI

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

start-ups and MSMEs. Till date, a total of 77 projects, with a commitment of over Rs 300 crore, have been sanctioned to various industries, and 27 defence technologies have been successfully realised under the scheme, defence ministry said here on Wednesday. The TDF scheme is a flagship programme of Ministry Defence of by Defence executed Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the 'Make in India' initiative. Citing some examples,

officials said Combat Robotics, the Pune-based behaviours of unmanned vehicles across multiple start-up, has successfully developed an Innovative domains. It has been developed under the aegis of Simulator for Unmanned Centre for Intelligence and Robotics Vehicles. It is a multi-domain simulator that supports Unmanned Ground Vehicles (CAIR), a Bengaluru-based laboratory of DRDO. (UGVs), Similarly, virtual sensors for Aero Gas Turbine Engine Unmanned Underwater Vehicles Health Monitoring project (UUVs), Unmanned Surface (USVs), Vehicles and

involves development of a comprehensive diagnostic system of various parts of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), serving as an excellent development tool Áero Gas Turbine Engine (AGTE), leading to increased for agencies working on operational reliability and autonomous longevity of the engine. The simulator provides

Artificial

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

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

emerging

terrorists.

challenges".Earlier,

SAUGAR SENGUPTA 📕 KOLKATA

 $\underset{\text{command is looking for a}}{\text{mid reports that the}} \\ \underset{\text{command is looking for a}}{\text{mid reports that the}}$ new Mamata Banerieecompatible face to lead the party's Bengal unit. The present Pradesh Congress President Adhir Chowdhurv has made it clear that he is not hungry for posts and that he will quit his post whenever he is called upon by the central leadership to do so.

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

Inside reports say that post elections and post his defeat



was never a permanent State coldness have entered in the relationship party chief. "I am just a between working president of the Pradesh Congress and will Chowdhury and his bosses in Delhi. continue to do my work till

The uncrowned king of Behrampore, Chowdhury who won the parliamentary seat for five consecutive times faced a shocking defeat at the hands of TMC candidate and former India cricketer Yusuf Pathan in the recently concluded general

elections. When asked earlier as to elections and post his defeat whether he was quitting as new office bearers including in Behrampore some kind of the PCC president he said he the PCC president on the

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

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

he said after the elections Chowdhury is of the view making it clear that he had that if the Congress still goes back to TMC for national not put in his papers. According to PCC sources compulsions then there would be no Congress left in post elections the PCC has sent the names of the party members to the national Bengal. leadership and entrusted the

This is the reason his close aides say why he opted for the Left and not the TMC as an alliance partner.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

developing

Environmental Modelling, Scenario and Vehicle

Developer Documentation.

It is designed to cater to the

Systems with

systems.

Control

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

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

the student community. The

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

3-member judicial panel formed to probe Hathras case

the divisional commissioner of said. "The administration liminary report said, adding

my party wants me to do so,"

entire function of selecting

Sensex breaches...

From Page 1 Kotak Bank, Mahindra ICICI Bank Bank HDFC

From Page 1 "It is happening because of the sub-standard material being used by contractors. The state government is taking action against such contractors. The state authorities are probing the matter as well. I also request them to probe the conspiracy angle," he added.

Seventh bridge collapse in 15 days...

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav took a sarcastic jibe at the Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar. In a post on X, he wrote, "Congratulations!

had applied for permission for the event. Whoever is responsible for this will come under its purview."

The Uttar Pradesh Police on Wednesday registered an FIR against the organisers of the congregation, accusing them of flouting conditions with 2.5 lakh people gathering for the event in which only 80,000 were permitted.

It also alleged the organisers did not cooperate in traffic management and hid evidence after the stampede that occurred as people gathered there stopped to collect soil from where the religious preacher's vehicle passed.

The chief minister met the injured at the district hospital and enquired about the condition. At the police lines, he met the evewitnesses of the stampede and gathered information about the sequence of the incident.

BJP state president Bhupendra Chaudhary, Uttar Pradesh ministers Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhary, Asim Arun and Sandeep Singh as well as the local MLA, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and Sanjay Prasad, the principal secretary to the chief minister, were also present.

After meeting the injured,

Aligarh briefed him about the accident.

At a press conference, the chief minister said "When the gentleman's (Saakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba) preaching was over, he came down from the stage and his convoy moved forward, a group of women moved towards him to touch him. A crowd followed them and started climbing on top of each other."

Adityanath said, "The 'sevadars' kept pushing people leading to the accident. It is sad that the 'sevadars', who do not allow the administration to enter such events, tried to hush up the matter. But when the administration started taking the injured to hospital, most of the 'sevadars' fled." Action is being taken to fix accountability, he said, adding some special teams have been formed and after initial investigation, "we will take further action."

Asked about opposition parties trying to corner the government over the stampede, the chief minister said, "Some people have a tendency to dig up politics in such tragic incidents." "Those who play with the lives of innocent people will also be held accountable," the chief minister said.

Asked why the "sevadars" do Adityanath reached the stam- not allow the administration to pede spot in Sikandrarau where enter the venue, Adityanath

assumes that it is a religious event and the 'sevadars' will

take the responsibility." "Big events are organised this way. Police are deployed in the outer ring for security. Wherever people attend religious events, they remain disciplined. But when such events become tools in the hands of vested selfish elements, then it leads to indiscipline," Adityanath added.

Meanwhile, a preliminary report by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sikandrarao said chaos was caused after Narayan Sakaar Hari's followers, who tried to reach near his vehicle to seek "darshan", were pushed by the godman's secu-rity and a "slippery slope" resulted in the stampede.

The SDM, who gave permission for the 'satsang' (religious congregation), was also present at the venue when the incident occurred, according to the

report. "A crowd of more than 2 lakh people was present in the satsang pandal. Shri Narayan Sakar Hari (Bhole Baba) reached the satsang pandal at about 12.30 pm and the programme went on for 1 hour. After this, at about 1.40 pm, Shri Narayan Sakaar Hari (Bhole Baba) came out of the pandal to go towards Etah on National Highway-91," the pre-

that when the godman was leaving the venue, his followers started running towards him for a 'darshan' and collect soil

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

The situation worsened when more people waiting on the divider of the road ahead began running towards his vehicle, it said. "A large number of people were already standing on the dividers in the middle and on the sides of GT road, who started jumping from the dividers and started running towards Baba's vehicle to get his darshan.

"Then Baba's personal securi-ty personnel and sevadars started pushing and shoving the crowd themselves to stop the crowd, due to which some people fell down," the report states, adding this led to a panic and the crowd went out of control. "Due to which the crowd ran towards the open field in front of the venue to get relief, on the other side of the road, where most of the people slipped and fell due to the wet slope while descending from the road towards the field," the report said.

Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, Power Grid, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, Tata

Consultancy Services, Titan, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors and Larsen & Toubro were the laggards.

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

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

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

The double power of the double engine government has led to only five bridges collapsing in just nine davs.

Out on bail, Hemant Soren to become...

From Page 1

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

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

coordination committee and have no political future. I working president of JMM. Soon after the party's MLAs and leaders meeting, Champai has sought an appointment with Governor CP Radhakrishnan, who called him Raj Bhawan at 7.30 pm.

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

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

Narendra Modi.

wish the chief minister drew inspiration from Bhagwan Birsa Munda and stood up against the corrupt Hemant Soren ii."

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

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

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

Jailed radical preacher Amritpal likely to take oath as MP on July 5

Magistrate,

days or less beginning 5th

July with certain conditions

that has been communicated

PTI 📕 CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

Tailed radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, who recently won the Khadoor Sahib parliamentary seat in Punjab, is likely to take oath as Lok Sabha member on Friday. The chief of the 'Waris

Punjab De' outfit, who is currently lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail along with nine associates under the National Security Act, has been granted a four-day parole to enable him to take oath, officials in Amritsar said

Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa, an the private chamber of the Independent MP from Speaker," he said. Faridkot, said Amritpal Singh is likely to take oath as

MP on July 5. "I went to meet Lok Sabha Akbar Road residence in the Speaker Om Birla at his national regarding Amritpal Singh's residence in Delhi on Wednesday. He said the oath oath taking issue. will be administered on July About parole, Deputy 5," Khalsa told PTI over Commissioner-cum District

phone. He also said that clearances and permissions from various quarters to enable Amritpal Singh to take oath have come.

"I understand that he will be flown in from the prison for to Jail Superintendent taking oath, which will be in Dibrugarh."

In response to another query about the parole, Thori said in a brief statement, "...Granted by District Magistrate, Amritsar, after authorisation by the Home Department" Khalsa said the sole purpose of his meeting the Speaker on Wednesday at the latter's capital Department." was

Amritsar,

According to Rajdev Singh Khalsa, a lawyer of Amritpal Singh who meets him in jail, said he (Amritpal), through the Dibrugarh jail superintendent, had recently sent a letter to the Amritsar Ghamshyam Thori told PTI, "Amritpal Singh has been granted parole for up to four deputy commissioner, who in turn forwarded it to the state government for necessary clearance to allow the jailed preacher to take oath

Modi silences

critics on... From Page 1

INDIA Bloc parties, led by the Congress, staged a walkout in the Upper House after the Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was not allowed to intervene during Prime Minister's speech. Kharge wanted to intervene during Modi's reply to a discussion on the motion thanking the President for her address to the joint sitting of the Parliament. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, however, did not concede his requests, prompting INDIA bloc MPs to raise slogans demanding that the LoP be allowed to speak.

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

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

The 264th session of Rajya and driving India's rise to Sabha, which began on June

become the fifth largest 27, concluded after Prime economy in the world.

Minister replied to the motion of thanks, and the Rejecting the charge that the House adopted it. Rajya Government was misusing probe agencies, Modi cited Sabha was adjourned sine die on Wednesday after the House adopted the Motion of statements made by Opposition leaders like late Mulayam Singh Yadav who had accused the UPA Thanks on the President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament. Sources said the Government of using ED and Monsoon Session is likely to CBI against them. He also begin shortly during which the annual Budget is to be accused the Opposition of selective outrage on atrocities presented by the third tenure against women, saying none of NDA Government led by of them said a word on public beating of a woman in West Modi listed out achievements Bengal.

of his previous terms, ranging Modi accused the Grand Old Party of being "the biggest opponent of the Constitution" from raising of the minimum support price for crops to giving the poor access to the banking system and loans, and of running a "fake narrative" to mislead the public.



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

AP JERUSALEM

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

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

ily after they complied with military orders to evacuate their home and moved into an Israeli-designated safe zone. The Hamdan family — around a dozen people from three generations — fled their home in the middle of the night after the Israeli military ordered an evacuation from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. They found refuge with extend-ed relatives in a building further north, inside an Israeli-declared safe zone. But hours after they arrived, an Israeli airstrike on Tuesday afternoon hit their building in the town of Deir al-Balah, killing nine members of the family and three others. In all, five children and three

the pioneer

LUCKNOW | THURSDAY | JULY 4, 2024

women were among the dead, according to hospital records and a relative who survived.Israel's order on Monday for people to leave the eastern half of Khan Younis the territory's second-largest city — has triggered the third

Deir Al-Balah (AP): An Israeli mass flight of Palestinians in as airstrike killed a prominent Palestinian doctor and eight members of his extended famsion, chaos and misery as they scramble once again to find

safety. About 250,000 people live in the area covered by the order, according to the United Nations. Many of them had just returned to their homes there after fleeing Israel's invasion of Khan Younis earlier this year or had just taken refuge there after escaping Israel's offensive in the city of Rafah, further south.

South. The order also prompted a frantic flight from European General Hospital, Gaza's sec-ond-largest hospital, located in the evacuation area. The facility shut down after

staffers and more than 200 patients were evacuated overnight and on Tuesday, along with thousands of displaced who had sheltered on the hospital grounds, according to the staff and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had a medical team there.

Palestinian Authority is headquartered. By declaring them state lands, the Israeli govern-ment has opened them up to being leased to Israelis and prohibited private Palestinian ownership.

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

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

Stop Labour's 'supermajority': UK PM's message as election campaign winds up PTI 📕 LONDON

Stop Labour's "supermajori-by" is the final message British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is trying to drive home on Wedneeday the final day of on Wednesday, the final day of campaigning ahead of polling day on Thursday, as most of the incumbent Conservatives

seem to have all but conceded defeat in the general election. "This is what unites us. We need to stop the Labour super-majority that will put up your taxes. The only way to do that is to vote Conservative tomorrow," said 44-year-old Sunak on social media, as he focused on drumming up support in the last few hours of the cam-

paign trail. With his party trailing far behind the Keir Starmer-led Labour Party, the British Indian leader and his team's strategy seems to be to canvas their traditional voters to ensure a strong enough turnout in the polls on Thursday and narrow the gap of their widely expected defeat after Tory victories in the last three elections. "I totally accept where the polls are at the moment means

that tomorrow is likely to see the largest Labour landslide majority – the largest majori-ty that this country has ever seen. Much bigger than 1997," Sunak's Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride told the



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

"Thursday's vote is now all about forming a strong enough Opposition. One needs to read the writing on the wall: it's over, and we need to prepare for the reality and frustration of the Opposition," Suella Braverman, sacked as home secretary by Rishi Sunak, told 'The Telegraph'. Meanwhile, former prime minister Boris Johnson – not exactly a close ally of

Big bet on UK election is not who will be prime minister

London (AP) In one of the attention than normal in this store-front betting shops that are ubiquitous in London, a bookie howls with laughter election because of a scandal revolving around what date the election would be set - one of when asked if anyone is plac-ing bets on Thursday's elecing bets on Thursday's elec-tion. It's not that you can't wager on politics. But the odds on the main event this year have become so lopsided that a wager on which party will control Parliament is a bad bet. A gambler would have to put 100 pounds (\$127) on the favored Labour Party to pocket a pound coin in return. A pound bet on the ruling Conservatives would yield 30 Conservatives would yield 30 times that — if they win. But the bookie wryly noted it would realistically mean throwing away a pound. Then she guffawed again. In gam-bling-crazy Britain, politics is fair game for betting. The subject has received more

Sunak ever since the partygate scandal of COVID pandemic law-breaking parties – was also rolled out by the party at a campaign event in London to warn against a "sledgehammer majority" being handed to the Keir Starmer led Labour Party. When Rishi asked me to come and help, of course I couldn't say no. We're all here

UK election set to

deliver more diverse

Parl, high number of

British Indian MPs

the many gambling possibili-ties. Tens of millions of pounds are expected to be wagered on this year's election, but that will be dwarfed in the fall by the amount bet on the U.S. election. The presidential election in 2020 became the world's biggest betting event on the Betfair Exchange, with 1.7 billion pounds wagered. Punting on the pontiff and the prime minister Almost anything can be bet on in Britain. Punters, as bettors are known, wagered on the color of the hat Queen Elizabeth II wore to Prince William's wedding to Kate Middleton, the winner of reality shows such as "Love Island" and even the name of a future pope because we love our country,"

Johnson told a cheering Tory crowd. "They can achieve nothing in this election except to usher in the most left-wing Labour government since the war with a huge majority, and we must not let it happen," he warned

The Labour Party, meanwhile, is keen to override this message

UN chief wants to see Imran's current situation 'evolve in **Amuch more positive way'** United Nations (PTI): UN much more positive way", his

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wants to see Imran Khan's current situation "evolve in a much more positive way", his spokesperson said, days after a UN panel termed cases against Pakistan's jailed former prime minister as "politically motivated". Khan, 71, has been behind bars since August last vear after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana corruption case and subsequently sen-tenced in other cases ahead of the February 8 elections. The Toshakhana case sentence was suspended in April while Khan was acquitted in the cipher case last month. The only case in

wife Bushra Bibi. UN Guter

spokesperson said. Dawn newspaper reported that when questioned in a press conference a day ago on whether the UN chief supported the UN group's recommen-dation to immediately release Khan, spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said: "It's a recommendation from an independent panel. We want to see the current political situation, the current situation of Mr Khan, evolve in a much more positive wav.

The support by the UN chief came after the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention which has the mandate to which he is convicted is about the violation of the Iddat peri-od while marrying his current had on Monday said the cases Ishra Bibi. Secretary-General es wants to see Khan's motivated" to exclude him

Deuba asks PM Prachanda to quit to allow formation of new government

PTI KATHMANDU

Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba Wednesday asked Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to step down and pave the way for the formation pave the way for the formation of a new government after the Himalayan nation's two largest political parties struck a power-sharing deal to oust the former guerrilla leader. "The Prime Minister should resign after the largest parties NC and UML said that they would form a new government together"

new government together," Deuba told reporters after a crucial meeting of the party at his residence at Budhanilkantha on the out-

skirts of Kathmandu. Deuba, 78, and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K P Sharma Oli. 7

power-sharing deal Monday night to form a new govern-ment. They agreed to share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of the Parliament.

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

Work Performance Committee (CWC) met at Deuba's residence at Budhanilkantha to discuss the current political situation and the party's future strategy.

"The meeting reviewed the latest political situation in the country and discussed the - botł future course of action? said former premiers - inked a former foreign minister Congress will get the leadership Prachanda to step down.

Narayan Prakash Saud. The meeting also endorsed the agreement reached between Deuba and Oli to form a new coalition and share the post of Prime Minister on a rotation basis. The meeting mainly dis-cussed the agenda and modal-ity of formation of the new coalition government, said Saud, who is also a Nepali Congress central committee member. The seven-point deal finalised

between Deuba and Oli on Monday night includes the sharing of the remaining three-year term of Parliament between the two parties, the ministerial division, provin-cial leadership roles and a rota-tion for the prime ministerial position. Oli will assume the post of Prime Minister in the first phase and after one-and-

of the government. Speaking to iournalists after the meeting, party spokesperson Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat said, "The prime minister should pave the way after the largest parties — Nepali Congress and UML — said they would form a new government together. This is also included in the decision." "Other parties, too, are sup-porting the new Nepali Congress-UML alliance. So, the Nepali Congress CWC has requested the prime minister to pave the way," he added.

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

A senior leader of CPN-UML nario. With around 14 per cent of MPs coming from an indicated that all the ministers of the CPN-UML will resign en masse to put pressure

Jaginder Singh. Some of the key British Indian

The UK general election on Thursday is expected to deliver the most diverse candidates to watch in Thursday's polls include Praful Nargund, who is contesting for the Labour Party in Islington North – the seat of the party's Parliament in the country's history, including in the number of parliamentarians of Indian heritage likely to be elected from across the nation. now-suspended former leader Jeremy Corbyn, who is contesting as an Independent candi-According to an analysis by the date. British Future think tank, the Jas Athwal is contesting in Labour Party is set to have by another Labour stronghold of Iford South, while Baggy Shanker in Derby South, Satvir far the largest number of ethnic minority MPs if the party wins an overall majority and even more in a landslide sce-Kaur in Southampton Test,

> more marginal seats for the party. Agrawal, the Indore-

> and Harpreet Uppal in

Huddersfield are contesting

current situation "evolve in a from the political arena.

lf-vear the Nepali

ethnic minority background this time, the analysis finds that the new Parliament will be closer than ever to reflecting the diversity of the British electorate.

PTI LONDON

"This election will see the biggest rise in ethnic minority representation and the most diverse Parliament ever," said Sunder Katwala, Director of building a positive future for British Future."In the space of our country – where every American has a fair shot, our 40 years, we'll have gone from zero to one in seven MPs rights are protected, and our president fights to strengthen being from an ethnic minority background. Britain is closing the gap between the diver-sity of Parliament and the our democracy - not tear it "And on the other side, every electorate much faster than anyone thought possible," he

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

born former Deputy Mayor of London for Business, is fighting to become a first-time MP from Leicester East and is up against a fellow British Indian Conservative candidate, Shivani Raja. This constituency, representing a large Indian heritage electorate, will be keenly watched as its former long-term Goan-origin MP, Keith Vaz, is also in the race as an Independent candidate. British Šikhs, including solicitor Warinder Juss from Wolverhampton West in cen-

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

"A diverse parliament brings different perspectives to its work, which can lead to more Sangeet Kaur Bhail and effective policy-making.

Egypt swears in Trump Campaign outraises Biden by over \$67 mn in 2nd quarter new Cabinet

PTI WASHINGTON

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

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

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

Republican presumptive nominee and former president Donald Trump has out-

raised incumbent President Joe Biden by over USD 67 million in the second quarter of this year by raising USD 331 million. Trump, 78, the pre-sumptive Republican Party candidate, is pitched against 81year-old incumbent President Joe Biden from the Democratic

Party for the November 5 presidential elections. The Trump Campaign raised USD 331 million against the USD 264 million raised by the Biden-Harris Campaign during the second quarter of this year, according to the figures released by the two campaigns. However, the Biden-Harris Campaign outraised Trump in June, raising a record USD 127 million. Of this, USD 38 million was raised in the four days following the first presidential debate in Atlanta on June 27.



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

"President Trump's campaign fundraising operation is thriving day after day and month after month. Winning this quarter brought us a cash-on-hand advantage, which is punc-

machines are old-fashioned.

The electricity supply is erratic.

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

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

tuated by a Biden burn rate that This second quarter haul is Manager Julie Chavez grows while yielding no tangi- USD 75 million more than Rodriguez. "President Biden is Team Biden-Harris' raise in the first quarter of 2024. Since launch, more than 2.5 million Americans have contributed to Team Biden-Harris - more than 1.1 million of

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

And on the other side, every single day, Trump becomes more unhinged and dangerous, whether he's bragging about his role in overturning Roe or proudly and openly refusing to commit to accepting the results of this November's election," she added. Democratic Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said in June, Democrats had their best fundraising month to date. "These dollars will go to opening offices, hiring staff, and spreading Democrats' message of hope - all of which will power Joe Biden and Kamala Harris back to the White Harris 2024 Campaign House," he said.

An Afghan woman once who wanted to be a doctor; now makes pickle as Taliban restricts women's roles

women who have the Taliban's permission to work. She should have graduated from university this year in pursuit of her dream of becoming a doctor, but the Taliban have barred women from higher education and excluded them from many iobs. Now, instead of suturing, she sews in a basement in Kabul. Instead of administering medication, she makes pickles. Half of Afghanistan's population now finds itself locked out of the freedom to work at a time when the country's economy is worse than ever. Few jobs are still available to women. They

Kabul (AP): Frozan Ahmadzai include tailoring and making is one of 200,000 Afghan food, which the 33-year-old Ahmadzai now does along with women who once were teachers or aspired to be one.

Women's participation in the basement. It's a step, at least, beyond being confined at home. workforce in Afghanistan, always limited by conservative cultural beliefs, was 14.8% in But profits are slim for her and 2021, before the Taliban seized her 50 colleagues in the collecpower and imposed harsh tive. In a good month, the pickle-making and tailoring busi-nesses bring in around 30,000 afghanis (\$426). restrictions on women and girls. They include banning female education beyond sixth grade, barring women from public spaces like parks, and enforcing The women also have other complaints familiar to anyone in dress codes. Women's participa-Afghanistan: The rent and utiltion in the workforce was down ity bills are high. The sewing

to 4.8% in 2023, according to

World Bank data.

Ahmadzai's eyes flare when Local retailers don't compensate talking about the new reality for them fairly.

They don't receive support from Afghan women. "We are only looking for a way to escape," she banks or local authorities to help said, referring to the work in the their businesses grow.

Just obtaining permission from the Taliban to work is challenging for women, though under Afghan labour laws, the process for work permits ought to be the same for both sexes.

The ministry responsible for issuing permits has banned women from its premises, setting up a female-only office elsewhere. It's to "speed things up and make things easier" for women, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Samiullah Ebrahimi.

Beryl heads toward Jamaica

National

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

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

Beryl was expected to bring lifethreatening winds and storm surge to Jamaica, where officials warned residents in floodprone areas to prepare for evac-

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

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

Jamaica, as well as heavy rain-

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

money 10



India's services sector growth rises in June: PMI

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

years. There was also a record expansion in international orders. Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the US were all cited as sources of new work from abroad.

Positive client



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

On the price front, service providers recorded a moderate increase in their average expenses due to higher food, fuel and labour costs. The pace of inflation was nevertheless the weakest in four months. Subsequently, selling prices also rose at the slowest pace since February. ahead, service Going providers remained confident of a rise in business activity over the course of the coming 12 months, with nearly 23 per cent of panellists expressing

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

although the level optimism moderated sharply during the month," Bhandari said. Meanwhile, the HSBC India

Composite Output Index recovered from 60.5 in May to 60.9 in June, as new business and output expanded at faster rates.

"The Composite PMI also accelerated in June, supported by greater inflows of new orders. Manufacturing firms contributed more to the expansion than services firms," Bhandari said. Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing

and services PMI indices. Private sector employment expanded at a sharp pace that was among the quickest since the series started in

December 2005, the survey said. The HSBC India Services PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

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

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

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

of

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

Indian food services market, especially food delivery, has witnessed buoyant growth over the last few years. "Higher incomes, digitisation, improved customer

experience, and an inclination to try new experiences have all contributed to this growth," he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sebi notifies institutional mechanism for brokers to prevent market abuse

Markets regulator Sebi has notified an institutional mechanism that requires stock brokers to put in place systems for detection and prevention of market abuse. Before this, there were no specific regulatory provisions

that cast responsibility on brokers to have a system to prevent market abuse. Under the institutional mechanism, broking firms as

well as its senior management will be accountable for detection and prevention of fraud or market abuse, by setting up robust surveillance

control systems. and according to a notification. Further, brokers need to frame appropriate escalation and reporting mechanisms. Sebi has also listed out probable instances of fraud or market abuse which a broker's system needs to be equipped to monitor. The probable instances can include creation of misleading appearance of trading, price manipulation, front running, pump and dump, insider trading and mis-selling and unauthorised trading, including facilitation of 'mule accounts'.

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

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

SEA

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

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

adequate protection whistleblowers.

Also, the regulator has tightened rules to curb trading through the mule accounts. In its notification, Sebi said that transactions through mule accounts for indulging in manipulative, fraudulent

and unfair trade practice shall be and shall always be deemed to have been included in PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms.

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

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

India faces high debt, but sustainable for now: NCAER director Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 83.52 the debt is held in rupee. PTI 📕 NEW DELHI is similar for all and in fact Institution, The states together hold onemore indebted states hold "proliferation of subsidies for

against US dollar PTI MUMBAI

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



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

are sustainable

PNS NEW DELHI

third of the total debt, and in the 'business as usual' situation, their debt levels will only increase further over the next five years, Gupta said. "In a handful of states like

Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, Debt-to-GDP ratio could increase by 50 per cent," Gupta said, adding that the states, including the most indebted ones, also don't face or floating rate. sustainability issue as they have implicit guarantee of the



Lohum to invest ₹1,000 crore in

manganese-based battery production

Gujarat, with low debt, she pointed out that the most indebted states are ironically

electoral gains" as one of the longer maturity and pay little reasons for rising debt of the premium.

More prudent states need a states. Pointing to the Centre's overall responsibility of better deal. They are de facto subsidizing the more indebted states. The Finance control of debt and stressing the need for a different approach, he said, "interest Commission may reward such states for their fiscal prudence, and incentivize the payments of profligate states profligate ones to become are still taken as legitimate." As of 2022-23, Puniab, fiscally more responsible," Himachal Pradesh and Bihar

Gupta said. in the are top three most indebted Participating "States' Fiscal discussion on Challenges", M Govinda Rao, Councilor. Takshashila

annually,

rupee depreciated on strength in crude oil prices, which touched a two-week high on Tuesday. However, a firm tone in domestic markets and favourable macroeconomic At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.51 and hit the intraday high of 83.49 and a low of 83.56 against the American currency during the session.

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

On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 4 paise to settle at 83.48 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on softening of the US dollar and rise in global risk sentiments. 86.32 per barrel. Strength in the domestic In the domestic equity Choudhary Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas

"However, elevated crude oil price and FII outflows may

data cushioned the downside. cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from ADP non-farm employment, weeklv unemployment claims, ISM services PMI, Challenger job cuts, trade balance and factory orders data from the US. Investors may remain cautious ahead of FOMC meeting minutes," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.10 per cent lower at 105.61.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.09 per cent higher at USD

markets may also support market, Sensex hit the historic sentiments," said Anuj 80,000-mark and Nifty scaled a fresh lifetime high. The 30share BSE Sensex finally ended the day 545.35 points, or 0.69 per cent, up at 79,986.80 points.

because of higher real or Centre and as states cannot between Punjab, one of the nominal GDP and as most of hold debt in foreign currency most indebted states, and better off, as the interest rate

for now

Drawing

states, while least indebted are Odisha, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

DigiPivot 5.0 to be launched

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

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

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PTI MUMBAI T ithium-ion battery pack L'manufacturer and recycling company Lohum on Wednesday announced it will invest Rs 1,000 crore in the next three years to develop and manufacture manganesebased lithium-ion batteries Further, the company said it has roped in Tesla veteran Chaitanya Sharma to help in

the new project. Sharma has worked at two of North America's first gigafactories, Tesla and IM3NY, leading the latter as its CEO. The development of the

technology will be supported by a research and development grant from the Ministry of

Mines, Lohum said. Lohum plans to set up a capacity of over 20 GWh in the next three years with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore,

which will also fund related technology developments in the field, the company said. The next-generation LMFP (Lithium Manganese Iron Phosphate) battery chemistry offers higher safety and gives EVs a longer range compared to conventional technologies, besides being significantly cheaper in cost, it said.

"Developing LMFP technology will enable Lohum to accelerate the energy transition by making available higher energy densities, increased cost-effectiveness, higher safety," said Rajat Verma.

Tyre makers facing severe crunch in domestic natural rubber availability: ATMA

PTI NEW DELHI

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

has shrunk, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) said, expressing apprehension that some "sections of natural rubber producing interests or trade are withholding the material in anticipation of an increase in the NR prices worsening the availability".

The "tyre industry has been experiencing tightness in domestic availability of natural rubber for some time. However currently a severe crunch is being witnessed despite the fact that NR prices have touched a multiyear high. The paucity of natural price needs to be addressed at the earliest so that tyre production processes are not disrupted," ATMA Director General Rajiv Budhraja said in a statement.

The Rubber Board had estimated the total domestic natural rubber stock available in the country at 3.7 lakh production efficiency and efficacy at the high-tech labs of the NBRI following intensive research, 'Pio' is all set to become a preferred | to support domestic demand is not there".

uncertainty in "The availability of NR, the key

material. makes raw production planning at tyre plants very challenging. Being customer-centric, tyre companies need to meet the local and global requirements irrespective of shortage of any local material," Budhraja said.

Stating that the tyre industry accounts for over 70 per cent of natural rubber consumed in the country, ATMA said, "Imports (are the) only option address to unpredictability".

"Consuming interests have no option but to increase reliance on imports of natural rubber to bridge the huge deficit. However, imports contracted now, with no visibility of local arrivals, may arrive subsequently and may coincide with peak domestic production season," it added. ATMA said it has asked the Rubber Board to closely monitor the volume of domestic NR sales transacted in recent weeks and advise growers, dealers and to ensure processors adequate and uninterrupted availability of natural rubber so that the consuming interests are not adversely impacted.

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

ARCHANA JYOTI - NEW DELHI

Move over multinational cola giants, there's a new 'Made-in-India' fizz in town! The CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has introduced 'Pio', а revolutionary herbal beverage no preservatives have been market.

artificial Free from sweeteners and caffeine, 'Pio' blends time-tested traditional with herbs modern nutritional science, offering a healthier alternative that is poised to refreshment in keeping with consumer's taste.

'This drink represents a healthier alternative to develop conventional sodas, reflecting the country's commitment to

options," Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said about the drink developed bv the

government's premier science research affiliated lab situated in Lucknow. Backed by rigorous research,

aiming to shake up the used in the product and its competitive soft drink expiry is of four months for the drink which comes with the tagline 'Pio Herbal, Jio Har Pal'.

"Soft drinks are consumed by people of all ages, be it children or elderly. Hence, there was an urgent need for redefine replacing these unhealthy drinks with healthy options. A team of scientists carried out an in-depth study to

scientifically validated and standardised health beverages by fortifying fostering indigenous, health- them with certain health herbs conscious food and beverages protective/promotive



functional attributes," said commonly NBRI Director Ajit Kumar 'mulethi'. moonseed Shasanv. on traditional Ashwagandha, "Based

(Boerhavia diffusa), common grapevine, and cardamom knowledge, we selected certain herbs. Extracts of like have been used in the liquorice (Glycyrrhiza glabra), product," he added.

with carbonated water in such a way that the drink tastes like any other synthetic drink available in the market. Sugar mixing is kept on a minimum level to tackle the bitterness of plant-based extracts," he said. The NBRI Director added that Pio had no alcohol, cocoa, and other synthetic chemicals and has been successfully evaluated for its efficacy. "The product is a unique of modern blend nutraceutical concepts with traditional knowledge in the soft drink category where the

product is fortified with medicinal plants having colour and taste similar to synthetic beverages," Shasany said.

"The herbal plant extract used in the drink has hepatoprotective, antioxidant,

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

Sandip Vyas, managing director of the private firm overseeing 'Pio's now production, expressed confidence in its potential to disrupt the competitive soft

drink market. "Having conducted comprehensive tests to ensure choice among consumers seeking healthier beverage

alternatives.

sport 11



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

PTI 📕 SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY)

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

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

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

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

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

No Messi

Olympic

AP BUENOS AIRES

month in Paris.

in Argentina's

soccer squad

ionel Messi won't be in Largentina's squad at the Olympics starting later this

Coach Javier Mascherano included four World Cup

winners in the squad he announced Tuesday, including striker Julián Álvarez and

defender Nicolás Otamendi.

The 37-year-old Messi, who

has struggled with injuries this

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

The AFI said the relaxation was given to him due to the

AP SANTA CLARA (US)

Vargas saved Brazil's final

chance on a shot by Andreas Pereira in the fifth minute of

Colombia plays Panama in a

second-half stoppage time.

between the domestic event and the Diamond League on July 7. "We have made it very clear

State Championships," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla

short turnaround time had said. Diamond League is clashing with the Championships and we feel that Paris Diamond League will be very important for him (Neeraj) before the Olympic Games therefore he is the only guy who has been that every athlete will compete in India at the Inter-

given special permission to "But Paris participate in the Federation Cup," he added. Inter-State

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

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

"Further competition schedule will be decided later according to situation and my body. Otherwise, I will go to Paris from there (after competing in Turku)." Chopra, who scripted history by becoming the first Indian to win a track and field medal at the Tokyo Olympics, had won the gold at the at the Paavo Nurmi Games last month.

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

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

AP MUNICH

The Netherlands could be L peaking at just the right time.

The Dutch team reached its European first Championship quarterfinal

in 16 years with a 3-0 win over Romania on Tuesday after its best performance by far at Euro 2024.

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

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

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

the start was difficult. They

were really aggressive. But finally we found our ball

What we created was good football... Maybe one critical point was that it took too long to score the second one....It's difficult to

explain why one time you

play badly and the next time

you are really sharp from

the beginning.

Austria.

to remember for Romania and its loud mass of yellowclad fans, who have lit up the tournament. It was only the second time Romania had qualified for the knockout stage at a European Championship and it did so as group winner.

The bouncing yellow wall at one end of the stadium gave its team such a magnificent send-off - singing and applauding the players long after the final whistle - that it was almost as though Romania had won the game.

Today we ended a great story, which we started two years ago. We continued that story here in Germany along with the fans of the national team," Romania Koeman's side could get a quick rematch in Berlin on coach Edward Iordanescu said. "The team gave a great Saturday if Austria beats Turkey in the final round of effort, but there is some 16 match later Tuesday. "Sometimes it's difficult to sadness. "We wanted more, but we gave our all. Thank explain why you play bad," Koeman said. "Even today,

you to my lads, the supporters and Romanians everywhere in the world who supported us." Romania had dominated

possession until Gakpo's goal, but never really tested Netherlands goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen. Instead the opener came when Xavi Simons surged forward before finding Gakpo on the left. The Liverpool forward cut inside the blue-haired Andrei Raiu and fired into the near bottom corner.

It was nevertheless a match

potenatial. "I am

fell into what appears to be a more difficult game against Uruguay later that night at Las $D_{tying \ goal \ in \ the \ first-half}^{aniel \ Muñoz \ scored \ the}$ average of 46,475. calling Colombia "a stone in The Bay Area is facing an stoppage time, and Colombia won its first-round group at excessive heat warning and the temperature at kickoff was 98 our shoe" in the lead up to Vegas. Los Cafeteros, who finished with seven points to Brazil's five, had back-to-back scoring degrees - though about half the field on one sideline was the Copa America with a 1-1 draw against Brazil that extended its unbeaten streak to chances in the 84th minute but shaded. In the eighth minute, James couldn't capitalize. 26 games. Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Rodríguez had Colombia's best

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

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

game, and the 24 group-stage games drew 1,115,400 for an Players put on an entertaining show in the Group D finale, with Brazil's Bruno Guimarães our shoe in the lead up to Tuesday. What was expected to be a tense, physical, foul-filled match more than lived up to that hype featuring five yellow cards as a sea of jerseys the same color representing both countries packed the seats once the fans finally got inside, that is. Some scanning equipment became very hot and slowed down the process. A crowd of 70,971 attended the

Gunok's wonder-save at Euro **2024 sparks Turkish celebrations**

Glendale, Arizona, while Brazil

AP LEIPZIG (GERMANY)

A moment of Mert Gunok brilliance sparked sparked rkish fans celebrations for



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

early chance when he hit the

bar on a left-footed shot on a

direct free kick from outside

the penalty area He had

another shot in the 16th that

sailed high.

PTI BELLARY

A s many as 30 "highpotential" swimme



echoed the sentiment. "It energises our mission to make India a sporting supernower Thei belief



Colombia draws Brazil 1-1 and will play Panama

in quarterfinals while Seleção face Uruguay

year, is now playing at the Copa America, aiming to defend the continental title he won in 2021. That victory served as a springboard for Argentina to lift the World Cup in 2022.

Messi won the gold medal at Beijing in 2008 in his only

Olympic campaign. The Olympic men's soccer tournament is for under-23 teams, but three older players are allowed on each squad. Mascherano, who won the Olympic gold medal as a player in 2004 and '08, will add goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli, Otamendi and Álvarez to his squad after Copa America is finished. Midfielder Claudio Echeverri, a recent signing for Manchester City from River Plate, will also join. Argentina will play two

friendlies in France before its Olympic soccer tournament opener against Morocco on July 24. and a big exclamation from Austria rival Michael Gregoritsch, who described it as one of the best saves he'd ever seen. Goalkeeper Gunok pulled

off one of the saves of the European Championship deep into injury time on Tuesday to secure Turkey's place in the quarterfinals.

He leaped instinctively into a full-stretch dive to his right to palm away a closerange header from Austria's Christoph Baumgartner four minutes into stoppage Unbelievable, really. Austria coach Ralf Rangnick was asked if the goal reminded him of England time, preserving his team's 2-1 win and preventing the round-of-16 match from goalkeeper Gordon Banks' famous stop to deny Pelé at the 1970 World Cup. going into extra time. "I think that's one of the best "True," he replied.

"You have to give credit to "You have to give credit to the Turkish goalkeeper Austria would have gone on because I think it was extremely difficult to stop. "With Gordon Banks in

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

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

have been identified for training as part of a newly-launched 'Mizuho Elite Programme' at the Inspire Institute of Sports here to prepare them for the 2026 Asian Games and the 2028 Olympic qualifiers.

Inspire Institute of Sports has entered into a partnership with Mizuho Bank for this. The two entities have identified swimming as one of the key sports which can be developed at the grassroots level and announced a health, partnership to support 30 swimmers. Launched in 2023, the IIS Swimming Programme features two state-of-the-art Swimming pools, and technical promises coaching,

competition exposure, and support in sports science, strength and conditioning, nutrition, education, mental

and residential their grateful to be a part of such a

Talented young swimmers Maana Patel, Kushagra programme. Mizuho has been generous in their Rawat, Ishaan Mehra, Astha donations, which has Choudhury, Ashmitha allowed us to participate in Chandra, and Bikram Changmai are part of the various competitions globally, buy heating plant programme.

facilities.

and other various training equipment for the pool," she Maana Patel said the partnership will go a long said. Parth Jindal, Founder of IIS, way in helpingthem realise

superpower. Their belief in our swimming programme is inspiring, and I am excited for the future," he said. "Mizuho's support will significantly raise our standards. Our rapid growth and success promise a transformative impact on Indian sport," Rushdee Warley, CEO of IIS, added. Mizuho, a leading global bank with over 28 years in

India, operates five branches and four entities, including Mizuho Bank and Mizuho Securities.

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

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

AP LONDON

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

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

ago. "I was happy to be back on the Centre Court," Vondrousova said. "It just didn't go as planned today." Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander, who was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years

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

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

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro?

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

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

"I was like, I have no pressure. Just enjoy the moment, enjoy the



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

of past major title winners dropping out of the singles

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

Earlier Tuesday, Andy Murray pulled out of singles because he

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

come in doubles alongside his surgery to repair a torn meniscus older brother, Jamie.

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

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

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

in his right knee on June 5.

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

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

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

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



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GILL-LED TEAM INDIA LANDS IN HARARE FOR T20IS AGAINST ZIMBABWE

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

July 6. July 6. The team was seen exiting the airport with their luggage in a video posted by Zimbabwe Cricket on X. The entire squad had departed from Mumbai on Tuesday, while Gill, who on Tuesday, while Gill, who was a travelling reserve with the T20 World Cup side in the Americas, arrived here from New York after a break.

"We welcome T20 World Cup champions India," wrote ZC on Tuesday night in a post on 'X'.

Young top-order batter Riyan Parag, who will be making his India debut in the series, said in a video posted by BCCI that he had a childhood dream of travelling like this (with the national side).

jersey, travelling with the side is different. Coming from Assam, I had this dream of playing for India. Really happy. There will be a special connection for Zimbabwe when I play my first match. 'That will be a special moment for that ground and myself, which would be very sacred,"

he said. "After misplacing my passport, to phones, we are finally here after a 20 hour journey. Now, really looking forward to the tour," Parag added.

Another newcomer, medium pacer Tushar Deshpande, said the feeling of being in the national setup is "slowly sinking in and it's like a dream come true for me. Playing for the country is a very special thing."

"Travelling with the team is the most important and getting to know them, knowing the atmosphere of the team and most important for me is the fun we have travel," during added



Big-hitting left-hander Abhishek Sharma said from the day he started playing cricket, he had only one dream, which was to play for the country. "I know if I continue working

hard, I will get an opportunity but I didn't know I will get it outside India in Zimbabwe. "I got a call from (skipper) Shubman after my name was announced in the squad. Everyone has been giving me so much of affection. For me it

was a very big thing," added Sharma. "When I reached home after my name had been announced, I saw my family members giving interviews. So, I think, that was one moment I will always remember," he said.

India will play their opening match against the Sikandar Raza-captained Zimbabwe on July 6 at the Harere Cricket Ground. The remaining four games will also be played at the same venue. The series will T20 World Cup travelling reserves Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal along with allrounder Shivam Dube were slated to join the Zimbabwebound group but are stranded in Barbados due to hurricane Bervl.

Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma and Harshit Rana were on Tuesday named replacements for trio in the Indian squad for the first two matches of the series.

Samson, Jaiswal and Dube along with the other senior players will be arriving in India aboard a charter flight on Thursday morning. The players will later be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Pacer Khaleel Ahmed and

batter Rinku Singh, travelling reserves for the T20 World Cup, are also currently in Barbados. The BCCI has not named

replacements for the duo even though they are in the squad for Zimbabwe series.



Markram was brave, tactically astute while leading South Africa in T20 World Cup: Smith

PTI MUMBAI

A iden Markram was brave and tactically astute while leading South Africa to their first-ever appearance in the final of the T20 World Cup which they narrowly lost to India last week at Barbados, said former skipper Graeme Smith on Wednesday. South Africa had a near-perfect campaign in the T20 World

the game has to offer," he said. "Players are exposed to World Cup under high-pressure and Markram's captaincy with competitive cricket and this their only defeat coming in experience stood them in the final when India pipped

good stead in the US and Caribbean," said one of the the Proteas by seven runs. greatest 'Aiden was particularl during nt. He good the tournament. was tactically astute, had good plans and was brave enough to make the big calls and in the group stage, wherein then get all his players to the right-arm bowler commit to it," said Smith in a media release. "We have, of course, seen Aiden captain in this manner before over the course of the past two SA20 seasons, leading the Sunrisers Eastern Cape to confidence experiences back-to-back championship titles, but now he has transferred this experience to the international arena," added Smith, who is SA20's league commissioner.

Hardik Pandya becomes first Indian to occupy top spot in ICC T20I all-rounders' rankings

PTI DUBAI

Hardik Pandya rose two places to become the first Indian to occupy the number one spot in the ICC's T20I allrounders' rankings on Wednesday, as the country's cricketers improved their standings following their title-winning performance in the just-concluded World Cup.

The 30-year-old, who handed telling blows to South Africa in the T20 World Cup final on July 29 by dismissing half-centurion Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller in his 3/20 effort, climbed up two places to go level with Sri Lankan

star Wanindu Hasaranga as the top-ranked men's T20I allrounder.

Following a topsy-turvy IPL where he was the target of fans' boos as Mumbai Indians' new captain, Pandya turned it around in style in the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean.

the final when he triggered a Pandva made impactful cameos down the order with dramatic South African the bat and made breakthroughs with the ball collapse after the Proteas needed 30 runs from 30 balls when the team needed him to. with Klaasen in full flow. He finished with 144 runs at a Pandya gave the decisive blow batting strike-rate of over 150 and also took 11 wickets in by dismissing Klaasen in the first ball of the 17th over. the tournament. He went on to bowl the tense His best performance came in final over and defended 16

runs to help India pip South Africa by seven runs and win their second T20 World Cup title

BIG MOVER BUMRAH

India's star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who won the Player of the Tournament award at the T20 World Cup for his 15 wickets, moved up 12 spots to be just outside the top-10. He's at 12th, his highest position since the end of 2020.

There were other movements in the top 10 of the T20I all-rounders' rankings, with Marcus Stoinis, Sikandar Raza, Shakib Al Hasan and Liam Livingstone rising by one spot each.

Mohammad Nabi moved down four spots to go out of

the top five. In the T20I bowling rankings, South Africa's Anrich Nortje rose seven places to a career-best second spot to be just behind top-ranked Adil Rashid with 675 rating points.

Praggnanandhaa draws with **Bogdan-Daniel, Alireza shines** in Superbet Classic chess

PTI BUCHAREST

Tndian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by lowest ranked Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic tournament, a part of the grand chess tour here.

Iranian-French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja shined with his moves against Wesley So of the United States. the World With Championship on his mind, India's D Gukesh seemed to

keep in reserve his real weapons and signed for peace with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France. Praggnanandhaa tried his

hand against the ever-solid Nimzo Indian defense. But it was an off day for the Indian who was confidently breached by the Romanian.

Bogdan-Daniel matched Praggnanandhaa move for move and the game was drawn through repetition after 38 moves.

It was not so easy for Gukesh as well as he seemed to withheld his true preparation for the World Championship match against Ding Liren, scheduled in November this year in Singapore. Alireza stole the show on a dull day in the grand chess tour. He was at his best and crawled back with his second win of the tournament to be in striking distance of tournament leader Fabio Caruana of the United States. With just three rounds remaining in the USD 350000 prize money tournament, Caruna seems to be sitting pretty at the top, with three aspirants in Gukesh Praggnanandhaa and Alireza in pursuit.

I had momentum, could have done better: Nagal on first-round loss in Wimbledon goals that I need to finish, and the way it is. In events like on even terms but the

Smith said SA20, in its two wickets against the seasons so far, has been able Netherlands and the last Smith said SA20, in its two to prepare the South African over against Nepal definitely cricketers to be ready for stands out," he added.

captains. Smith praised Ottneil Baartman for his impressive performances, particularly produced measly spells.

South

pressure and challenges at

"From the outset, the

league, alongside Cricket South Africa, has wanted to provide South African

opportunity to be exposed

to a higher level of domestic

cricket where the players are

able to rub shoulders and

learn from some of the best

with

the highest level.

cricketers

Africa

the

Indian tennis ace Sumit Nagal feels he had the momentum in the third set of the Wimbledon first-round tie against higher-ranked Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia but his relative inexperience Ottneil is the epitome of a SA20 success story. A relatively unknown player on grass cost him the match. The 26-year-old Indian, who before SA20 that has is set to participate in his transformed and grown in second Olympics in less than a month, lost the Wimbledon due to with the men's singles opener to Sunrisers Eastern Cape is Kecmanovic, ranked 19 places higher than him, in a

phenomenal," Smith said. marathon four-setter lasting nearly three-and-a-half "Despite playing in his very first T20 World Cup, he backed his skills under hours. immense pressure. The four

Nagal lost 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6. The 71st-ranked from Jhajjar, making it to the Wimbledon main draw for the first time, won the second set to come

Serbian, ranked 52nd, won the next two to advance.

"This is my first main draw at Wimbledon, and playing on the grass surface is not easy; you need a bit of experience. But I think I did whatever I could, I fought hard. I felt like I could have served better, and there were a few things here and there in the match I could have done better," Nagal told Star Sports.

"Later on in the third set, the momentum was kind of shifting towards me. I think, like I said, if I could have broken him at 5-3, him serving, I think the match could have changed in a funny way."

He said the SW19 experience was the one to cherish. "It was a great experience. that (broken the opponent at



5-3). Nagal said his aim is to Obviously, when you play for three, three-and-a-half hours, you always feel like, 'this could have been done or that could have been done.' But like I said, if I could have changed things in the third clay courts. set, I would have really liked

keep climbing up the rankings ladder and he is looking forward to a good show at the Paris Olympics, where he will have to shift to

"I keep on climbing the rankings. There are a few

that will be one of them - to this, you've got to take your keep on climbing the chances, otherwise, you're going to come out on the losing end."

wheep on childright the rankings. "Now, I'm going back on clay to get ready for Paris. I'm looking forward to it; it's going to be my second Olympics, and I'm super, Former Davis Cupper Zeeshan Ali said Nagal should not get disappointed as he gave his opponent a super excited for it." Nagal, who was ranked 160th

during the Tokyo Olympics, had lost in straight sets to Daniil Medvedev in the second round.

Tennis legend Mahesh Bhupathi also indicated that Nagal should have converted half chances.

"Everyone's disappointed, but he's had a breakthrough year, he's played high-quality tennis. That guy's a good player and he had his chances there in the third set and that's

tough time. "I feel that Sumit should not be very disheartened by this loss because he played a very good match. He played an incredibly good second set and he had a lot of chances. "Going forward, I think he definitely needs to prepare better to play in a tournament like Wimbledon, maybe get a

couple of matches in before the main draw of Wimbledon starts, and that would definitely help him prepare better," said Ali.

Satwik-Chirag eyeing great things at Paris Olympics after cracking service variation challenge

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has "cracked" the service variation challenge and is focussing on "comprehensive physical and mental conditioning" to ensure peak performance at the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Satwik, 23, and Chirag, 26, have been troubled by the wide variations of tumble, spin and wide serves that their opponents, mainly the Koreans and Indonesians, have employed against them during the recent tournaments.

Chirag said they have addressed the "new challenge" and remains confident of negotiating it during the Paris Games.

"Regarding serve variations, they are a new challenge, but about handling pressure, staying focused, and adapting to placing complete importance on that wouldn't be right," different playing conditions,"

Chirag told PTI in an email Satwik said. interview.

won and lost.

Competing at such a high level

has taught us crucial lessons

Chirag added: "The intensity 'There was a time when we and atmosphere of the struggled with receiving them, Olympics are unparalleled, and but we eventually cracked it. We know what to do, we've having been through it once, we now have a better underbeen practicing, and we're constanding of what to expect fident we'll come out strong at and the initial jitters of being at the Olympics to counter that." the Olympics for the first time The current world number 3 are also not going to be there. pair had narrowly missed out of a quarterfinal berth in the "Additionally, winning the French Open has naturally last Olympics when despite winning two of their three given us a significant confi-dence boost." group matches, the duo could-In the last couple of years, the n't qualify for the knockout duo worked its way to become

stage as it was settled on the the world number one after a basis of the number of games series of sensational performance, including winning the Commonwealth Games gold "The experience of playing in the Tokyo Olympics has been medal, a bronze at the World Championships in 2022, and invaluable in our preparation for the Paris Games.

gold in the Hangzhou Asian Games. They also played a crucial role in India's epic Thomas Cup win in 2022. Satwik and Chirag have won the French Open and

Thailand Open this year after The duo has been troubled reaching the finals at the Malaysian Super 750 and India Super 750.

"As the Olympics draw closer, our approach is becoming more focussed and strategic. We're fine-tuning every aspect of our game to ensure peak performance when we step onto the court in Paris," Satwik said "This includes developing spe-

cific game plans for our poten-tial opponents by studying their strengths and weaknesses in detail, concentrating on targeted drills, and enhancing our on-court positions and shot selections. "We are taking a holistic

approach to our preparations. We're in a good rhythm and are eagerly looking forward to be back at the Olympics. Comprehensive physical and mental conditioning is at the heart of our preparation."

sometimes by the left-right combinations such as Korean Seo Seung-jae and Kang Minhyuk and Danish Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen but Chirag feels they don't have any problem against any particular pair. "I can't really pinpoint a specif-

ic pair that we find particularly tricky to play against. On any given day, if a pair plays well, they can pose a challenge. However, I believe that if we play at our best, we can beat anyone," he said.

"So, there's no specific pair or Chirag and Satwik are also lefty-righty combination that particularly affects us. That mentors of PNB MetLife Junior Badminton Championship said, all our competitors in the (JBC), which will begin on Olympics will be quite good ... " August 1 in the national capi-On expectations and handling tal. "IBC offers a fantastic opporpressure at the big-ticket event, Satwik said: "We understand tunity to nurture budding bad-Olympics is the greatest, biggest minton talent in India. JBC also tournament there is and natuoffers players access to mentor-

rally there are hopes and wish-

es from each Olympic-bound athlete.

"We don't want to think so much about the pressures, we're looking to go out there, enjoy the atmosphere, have a great time on court and take it one game at a time and see how it goes. We do not want to put ourselves under any pressure

in our game ... We're primarily

have fun while doing that."

from veterans in the sport. Badminton has significantly shaped my life, and I want to share its benefits with the next generation, helping them achieve their dreams," Chirag

said.

young athletes on drills, techniques, strategies to improve their game, tips on mental resilience, and managing competition stress. Chirag and I will also be offering tips to players in person, whenever we visit any city edition

Satwik said: "As JBC mentors, we offer guidance on videos to matches.



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