OPINION 6

MONEY 10

Late City Vol.160 Issue 184 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



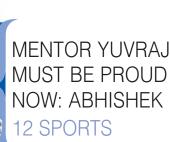
WORLD 9 SUNAK MAKES APOLOGY CALLS TO EX-MPS

MARKETS SETTLE ON FLAT NOTE IN MUTED TRADE

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY JULY 9, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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THE ARC OF TERROR IS COMPLETE, FROM KASHMIR TO JAMMU

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

At least five Indian Army soldiers were martyred and four others were grievously injured in yet another provocative terror strike on an Army vehicle near Badnota village of Machhedi under the jurisdiction of Lohai Malhar block in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district on Monday. The area falls under the 9 Corps of the Indian Army.

The attack took place a month after a group of foreign terrorists targeted a pilgrim bus in which nine civilians were killed and 41 others were injured in the Reasi district on June 9. A similar attack was attempted on an Army post by another group of terrorists in the frontier Rajouri district early morning. Sunday However, the same was repulsed by one of the alert rushed to the spot to plug the troopers manning the periphery of the Army installation.

According to preliminary reports, a group of terrorists pitched atop a prominent hill feature targeted the Army vehicle by first hurling a grenade and later opening

maximum casualties. The terrorists also took advantage of the foggy weather and poor road conditions before targeting the Army vehicle. During the heavy exchange of firing several soldiers were badly hit. The fate of terrorists could not be known

immediately as the anti-

terrorist operation was still going on in the thickly

forested area.

firing Confirming the incident, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police in brief statement said, "Exchange of fire between terrorists and security forces going on in the Machedi area of Kathua district. Two Army personnel were injured in the initial round of firing. A massive search operation has been launched". Meanwhile,

additional troops have been

escape routes and neutralise

the terrorists. Senior police and Army officers were supervising the ongoing operation. The Army authorities have issued an advisory to the residents in the area to remain indoors and not to venture out to indiscriminate firing to inflict prevent injuries in the heavy



exchange of gunfire. A day after gunning down six terrorists in two back-to-back encounters in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam Brigadier Prithviraj Chauhan, Commander 1 sec RR, on Monday claimed the security forces have inflicted a big

blow to the Pro-Pakistan

terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in the Valley. "The killing of six terrorists in South Kashmir is a significant blow to Hizbul Mujahideen,"

he said. The security forces are also investigating the role of the locals in sheltering the terrorists inside their homes.

During the routine searches, the security forces stumbled upon a well-fortified concrete hideout concealed behind a wardrobe in a civilian residence situated in the Chinnigam Frisal area of

Kulgam. The senior Army officer also paid tributes to the martyred soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during the twin encounters.

Briefing media persons, Brigadier Chauhan said after concluding the operation, we found and promptly destroyed an IED weighing approximately 6 kilogram, keeping collateral damage in mind.

Speaking on the Modergam encounter, Javed Ahmad Matoo, DIG South Kashmir, said two terrorists were killed in the second operation. "Adil, who had multiple FIRs against him in different police stations, was killed in one operation. The second encounter took place in the Chinnigam area based on specific information, resulting in the killing of four terrorists."

Among them was Yavar Bashir Dar, a Category 'A' terrorist. The others were identified as Tauheed Ahmed, Shakeel Ahmed Wani, and Zahir Ahmad Dar. A significant cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter site. Both locations had hideouts that the terrorists had been using for a considerable time.



Students at the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi, on Monday. The apex court has begun the hearing for a number of petitions regarding the alleged irregularities in the administration of NEET UG 2024 exams

NEET re-test if exam sanctity lost, says SC

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Directing the National Testing Agency (NTA) for full disclosures on three major aspects of the NEET-UG paper leak case, the Supreme Court on Monday said the fact there was a paper leak in the NEET-UG exam cannot be denied and it has to be ascertained if the nature of the leak was widespread or isolated to decide on ordering a re-test.

Referring to legal position on ordering re-test, the bench said it will have to be scrutinised whether the alleged breach has taken place at systemic level, whether the breach has affected integrity of the entire exam process and whether it is possible to segregate the beneficiaries of fraud from

the untainted students". "In a situation where breach affects the entirety of process and it is not possible to segregate the beneficiaries from others, it may be necessary to order a re-test," the bench said.

The court said if the sanctity of NEET-UG 2024 is 'lost' and if the leak of its question paper has been propagated through social media, then a re-test has to be ordered. The bench said the extent of

question paper leak and the beneficiaries across geographical boundaries have to be ascertained before the top court may order a retest in the controversyridden exam which was taken up by 23.33 lakh students at 4,750 centres in 571 cities including in 14 cities overseas.

Continued on Page 8



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a guard of honour upon his arrival at the airport in Moscow on Monday

Modi, Putin to focus on boosting ties

AGENCIES/PNS MOSCOW/NEW DELHI

In his first trip since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday began a two-day high-profile visit to Russia to hold summit talks with President Vladimir Putin with a focus on boosting bilateral ties in areas of energy, trade and defence.

Modi was received at the airport by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. The Russian First interact with the Indian Deputy Minister also accompanied the Indian Prime Minister to his hotel from the airport in the same car, officials said. Manturov received Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Russia as well.

It is Modi's first trip to Russia since 2019, the first after the start of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022 and first in Modi's third term as the Prime Minister. Russian President Putin is set to host a private dinner for Modi tonight ahead of Tuesday's talks at the 22nd India-Russia summit in

"The PM is set to hold substantive discussions with Putin to take forward the special partnership between the two countries. He will also community in Russia," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

Moscow.

In his departure statement, Modi said İndia seeks to play a supportive role for a peaceful and stable region. After

concluding his engagements in Russia on July 9, Modi will leave for Austria in the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to that country in over 40 years.

The focus of the Modi-Putin summit talks are expected to be on further boosting bilateral cooperation in trade, energy and defence. The Ukraine conflict is set to figure in the discussions.

"The special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia has advanced over the past 10 years, including in the areas of energy, security, trade, investment, health, education, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges," Modi in his departure said statement.

Continued on Page 8

Rain fury cripples financial Capital TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The heavy downpour being witnessed in the metropolis and surrounding areas since the weekend — resulted in massive inundation in lowlying areas — threw suburban services and air traffic out of gear, while the traffic on the Mumbai-Goa Highway remained badly affected for the second consecutive day on Monday.

Heavy rains continued to batter Mumbai and adjoining areas of Thane, Navi Mumbai, Palghar Kalvan, neighbouring coastal Konkan region. Such was the high intensity of rains that during the six-hour period between 1 am and 7 am on Monday, several of the rain catchment areas like Powari received 300 mm of rainfall.

The Powai Lake — one of the major water-supplying lakes of Mumbai — started overflowing during the day. Considered the lifelines of Mumbai, the suburban train services of Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR) were badly hit as the railway track remained thick sheets of water, affecting the operation for the better part of the day. The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) deployed pumps at several places to clear flood Corporation water in low-lying areas in the metropolis.

More than 50 flights were cancelled, while 27 were



Passengers wait for trains at a waterlogged railway station, during rain, in Mumbai, on Monday

diverted from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International

Airport in Mumbai. "Heavy traffic congestion and slow vehicle movement are expected en route to Mumbai airport today due to weather conditions. Customers are advised to allow more time for their journey to the airport," airline Vistara said in an announcement made earlier

in the day. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for coastal Ratnagiri district, while it has sounded an orange alert for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Sindhudurg district.

Heavy to very heavy rains have been predicted in Mumbai, Thane and adjoining coastal Konkan region. Meanwhile, the country's commercial capital has been

reeling under very heavy rains since 1 am on Monday. "Mumbai has recorded over 300 mm rainfall at various places during the hour period from 1 am to 7 am today. Heavy rains resulted in severe inundation in low-lying areas. Since there was flooding on tracks at several places, suburban train services were

Amid pouring rains, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited the BMC's

official said.

badly affected," a senior BMC

State Disaster Control Room Disaster Management office to make a first-hand assessment of the

situation. "Unlike in the past, it has rained a lot in less time which is more than the city's carrying capacity. As a result, there was a water-logging on railway tracks and roads. Traffic has now resumed on all roads. Senior officials are present at all water-logging-prone spots in the city. The State Disaster Management Authority, NDRF, BMC are on alert," Shinde said.

'There is movement of vehicles on Eastern and Western express highways and all railway lines. NDRF teams have reached all three coastal districts in the state. Army, Navy and Air Force are also on alert," Shinde said.

Continued on Page 8



of the State Legislative Assembly, held

Hemant Soren wins trust vote **in Jharkhand**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RANCHI/NEW DELHI

The JMM-led Government in Iharkhand headed by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday won the vote of confidence in the Assembly amid a walkout by Opposition members. A total of 45 MLAs, including nominated member Glen Joseph Galstaun, voted in favour of the confidence motion. The BJP and AJSU legislators walked out of the House as the headcount for voting started.

The BJP-led Opposition has 24 legislators of the saffron party and three of the AJSU Party. After winning the trust vote, Soren said, "Today, everyone again got to witness the unity and strength of the ruling alliance. I thank the Speaker and all the alliance MLAs."

Continued on Page 8

A touch of spirituality mooted in DU syllabi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

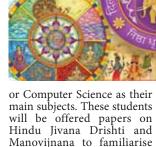
In a bid to expand its course curriculum and provide a wide range of choices to students, the Delhi University is scheduled to introduce Vedic Literature, Upanishad Parichaya, Dharma and Religion among the options at Delhi University's Centre for Hindu Studies which shall be offered to its students as minor electives.

Sources said the department has proposed to introduce six new elective papers for students, who wish to specialise in Hindu Studies and awaits their approval from the Academic Council of the university. A meeting of

the Academic Council of Delhi University is slated for July 12. These additions are based on recommendations of the Governing Body of the Centre for Hindu Studies. The Bhagavad Gita for

Humanity elective will acquaint students with foundational Indian spirituality as depicted in the Bhagavad Gita, and the Purana Parichaya paper will cover Hindu history, culture, geography, architecture and other knowledge systems.

The Centre also plans to introduce two general electives for students who are not majoring in Hindu Studies but have chosen Commerce, Political Science



them with Hindu studies.

for Hindu Studies now plans to introduce more choices for students by offering papers on various aspects of Hinduism, said an official. These will also include papers on In addition to the UGC-Bhagavad Gita for Humanity, approved syllabus, the Centre Hindu Thinkers and Purana

The students who don't wish to study Commerce, Political Science or Computer Science as minor electives along with the major subject can avail these choices. "We have proposed these electives to make our course curriculum more comprehensive and aligned with students' needs. As a relatively new establishment, our effort is to make our programmes well-rounded," the official said.

Under Introduction to Vedic Literature, students will learn about the literary works of prominent Vedic and Upanishadic commentators, from the Rigveda Vedangas.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

There was yet another judicial reverse suffered by the Mamata Banerjee Government with the Supreme Court on Monday asking the State counsel why the administration should want to shield an accused before dismissing the State plea to scrap the ongoing probe into the Sandeshkhali incident conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation. The State Government had approached the Apex Court to get the CBI investigation ordered earlier by the Calcutta High Court quashed.

"Why should the State be interested in protecting someone?" the Bench of Continued on Page 8 | Justices BR Gavai and KV before handing it over to the

Viswanathan wondered before dismissing the State plea. The Calcutta High Court had

Sandeshkhali setback for Mamata

on April 10 ordered a CBI investigation into the incidents of Sandeshkhali where villagers complained en masse of large-scale land grab and sexual exploitation of women allegedly at the behest of Trinamool Congress strongmen Sheikh Shahjahan, Uttam Sardar and others. All

were presently in jail. Moving the Apex Court, the State Government had earlier said the High Court order directing CBI investigation into the case had demoralised the police administration. It also said it was the State police which had arrested Shahjahan

However the opposite side contended that the State had not only tried to stall CBI investigation but also it had handed arrested the main accused after several weeks of the incident apparently because he was a powerful TMC leader.

CBI has been The investigating three separate cases with Sandeshkhali appearing in all of them. While the agency is investigating the case of multicrore public distribution system scam that has seen former State Minister and powerful TMC leader Jyotipriya Mallick going to

Continued on Page 8

Uncle's arms licence to be revoked after boy dies in accidental firing

day after the death of a 12-Aday after the dead of a 12 year-old boy who suffered bullet injuries after a rifle accidentally went off in Krishna Nagar on Sunday night, a case was registered against the deceased's maternal uncle for careless handling of the weapon on Monday.

ADCP (South) Shashank Singh stated that prima facie, the incident seemed to be an accidental case of firing which claimed the life of the boy.
"However, the man who owns

the weapon has not been given a clean chit yet. In fact, the police are registering a case against him for careless handling of the weapon, and fur-ther actions will be taken if the investigation finds him guilty," he said.

The victim, Shiva Singh, was playing with the rifle belonging to his maternal uncle Sanjay Singh at his rented accommodation in the Prem Nagar area when it went off.

"Sanjay Singh, originally from Jalaun and currently seeking employment as a security guard in the city, had come to stay with his brother-in-law Balbir Singh, who serves in the Army and resides in Prem Nagar," DCP (South) Tej Pratap Singh

had said on Sunday night. Singh further stated that according to the preliminary probe based on statements from family members, Sanjay had left the loaded rifle in the room and gone to the market to purchase vegetables. Shiva found the firearm and inadver-

Viral video revives 3-year-old assault case; accused held

PRABHA SHANKER

In the age of social media, justice may be delayed but not denied. A case in point is a threeyear-old incident in which a group of three youths beat a financier with belts while locking him in a room in the Chowk police station area.

Initially, the incident was swept under the carpet as the victim could not muster the courage to complain to senior cops, given the local police's alleged lack of support. His friends also advised him not to go against the prime accused, who ran a showroom selling e-rickshaws and had strong connections. The local police were also not keen on pursuing the case to bring justice for the victim.

However, one person filmed the incident to expose the misdeeds of the accused but did not dare upload it on social media at that time. As a result, the video remained hidden in mobile galleries for years until it surfaced

tently discharged it, resulting in a bullet piercing his stomach. Upon hearing the gunshot, Shiva's sisters Renu and Neetu, along with neighbours, rushed to his aid and took him to Lok Bandhu Hospital. From there, he was transferred to the KGMU Trauma Centre where

on social media on Saturday. When the video went viral, policemen were on their toes, and senior officers demanded details about the incident and an explanation for the initial negligence. The investigating cops were initially relieved to discover that the video was of a threeyear-old incident. Nonetheless, they worked on the case and apprehended the miscreants,

who admitted to their crime. Over time, the victim had moved on from the hostility towards the perpetrators, while the accused had forgotten about the intensity of their actions. Those arrested were identified as Salman (23) of Khadra, Shiva Chaurasiya aka Lucky (21), and Vishal Valmiki (18), both from Balu Adda in Hazratganj.

The accused recounted that Mohan (name changed) had financed e-rickshaws for some people from Salman's showroom three years ago but had not repaid the money. In response, they locked Mohan in a room and beat him with belts

doctors pronounced him dead. ADCP Shashank Singh said, "A field unit was despatched to the scene immediately after the news reached the police, and a senior officer was sent to the crime scene for investigation. The rifle has been confiscated and sent to the forensic labo-

to force him to repay. Mohan was surprised when contacted by a police team led by sub-inspector Pankaj Kumar Yadav and constable Param Singh. "He had a hazy memory of the incident, which he had almost forgotten, but the insult at the hands of the attackers still stung him. He looked relieved when he knew that police had arrested those who assaulted him three years ago," the police said. On the other hand, the attackers were baffled by the revelation of their three-year-old crime. They initially tried to deny the charges, but the video evidence left them speechless. Inspector Nagesh Upadhyay said that both the victim and the attackers admitted they held no grudges against each other.
"Salman and his aides said they

had received their money (Rs 6.5 lakh) back. The victim said he did not want any further action, but due to the criminal nature of the incident, we charged the accused for breach of peace," the inspector stated.

ratory for analysis." Furthermore, Singh mentioned that a request had been made to revoke Sanjay Singh's firearm licence following the tragic incident. Sanjay was in the city visiting his sister's house and was seeking employment as a security guard.

Dalit man thrashed for demanding money back

PNS LUCKNOW

Agroup of men allegedly thrashed a Dalit man for demanding repayment of the money which he had given to one of them, in Jankipuram police station area. The incident took place on June 25, and the victim, Awadhram, is currently receiving treatment at Balrampur Hospital.

A case was registered only after victim's wife Gomti filed a complaint with the Chief Minister's portal for addressing public grievances, after which the police were directed to register a case and investigate the matter. In her complaint, Gomti stat-

ed that her husband was on his way home on the fateful day when he saw the main accused. Prakash, along with his sup-porters standing by the roadside. Awadhram asked Prakash to refund the money he had borrowed. Angered by this, Prakash abused Awadhram, questioning how a person from the Dalit community could publicly demand repayment. "Prakash and his aides later attacked Awadhram with sticks, causing multiple fractures in his limbs. He was admitted to the hospital by passersby and residents," she said. She further said that the accused is influential in the locality and has good rapport with lower-ranking police officers. "I saw no hope of getting help from the police, so I petitioned my case to the CM por-



'Shahi Mom ki Zarih' procession was taken out from Bada Imambara to mark the first day of Muharram on Monday

Teachers protest biometric attendance

 $B_{\text{Lucknow protested against}}^{\text{asic education teachers in}}$ their mandatory biometric attendance, which was implemented from Monday. A majority of the teachers did not mark their digital attendance

as a mark of protest.
A teacher said they are protesting because they get only 14 casual leaves in a year and not an earned leave. "We want earned and half-day leaves. Under the new system, atten-

and a teacher misses out, they are marked absent. A clarification should be sought from teachers coming late and in case of no satisfactory explana-tion, action should be taken and then the teachers marked absent," he said.

A principal said that teachers did not mark their attendance since everyone had problems. "The teachers live far away from schools and there is no provision of a half-day leave. Most of the schools are far away from the city which is mired in traffic woes. There are some schools which do not have a proper approach road and there are others facing waterlogging problems. In such a situation, we will be marked absent if we reach school late," she said, adding half-day leaves are important for someone not feeling well or there is a death in the family. When contacted, the basic shiksha adhikari said that whenever a new system is introduced, there is some sort

LDA to develop green belt in Vishal Khand

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow no significant progress from Development Authority will develop a green belt in Vishal Khand, Gomti Nagar, on 100 Moreover, the company failed acres of land, without relying to prevent encroachment, on any private or government agencies. This land was previously leased to a financial company for the same purpose in 1995, but no development occurred, and it remained neglected. This information was disclosed in a letter to the state government on Monday. The lease, which was set to expire in March next year, saw



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NOTICE

I am Yogita Jha W/o Late Sri Santosh Kum Jha Resident of Plot No 69, Aadarsh Viha Colony Buddheshwar Lucknow. My tw Home Loan was runing from Piramal Capita and Housing Finance Ltd. First Home Loan i Plot No-69 Aadarsh Vihar Colon Buddheshwar Lucknow Loan number i (19300041860) and Second home loan is plo no-70 Aadarsh Vihar Colony Buddheshwa Lucknow loan number is (19300043164). my Husband Santosh Kumar Jha Died on 07-08-2023. Late Santosh Kumar Jha has on Son Mohak Jha (Minor) and one Doughte Yashika Jha (Minor). The House loan ha been Repaid by the wife Yogita Jha hence Request the Company to give us the papers o this Property. if any person has any objection Contact Piramal Capital and Housin Finance Ltd. (DHFL).

NOTICE

सूचना- पंकज कुमार जायसवाल पुत्र पूर्णमासी जायसवाल निवासी- 239, अंतरसईया, परगन व तहसील-सदर, जिला-प्रयागराज जो मकान नं0 313/237, मोहल्ला अंतरसुईया, परगना व तहसील-सदर, जिला-प्रयागराज पर स्थित है उपरोक्त सम्पत्ति की मूल दो दस्तावेज जिसकी रजिस्ट्री हिदायत हुसैन के पक्ष में बही नं0 1 जिल्द 907 पन्ना 403 से 408 क्रमांक 360 पर दिनांक 28.02.1951 को व गोपाल नारायण खज्ञा के पक्ष में बही सं0 1 जिल्द 1054 के पेज 209 से 211 क्रमांक 704 पर दिनांक 13.04.1957 को रजिस्ट्रीकृत किया गया है। सम्पत्ति स्वामी द्वारा मूल दस्तावेज गुम हो गया है बावत जिसके एफ0आई0आर0 एल0आर0 दर्ज है नं0 20240000572191 यदि किसी सज्जन को कोई आपत्ति या दावा उक्त सम्पत्ति से सम्बन्धित है (तो वह नोटिस के 15 दिन के भीतर) स्टेट बैंक आफ इण्डिया को सूचित करें। उक्त सम्पत्ति पर भारतीय स्टेट बैंक शाखा मुट्ठीगंज कोड नं0 002584 से गृह ऋण ले रहा है। उक्त सम्पत्ति भारतीय स्टेट बैंक को बंधक रहेगी।

the company, leaving the land as it was when initially leased. Moreover, the company failed resulting in a network of unauthorised structures over the years. LDA Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi emphasised that the top priority is to remove unauthorised occupants to clear the land for the green belt development. He assured that the LDA would not lease the land to any parties in the future to avoid misuse.

In response to queries about the timeline for reclaiming the land, Tripathi mentioned that a meeting would be held soon with the Lucknow divisional commissioner to strategise the removal of illegal occupants.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Vikram Rochalani to Vikram purpose.Vikram Rochlani S/O Nanak Ram R/O 10/8, Vidhyarthi market, Govind Nagar kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from CHANDAN KUMAR KANNU-JIYA to CHANDAN KUMAR PHOOLCHANDRA KANNOUJIYA. In future I Shall known as CHANDAN KUMAR PHOOLCHANDRA KANNOUJIYA. CHANDAN KUMAR PHOOLCHANDRA KANNOUJIYA S/o Phool Chandra Kannujiya, Khanpur Meja Road Meja Khas, Prayagraj, UP

NOTICE

The correct date of birth of my wife Nirmala Yaday should be amended to 03/01/1982 instead of the incorrect date of birth of 10/1/77 recorded in the military records. J.c. 542138 Y SUB. H/L.T.Babulal, Maroofpur Post Maryadpur District Mau

NOTICE

I, SADDAM holding Indian Passport No: V4775751 issued at LUCKNOW on 06/01/2022, Permanent Resident of VILL AND POST JARA PS SONAULI MAHARAJGANJ PIN 273164 UP INDIA and presently residing at DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from SADDAM to SADDAM name) SHEIKH (Surname) with immediate effect



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday and discussed the security situation in the state and various initiatives by the Indian Army

PNS LUCKNOW

economy.

350 acres.

inflation.

The Uttar Pradesh govern-

ment is investing Rs 7,064

crore on developing a multi-modal logistics hub (MMLH)

in Dadri, Greater Noida, as part

of its commitment to achieving

the goal of a 1-trillion-dollar

This logistics hub will be spread

over an area of 823 acres, with

455 acres designated as the core

Meanwhile, developments are

underway for commercial and

administrative facilities across

17.5 acres, alongside rail vard

and other projects covering

In order to expedite these ini-

tiatives and ensure comprehensive development, a detailed

UP govt putting

more burden on

people: CPI(M)

Lucknow (PNS): The UP state

politburo of the CPI (Marxist)

said in a statement that the UP

government wanted to put

more burden on the people

already suffering from

Calling the UP government's electricity-related policies as

anti-people, it opposed them and demanded their immedi-

ate withdrawal. It also demand-

ed 1,000 units of free electric-

ity for farmers' tube wells and

up to 300 units of free electric-

The party also criticised the

proposal to increase electrici-

ty tariff by Rs 2 per unit. Opposing privatisation of

power supply and generation,

CPI(M) leader Heera Lal Yadav

said the suspension of employ-

ees should be withdrawn.

ity to domestic consumers.

development area.

Couple, son murdered in Ghazipur

PNS LUCKNOW

Tn a brutal triple murder in Ghazipur district, a man, his wife and their son were murdered by slitting their throats while they were sleeping in their house in Kusumhi Kala village under Nandganj police station of the district. The murders came to light when the youngest son of the deceased family returned home after watching an orchestra programme organised in the village.

According to reports, Munshi Bind (45) of Khilwa Mauja in Kusumhikala under Nandganj police station area and his wife Devanti (40) were sleeping in a hut outside the house while the elder son Ramashish (20) was sleeping inside the house. They were murdered by slitting their throats by unknown assailants sometime late on Sunday night.

stuffing and value-added pack-

Offering seamless rail connec-

tivity, it will feature essential

amenities including rail plat-

forms, customs clearance, cargo

segregation, truck parking

areas, and extensive green

The development of the

MMLH in Dadri is progressing

under the public-private part-

nership (PPP) mode, overseen

by the Greater Noida Industrial

Development Authority and

the National Industrial

Corridor Development and

The Greater Noida Industrial

Development Authority has

prepared the master detailed

project report for constructing

Trust

Implementation

(NÎCDIT) guidelines.

Dadri to have multi-modal logistics hub

spaces

action plan has been meticu-

lously crafted by the government. The action plan, aligned

with Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath's vision, is set to

transform the Dadri multi-

modal logistics hub into a

world-class freight handling

port where fast transit of goods

and raw materials will be

ensured. This ambitious project

is slated to become India's

It is worth mentioning that the

multi-modal logistics hub of

Dadri, located on the eastern

and western dedicated freight

corridors of the country, will

serve as a central hub for ser-

vices such as container han-

dling, warehousing, cold storage, processing, de-stuffing,

largest logistics hub.

facility. It will work like a dry

The entire family had gone to enjoy the performance of an orchestra organised in the village to celebrate some function on Sunday night. Around midnight, they all returned and went to sleep. The youngest son, Asheesh, however, left the house again to enjoy the orchestra. The incident came to light when Ashish returned home after watching the programme in the wee hours of Monday. He saw his parents lying dead in a pool of blood outside the house. When he ran inside the house to wake up his elder brother, he found

blood all over him.
On seeing the bodies, Ashish started screaming and shouting and hearing the noise, people from nearby areas reached there. On receiving information, the police immediately reached the spot along with senior officers including Superintendent of Police

the approach track and Rail Over Rail (ROR) bridge

extending from new Dadri sta-

tion to the MMLH boundary.

Simultaneously, the Dedicated

Freight Corridor Corporation

of India (DFCCIL) has sanc-

tioned the detailed project

report (DPR) for the construc-

tion of railway tracks and ter-

minal stations within the

MMLH. Additionally, the ten-

der documentation for land acquisition and signalling

processes for the approach

Concurrently, the processes of

trunk infrastructure bound-

ary, roads, canals, bridges, util-

ity shifting and water and

power supply are also being

completed through the imple-

the house-related dispute had

not been resolved despite years

mentation of various phases.

track has been finalised.

Omveer Singh. Omvir Singh said that prima facie it appeared to be a planned murder because all the deceased had been attacked on their necks. Meanwhile, in another incident in Sambhal district

reported late on Sunday night,

two groups clashed with each other over a rivalry in village Bhikampur Jagir under the Rajpura police station. Five people were seriously injured in the clash while a 50year-old villager, Ramveer, died during treatment in the district hospital.

His family members allege that when Ramveer was injured, the police kept him in custody and when his condition worsened, he was admitted to the hospital.

His brother Bhoop Singh said that on Monday that the mundan ceremony on Ramveer's five-year-old grandson Bobby

was to be held at Anupshahr Ganga Ghat. He said that some local residents refused to attend it so on Sunday night, around 10 pm, Ramveer went to their houses to convince everyone to attend the function. Bhoop Singh said that some argument broke out between the two sides after which some villagers attacked Ramveer and brutally assaulted him and also opened fire. On getting information about the fight, other people also

reached the spot.
Rameshwar, Dinesh, Varsh and Billu were injured in the incident. Baba Singh, Kalicharan, Harvansh from the other side were also injured.

They were taken to the police station but when Ramveer condition deteriorated, he was shifted to hospital where he died on Monday morning. Further investigations are on in the matter.

As part of its dedication to preserving the state's cultural heritage, the Yogi Adityanath government will nurture 948 heritage trees through the Heritage Tree Adoption Scheme. As many as 28 species of trees that are more than 100 years old have been designated as 'heritage trees. These trees are spread over all the 75 districts of the state. There are a maximum of 99 heritage trees in Varanasi, 53 in Prayagraj, 37 in Hardoi, 35 in Ghazipur and 34 in Unnao.

torical events, special people, monuments, religious traditions and beliefs.

nated as 'heritage trees' by the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board. These include Aru, Arjun, Mango, Tamarind, Kaim, Kareel, Kusum, Khirni, Shami, Gamhar, Gular, Chitwan, Chilbil, Jamun, Neem, Adansonia, Pakad, Peepal, Peelu, Banyan, Mahua, Mahogany, Mysore Banyan, Sheesham, Sal, Semal, Haldu and Tumal. There are 422 Peepal and 363 Banyan

The heritage tree category

UP govt to nurture 948 heritage trees spiritual and freedom move-

PNS LUCKNOW

The Yogi government is raising awareness among the general public by conserving the endangered tree species and trees connected to mythological/his-

Guidelines have been given for the selection and documentation of heritage trees by the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change department.
This time, a Heritage Tree Garden will also be developed to grow saplings of these trees. More than 100 years old trees, belonging to 28 species, and situated in non-forest areas (community land) have been desig-

trees.

includes trees related to the

Adityanath, 19 trees have been designated as heritage trees. It also includes, mother trees of Dussehri and Langra mangoes in Lucknow and Varanasi, Bachan Imli in Fatehpur, tamarind tree in Imlitala temple complex in Mathura, Karil tree in Pratapgarh, Adansonia tree in Barabanki, Pakad tree in Hapur and Sant Kabir Nagar, Bodhi tree of Sarnath, Peepal tree of Ambedkar Nagar, famous as Baba Iharkhand, and Peepal tree associated with freedom movement at Ordinance Cloth Factory in Shahjahanpur.

Under the Vriksharopan Jan

Abhiyan-2024, Heritage Tree

Gardens will be established in 11

districts of Uttar Pradesh to raise

ment. In Gorakhpur, the home-

town of Chief Minister Yogi

awareness about the identified heritage trees among the state's residents. These gardens will be developed in Gorakhpur, Ayodhya, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Meerut, Bareilly, Mathura, Sitapur, Chitrakoot and Mirzapur. İn each garden, a plant, twig, or branch propagated from a heritage tree will be mandatorily planted. The remaining plants will be species of local importance. Approximately eight hectares of land will be needed for this initiative. Among the special heritage trees are the Adansonia tree of Jhunsi (Prayagraj) mentioned by the Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang, the Peelu tree located in the Ter Kadamba temple complex, and Nidhi Van of Mathura, Akshavavat in the Prayagraj Fort, Banyan tree located at Valmiki Ashram in Unnao district, places popular as Luv Kush Birthplace and Janki

Man hangs self during fight over property dispute seeing his wife being beaten by room, which was bolted from his rivals. "He was very upset as

PNS LUCKNOW

Ceeing no hope of getting jus-Stice in a prolonged houserelated dispute and humiliated by his uncle and his family, a man allegedly committed sui-cide in Thakurganj on Monday. He took the extreme step amid the commotion when his wife and others from his side were fighting with his uncle and the latter's family members. It is said that he took this step after his wife was assaulted by his rivals, including his uncle. In a video statement, DCP

that the man, Ram Bharose

Maurya, was taken off the noose

after the police cut broke open

the door to gain entry into the

in court.

death," the DCP said. (West) Durgesh Kumar said

inside. He stated that Ram Bharose had a longstanding house-related dispute with his uncle Ram Sewak Maurya, and the case is currently sub judice "Ram Bharose had a verbal spat

with his uncle Ram Sewak, who allegedly assaulted his wife. Ram Bharose then locked himself in a room and hanged himself to He added that the deceased's

wife suffered injuries in the assault and wept bitterly. 'Women from Ram Sewak's side also suffered injuries in the fight," he noted.

Eyewitnesses to the incident told reporters that Ram Bharose probably felt humiliated after

passing. He was being bullied by his uncle, who has a larger family and more muscle power," they said. The DCP mentioned that the family of the deceased had yet to file a formal complaint. 'The police will register a case and frame the charges accordingly against the accused," he said. Residents said the dispute between the uncle and nephew was well-known in the area, with regular fights over the ownership and division of the house. "The victim had sought help from the local police but in vain, as the matter is currently in court,"

Everything is according to Baba's wish.

However, it is not yet clear

who this volunteer is and

whose audio this is. The police

are investigating this viral

According to the Uttar Pradesh government, most of

the 121 people who died in the

stampede during the satsang

IDFC FIRST Bank

UP targets self-sufficiency in pulses' production in 3-4 yrs

The Uttar Pradesh govern-I ment headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath targets self-sufficiency in the production of pulses in the next three to four years. Notably, UP has witnessed a

record 36 per cent increase in the production of pulses in 2023-24 compared 2016-17, rising from 2.394 million metric tons to 3.255 million metric tons. To further increase the area under pulse cultivation and enhance yield per hectare, the Yogi government is providing comprehensive assistance to farmers with support from the Central government.

Besides, the Yogi government has prepared an action plan focusing on tur, urad, and moong to boost the production of pulses in the state. As part of this initiative, 27,200 hectares of crop demonstrations will be conducted under the National Food Security Mission Scheme. Additionally, targets have been set to distribute 31,553 quintals of seeds and produce 27,356 quintals of certified seeds under the Pulses National Food Security Mission Scheme. Fourteen seed hubs have also

been established to produce and high-yielding varieties of 21,000 quintals of seeds, traditional pulse crops, with strengthening the system. Like last year, mini kits of

other pulse crops, such as moong and urad, will also be distributed to the farmers. The government has reiterated its commitment to purchasing the pulses from farmers at the minimum support price and setting the MSP for these crops higher than other crops. The government's strategy

includes developing model pulse villages in the strategically significant Bundelkhand districts, which are renowned for their pulse production. These districts include Banda, Mahoba, Jalaun, Chitrakoot, and Lalitpur. It is noteworthy that UP is India's largest producer and consumer of pulses. However, the state currently produces only half of its consumption needs.

The strategy aims to increase the yield per hectare from 14 quintals to 16 quintals within the stipulated time frame, targeting a total yield of 3 million tons. Additionally, approximately 175,000 hectares of pulse crops are planned. To achieve this, the government

will provide seeds of improved

demonstrations by progressive farmers. A large number of free seed mini kits will also be distributed to farmers, a process that is already ongoing. Furthermore, the focus will be on crops like moong and urad, which have shorter maturation periods. Mixed cropping of these pulses will also be promoted. Additionally, the government guarantees increased production through sprinkler irrigation systems on uneven land, enhanced yields by employing the furrow and

support price. Having achieved record grain production, the government is now placing a significant emphasis on nutritional security, a step beyond mere food security. In this initiative, pulse crops will be pivotal. Pulses, being the primary source of protein for the general population, especially vegetarians, are of utmost importance.

ridge farming method, and

purchases at the minimum

Despite their lower production relative to consumption, pulse prices often spike, making headlines every few years. This can make pulses less accessible

to the average person and disappear from the plates of the poor. As a crucial protein source, pulses are indispensable for the health of the general populace, particularly the poor. Furthermore, pulse crops, with their nitrogen-fixing proper-ties, are beneficial for soil health. It is worth mentioning here that India is the world's largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses whereas UP has the highest consumption share and is the country's most populous state. Consequently, pulse-producing countries like Canada, Australia, the United States, Turkey and Myanmar closely monitor India's and UP's production and six-month storage levels. When production is low, the significant demand in India causes pulse prices to rise in the international market. The exchange rate between the dollar and the rupee also greatly impacts this; imports become more expensive if the dollar is strong against the rupee. Thus, India has to spend valuable foreign currency on

pulse imports. Achieving self-

sufficiency in pulse production

in UP would save foreign cur-

Two more held in Hathras case

teer of Bhole Baba is talking to

his friend. The volunteer's

friend says that so many peo-

ple died today, to which the

volunteer says that it doesn't

matter, this incident was

bound to happen. The volunteer said, "Baba had said that

whoever does not worship

him will have to face such con-

sequences. The disaster came

The Hathras police arrested two more accused in connection with the stampede in which 121 people died last Tuesday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Durgesh Kumar Saxena and Dalbir Singh and both were sevadars in the satsang in which the stampede took place.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government is also investigating the case. The SIT is headed by Additional Director General of Police (Agra Zone) Anupam Kulshreshtha.

According to information, both were very active in organising this satsang like other sevadars and they were also responsible for its management. On Monday, both were arrested and presented in the

So far 11 accused, including the main volunteer Dev Prakash Madhukar, have been arrested in this case.

Meanwhile, an audio clip has also surfaced in which a volun-

Rahul Gandhi to visit Rae Bareli today

PNS LUCKNOW

Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will visit his parliamentary con-stituency Rae Bareli on Tuesday.

This will be his second visit to the district after he won the election with a huge margin, defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Dinesh Singh. Earlier, Rahul along with his mother and former Rae Bareli MP Sonia Gandhi and sister Priyanka Gandhi had visited Rae Bareli to attend a 'Thanks

Giving' function. Confirming Rahul's Rae Bareli visit on Monday evening, UP Congress spokesman Anshu Awasthi said that Rahul would reach Rae Bareli at 10 am on Tuesday. He will visit his entire constituency to meet the people and listen to their problems besides holding a meeting with various delegations who want to interact with their MP to discuss development issues of the constituency.

Awasthi further said that the Congress MP from Amethi, KL Sharma, was already in parliamentary constituency for the last two days and was busy meeting people and discussing various projects for further development of the area.

and people started falling on that Baba had said that those at Sikandra Rao have been their own. Baba had said that who are to be killed will be identified. Devotees from varif you go away, you will be killed at their home as well ious districts of Uttar Pradesh saved... this has never hapand those who are to be saved and neighboring states had pened before." will remain safe. He said, come to this programme. He said, "Everything happened There is no need to panic, we according to Baba's wish. If you have seen more dead bodies in fear Baba and worship him, officials said.

you will be saved, otherwise

you will die. Baba can also

bring people back to life...

there is nothing to worry about. Worship Hari Narayan

In the 4.39-minute audio clip

going viral, the volunteer's

friend says that 300 people have been killed.

In response, the volunteer says

Efforts are being made to identify the remaining bodies,

audio.

बैक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330, Bank of Baroda 1st Floor, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur-12 DEMAND NOTICE Branch : Birhana Road, Kanpui

Here by this is to inform that under named borrower has not repaid principal and interest thereon of the loan. Therefore the loan become NPA on below Dated . A notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 was issued at last known address, which was returned undelivered. Therefore we again inform to under named borrower/ Guarantor by this public notice to repay the loan amount due including interest and other expenses as mentioned in this notice within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice otherwise bank will take action u/section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets, that after publication of public auction/inviting quotation/tender/ private treaty your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.

Name and Address of Borrower / Guarantor and Security agreement with brief description of securities/N.P.A. Date & Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice

Borrower: M/s Palkee Solar & Battery, Address: House No. 99, Vishwakarma Nagar, Sanigawar Road, Kanpur Nagar, **Proprietor :** Shri Umesh Kumar Upadhyay S/o Shri Niwas Upadhaya, R/o : House No. 210, Greater Kailash, Jajmau, Kanpur Nagar and also at House No. 250, Kazi Khera Lal Bangala Kanpur Nagar. **Guarantor** : Smt. Monu Upadhaya W/o Shri Umesh Kumar Upadhyay, R/o : House No 210, Greater Kailash, Jajmau, Kanpur Nagar and also at House No. 250, Kazi Khera Lal Bangala, Kanpur Nagar. Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 1,34,43,541.43 + Intt. +Others Charges Property: Land & Building Situated at Plot No. 13, Arazi No. 113 Min, Village Daheli Sujanpur, Kanpur in

the Name of Smt. Monu Upadhaya W/o Shri Umesh Kumar Upadhyay, Area : 217.39 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North: Other Land, South: 6.10 Mtr. Road, East: 18.28 Mtr.Wide Road, West: Private Plot No. 14. N.P.A. Date: 28-06-2024 • Demand Notice Date: 29-06-2024

Date: 09-07-2024 Place: Kanpur Nagar **Authorised Officer**

MAHA KUMBH-2025

Prayagraj will welcome millions of devotees

PNS PRAYAGRAJ/LUCKNOW

n line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to make the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 a grand and divine event, Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Abhijat chaired a significant meeting with the Mela Authority on Monday. The discussions focused on beautification of roads, enhanced lighting, wall paintings, installation of statues at key intersections, signage, and horticulture projects in

Prayagraj city.
The principal secretary emphasised that all tasks should have a unified theme, ensuring high quality, cost-effectiveness and timely completion.

He affirmed that the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 will be a magnificent event, transforming Prayagraj into a beautiful city ready to welcome millions of devotees.

The presentation o city's road beautification plans, including revamping the main roads with plantation of trees and expanding the green cover. Meanwhile, to make the Maha

installed along the roadsides. City walls will feature artworks illustrating the history and significance of the Kumbh Mela. Statues representing the culture and history of Prayagraj will be placed at key intersections. New signages will be installed throughout the city to guide devotees to the Maha Kumbh Mela site and other important locations. Additionally, parks and gardens featuring diverse plantings will be developed. On this occasion, the principal secretary announced that place-making installations will

thematic installations at four locations, and statues will be installed at two sites. Under the horticulture initiative, two types of plantings will be used: seasonal flowering plants and long-term greenery. Additionally, 36 intersections

will be decorated for the Maha

be carried out at 15 locations,

NAMAMI GANGE MISSION APPROVES PROJECTS

Footpaths will be constructed, Kumbh 2025 a grand affair, the

and attractive lighting will be Uttar Pradesh government is actively monitoring the preparations across all departments. Under the Namami Gange Mission, approvals have been granted for three projects in Maha Kumbh, aimed at enhancing basic infrastructure for cleanliness, with a combined budget of Rs 211.08 crore. In Deoband, a project valued at Rs 134.71 crore has been sanctioned for interception, diversion, and sewage treatment plant upgrades. In Barikala, Lucknow, approval has been granted for enhancing sewage treatment plant's capacities, with an allocated budget of Rs 27.02 crore.

These decisions were taken in the 55th meeting of the executive committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, chaired by Director General Raijy Kumar Mittal.

The state government is placing special emphasis on cleanss at the Maha Kumbh. In this regard, a budget of Rs 152.37 crore has been allocated for cleanliness-related infrastructure. Under this project, the construction of 54,400 toilets and a primary solid waste collection system will be undertaken. The objective is to create temporary sanitation facilities for pilgrims visiting the Maha Kumbh, along with ensuring better cleanliness and river water during the event. A project worth Rs 55.57 crore has been approved to fully tap and treat 22 drains originating from Prayagraj. The primary goal of this project is to intercept and completely treat sewage from these drains, ensuring the uninterrupted flow and purity of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers during the Maha Kumbh. Approval has also been granted for the IPSA-Kumbh project with an estimated cost of Rs 3.14 crore. This initiative aims to assess the temporary impact of population on sewage infrastructure and river water quality, developing better strategies for future collective projects along riverbanks. The project w utilise remote sensing and GIS technologies for monitoring and managing basic sewage infrastructure ensuring the quality of the Ganga river.

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792

Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031 Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) The loans of

the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates. Sr Loan Tune of Name of Section Outstanding

Sr No.	Account No.	Type of Loan	borrowers and co-borrowers	13 (2) Notice Date	amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	31550726 & 34587118	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. BABA INDUSTRIES 2. DEVIKA PRATIBHA INDUSTRIES 3. PRIYANKA KANCHAN 4. VINOD KUMAR KANCHAN	17.06.2024	97,92,188.05/-	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OFFLAT MEASURING 1680 SQ. FTS. I.E. 156.133 SQ. MTS. ONLY ON THIRD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 62/3, CONSTRUCTED ON SOUTHERN PART OF PLOT NO. 4, SITUATED AT STATION ROAD, WARD-LAL KUAN, LUCKNOW, WITH UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE IN THE LAND, HUSSAIN GANJ, LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-226001,AND, BOUNDED AS:EAST:STATION ROAD, WEST: PROPERTY OF SRI PRIYANSHU AND OTHER, NORTH: PROPERTY OF MR. M. DINGRA, SOUTH:HOUSE OF CHUNNI LAL & FAMILY

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise. **Authorized Officer**

Date: 09.07.2024 Place: LUCKNOW IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)



Max Super Speciality Hospital, Lucknow (A Unit of Starlit Medical Centre Private Limited)

Public Notice - Environmental Clearance

It is for the information of the General Public that Max Super Speciality Hospital (A Unit of Starlit Medical Centre Private Limited), Lucknow has been granted Environmental Clearance by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), UTTAR PRADESH for the expansion of existing Hospital at Viraj Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. vide EC Identification No. EC24C3804UP5482313N dated 29.06.2024.

The copy of the environmental clearance is available on MOEF Parivesh portal and the website of Max Healthcare Institute Ltd.

Links are appended below:

https://parivesh.nic.in/newupgrade/#/trackYourProposal/proposal-de tails?proposalId=SIA%2FUP%2FINFRA2%2F469899%2F2024&propo sal=61624701

https://www.maxhealthcare.in/environmental-clearances?report_typ e=&hospital=26

The interested person can also contact the following;

Max Super Specialty Hospital, Lucknow

Phone: +91-522-6780 001, 6780 002

www.maxhealthcare.in

(A Unit of Starlit Medical Centre Private Limited)

Viraj Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow U.P

Cricketer Kuldeep Yadav meets CM Adityanath

T²⁰ World Cup-winning Indian cricketer Kuldeep Yadav met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence in Lucknow on Monday.

In a post in Hindi on X, Adityanath said, "Today, a courtesy meeting was held with Kuldeep Yaday, member of the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team."

Wrist-spinner Yadav, who hails from Kanpur, said on July 6 the triumph was "an unreal experience" for him and expressed hope that he would be a part of such successes in the future as well. India beat South Africa in the final on June 29 to win the country's second T20 World Cup title. Yadav captured 10 wickets in the world cup.



Cricketer Kuldeep Yadav paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his 5, Kalidas Marg, official residence in Lucknow on Monday

More defence manufacturing deals under evaluation in

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Aligarh, Chitrakoot and Agra Pradesh government has signed more than 150 defence expected to generate 40,000 manufacturing agreements valued at Rs 25,000 crore (approximately 3 billion USD). This move aligns with India's recordbreaking annual defence production, which reached Rs 1.27 trillion (15.4 billion USD) in the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a 16.7 per cent increase from the

previous year. The defence projects are strategically located within the UP Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), spanning six nodes across Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi,

new jobs, significantly contributing to the state's economic growth. "We have signed 154 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with various companies, and around 85 more deals are currently under evaluation," an official said. The UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the nodal agency for the corridor, continues to acquire large tracts of land for industrial allocation. The UPEIDA has already acquired 1,700 hectares, with more than 40 companies

receiving land allocations. "These 42 companies will invest nearly Rs 8,000 crore in their respective projects, positioning UP as a crucial player in India's quest for selfreliance in defence production and boosting defence exports," the official said. The UPEIDA has signed MoUs with notable firms such as Adani Defence and Aerospace, BrahMos Aerospace, Ancor Research Labs, Tata Technologies, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Delta Combat Systems, SpiceJet Technic, Verivision, HAL, Gliders India, DRDO, and Aerolloy Technologies, among others.

Mayawati revamps BSP committees in 5 dists

PNS LUCKNOW

After facing a humiliating defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Monday revamped the party committees for Lucknow, Prayagraj, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh and Unnao dis-tricts. The BSP has announced the names of the new officebearers of these committees. Mayawati has appointed Anwar Ali as district vice-president of Pratapgarh, Abdul Rehman as district vice-president of Prayagraj, Ramvilas Lodhi as district vice-president of Rae Bareli and Moolchand Lodhi as vice-president of Unnao dis-

In Lucknow, Rakesh Jaiswal has been given the responsibility of district vice-president and Karan Patel as district general secretary. Ramshankar Gautam has been made secretary, Yusuf Ghazi treasurer, Vishal Kanshi and Kuldeep Rawat as district executive members while Vijay Chaudhary has been made

district coordinator of BVF (Bahujan Volunteer Force) and RK Barman has been given the responsibility of BAMCEF coordinator.

In Prayagraj, Abdul Rehman has been made district vicepresident, Buddhi Prakash Bharti the district general secretary, Akash Verma the district secretary, Manoj Pal district treasurer, Bhola Chaudhary and Atul Kumar, district executive members. Lalchand Gautam has been made district BBF coordinator and Ramvilas district coordinator of BAMCEF. BSP Lucknow district president Shailendra Kumar Gautam said these decisions were taken in a meeting attended by chief sector incharges of Lucknow, Prayagraj and divisions, Chandra Kharwar, Samsuddin Rain,

Mirzapur Ghanshyam Dinesh Chandra, Akhilesh Ambedkar; sector incharges in Lucknow division Mauji Lal Gautam, Anurendra Kumar, Ramnath Rawat, Dinesh Pal

and many other officials.

Indian Rat snake rescued from toilet

PTI AGRA

six-foot-long Indian Rat Asnake was rescued from a toilet of Agra Fort premises, an official said on Monday. The incident occurred on Thursday last week when the staff at the Agra fort found the snake coiled in the toilet seat and called an NGO to rescue it, they said. Kalandar, Conservation Assistant (CA) at Agra Fort, said the snake was found in a toilet near the office premises and not in the one

used by the tourists. informed the NGO Wild Life SOS team, and then the two skilled staff rescued the snake without harming it," Kalandar said.

Kartick Satyanarayan, Cofounder and CEO of Wildlife SOS said, "We appreciate the vigilant staff at Lal Quila who acted responsibly by reaching out to us. People must understand the importance of coexistence with wild animals such as snakes and report these incidents swiftly."

Sanjay Raut flays PM for not preserving Kashi's identity

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut Of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction) strongly criticised the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not preserving Kashi's identity. Talking to reporters during his visit here on Sunday, Raut said that coming to Kashi is the result of his pious deeds and it is no less than a virtue.

"Kashi is such a wonderful confluence of Baba Shri Kashi Vishwanathji and Maa Ganga, which everyone wants to see. I consider myself fortunate that today I became a witness to this wonderful, unforgettable moment but while coming to Kashi, I saw that the way this mythological city should have been developed by preserving its historical form, such work was not done here", he said.

According to him, developing a city without tampering with its ancient form is one thing, and developing it by breaking it is another thing. "Preserving the original identity of Kashi,



MP Sanjay Raut of Shiv Sena (UBT) at state Congress chief Ajay Rai's residence in Varanasi on Sunday.

the ancient roads, lanes, old heritages here should have been developed with the original identity, but unfortunately I did not see anything like this today. Those who showed the dream of Kyoto cheated both Kashi and Maa Ganga", he said, adding that both Kashi and Ayodhya, ancient spiritual and mythological cities, feel cheated today. "Billions of rupees have been spent in the name of development, but the basic problems here remain the

same. Just one rain has revealed their reality to the whole country. This was just a test. Keep watching and the people will see more things. Time is the witness of everything" he said, adding that when he was coming to Kashi, his leader Uddhav Thackeray told him personally that after offering prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Temple he must meet that 'warrior of Kashi' (hinting at Ajay Rai) who proved unbeatable power on the strength of his courage

and strength. Earlier, Raut was warmly welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajay Rai at his residence in Lahurabir. District Congress president Rajeshwar Singh Patel, Shailendra Singh, Manish Moraliya, Vishwanath Kunwar, Fashat Hussain Babu, Mayank Choubey, Ajay Rai's wife Reena Rai, daughters Shraddha Rai and Aastha Rai , son Shantanu Rai and some local Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders were also present.

52-yr-old man

Rich tribute paid to Chandra Shekhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Paying rich tribute to former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, popularly known as 'Yuva Turk', on his death anniversary here on Monday, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) chief Ajay Rai said that Chandra Shekhar's bold leadership, thoughtfulness and social service spirit have inspired us

"Chandra Shekhar dedicated his entire life for the welfare of the country and raised his voice for the uplift of the poor and the deprived. His contribution will always remain immortal in Indian politics and society as he was a determined public leader, a strong supporter of democratic values and a skilled leader. His indelible mark will always remain on the political scene in Indian politics", Rai further

Woman killed in attack, assailant shoots self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

48-year-old woman was A48-year-old wollial was killed while her husband and three daughters were injured when a youth along with accomplices fired several rounds on them and beat up with the stick and sharp-edged weapons in Godiyankheda village under Fatehpur Chaurasi police station area of Unnao late on Sunday night.

At the time of incident, all the family members, including Puttilal Kashyap (53), his wife Phool Kumari (48), daughters Sonam (24), Manorama (18), Reshu (12) and Roshni (10) were fast asleep in their house. Around 2 am neighbour Anurag Pal (22) along with brother Anoop Pal and neighbour Puneet Yadav entered Putti Lal's house and attacked them with stick and sharpedged weapon. The assailants then fired several rounds which led to killing of Phool Kumari and injury to Putti Lal, Sonam, Reshu and Roshni. After some time Anurag's body was recovered from the field of Veer

Pratap, about 60 metres away from the house. According to police, Anurag had committed suicide by

shooting himself at his temple. The police have recovered a pistol beside the body. The police sent the injured to the community health centre (CHC). SP Sidharth Shanker Meena also rushed to the spot and carried out a probe in the matter. Due to their serious condition, Puttilal and his daughter Sonam were referred to LLR (Hallet) Hospital, Kanpur, from the district hospital. Old enmity is stated to be the cause of incident. Deceased Anurag Pal and Puneet Yadav, who was absconding, were accused of mass rape. Both were sent to jail in May 2023 and released two months ago only. During this period, Puttilal had lodged several complaints with the police against Anurag and his accomplice for threats and harassment. Police had also launched raids to nail them. Injured Puttilal alleged on July 3 when he was going to the field along with wife Phool Kumari

and daughter Reshu Anurag Pal had hit Reshu with his bike and escaped with threats of dire consequences. Puttilal had lodged a complaint of this incident to the police and SO had sent force to arrest Anurag but he was found absconding. Later, it was known that Anurag was employed in a factory at Dahi Chowki. When police raided there, Anurag was found absent from duty.

Meanwhile a man died after being bitten by a snake when he was sowing rice crop in a field in Purwa police station area of Unnao on Monday morning. After he fell unconscious, kin took him to the hospital where he was declared dead by the doctors. The police sent the body for autopsy. Rambabu (35) of Madankheda, Purwa Kotwali, along with wife and others had gone to a field. While sowing the crop, he fell unconscious in the field after being bitten by a snake. He died on way to the hospital. Kotwali incharge Kunwar Bahadur Singh said the man died of snake bite.

New academic session begins in BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The new academic session 2024-25 of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was formally inaugurated on Monday with worship and Rudrabhishek at the Shri Vishwanath Temple located on the campus. On the occasion, the priest performed Rudrabhishek under the guidance of Prof Vinay Kumar Pandey, Honorary Administrator of Shri Vishwanath Temple. University Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh, Dean of Students Prof Anupam Kumar Nema, Chief Proctor Prof SP Singh, Director of Institute of Science Prof Sanjay Kumar, Director of Institute of Management Studies Prof Ashish Bajpai, Dean of Management Faculty Prof HP Mathur, Dean of Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan Prof Kaushalendra Pandey, Dean of Commerce Faculty

Prof HK Singh, Dean of Music and Performing Arts Faculty

21-7-2024 (03:00 PM)

na/12/23966/2023/35415 Dated CHD :- 7/5/2024



Prof Sangeeta Pandit and members of the University family were present. Students were also present during the 'abhishek' and 'puja aarti' at the temple. BHU Public Relations Officer (PRO) Dr Rajesh Singh along with other officials participated and everyone wished for a successful, happy and achievement-filled academic

session. ENVIRONMENTAL PRO-TECTION: In the premises of Vishwanath Temple situated in BHU, 20 young artists gave the message of environmental

electrocuted protection in a unique way here on Sunday. They in their own PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ style painted on aprons in the BHU campus itself and displayed them by wearing them A⁵²-year-old man was electrocuted in Ulda village in front of the Vishwanath under Koraon police station area here. Reports said that Bhai Lal Kushwaha of Ulda in Temple gate. This artistic environmental awareness programme was conducted under the 15th International Rang Malhar. The local coordinator of the programne and painter Dr Suresh Jangid said this innovation was started in 2010. Since then, Rang Malhar

Koraon, had gone to the field to attend the call of nature when he came in contact with an 11,000 volt current hanging wire. He died of burns on the spot. The angry villagers kept the body on the spot and creis organised in many parts of the world on Sundays in July. ated a ruckus for several hours. Police station in charge Rakesh Bharti tried to pacify the fam-Every year expression is done on a new painting surface. In ily members and villagers. this artistic initiative, Ashish Maurya, Ashita Gupta, Devta Tehsildar Ranvijay Singh and police station in charge Rakesh Bharti also reached the spot Maurya, Garima Yadav, Archana Kumari, Akanksha with force. Executive Engineer Jaiswal, Shweta Vishwakarma, Electricity Abhinav Garg Shalini Prajapati, Puja Gupta, Priyanshi Jaiswal, Rutvi Jangid etc contributed with assured family of financial help and action against negligent officers and employees.

NE Railway instals water level monitoring system on 18 bridges

Tndian Railways is continu-Tously adopting modern technology for safe and secure train operation. In this direction, North Eastern Railway (NER) has installed water level monitoring system on 18 major river bridges. These systems have been installed at the bridges built on rivers Ganga, Gandak, Ghaghra, Gomti and Chhoti Gandak rivers in the Varanasi division of NER while rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Dehwa in Izzatnagar division and Ghaghra, Rapti, Ghaghra, Sharda, Babai, Saryu, Kakra and Rohini rivers in Lucknow Division. Through these systems, information about the water level is received by the officers concerned through automated SMS. To monitor the

water level of rivers during monsoon, the systems have been installed on bridge number 137 on Gomti river between Aunrihar-Varanasi section, bridge number 111 on Ganga between Varanasi-Prayagraj, bridge num-ber 31 on Ghaghra river between Salempur-Indara, bridge number 16 on Ghaghra river between Chhapra-Phephna, bridge number 50 on Gandak river between Narkatiaganj- Kaptanganj and bridge number 119 on Chhoti Gandak river between Siwan-Bhatni in Varanasi division of

Besides, the system has also installed on bridge number-409 on Kachla (Ganga) river between Izzatnagar-Kasganj, bridge number 104 on Kosi river between Lalkuan-Kashipur, bridge number 270 on Devha river between

number 554 on Yamuna between Kasganj-Mathura in Izzatnagar division apart from bridge number 151 built on Ghaghra river between Barhni-Gonda, bridge number-18 on Saryu river between Mankapur-Ayodhya Dham, bridge number 182 on Kakra river and bridge number 184 on Rapti river between Gorakhpur-Mankapur, bridge number 4 on Rohini river between Anandnagar, bridge number-55 on Babai river between Nanparaon Sharda river between Dudwa-Mailani and bridge number-

Pilibhit-Bhojipura and bridge

Gorakhpur-Dudwa and bridge number-97 391 between Gonda-Budhwal in Lucknow division. With the installation of these systems, it has become easy to get informa-tion about water level on railway

bridges built on rivers. These systems have a sensor connected to the solar panel, which also has a chip attached. This sensor is connected to the track management system. Information about the water level of rivers is received at regular intervals every day through SMS on the mobile numbers of the concerned assistant divisional engineers, section engineers (Works) and section engineers (Railway). As a result, it becomes easy to protect the railway track by taking prompt action on receiving informa-tion about the water level of the river on time. "The Railway administration is constantly moving on the path of safety improvement by incorporating new technologies", said CPRO of NER Pankaj Kumar Singh.

their creations. Prayagraj division of NCR to train frontline staff

Renovation work going

on in full swing: DRM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

The Commercial departof North Central Railway (NCR) will train its frontline staff at Prayagraj, Kanpur, Tundla, Mirzapur, Aligarh, Etawah etc stations for six months. The training in polite behaviour with passengers and complaint management will be held at all the stations of the division. The name of the master trainer has also been announced for this purpose. If there is any problem at the train or station, the passenger goes to TTE, RPF, train manager, loco pilot, station master, station manager etc. For example, during the journey in case of toilet being dirty, non-working mobile charging points, dirty linen in AC coaches, fan failure, etc., the travellers complain to TTE posted on the spot. Railway officials say if TTE or frontline staff treats the passengers politely, then half the problem will be solved on its own. Such workshop will be held twice a week at all major stations of Prayagraj division. A team of seven master trainers of the Commercial Department of Prayagraj division has been appointed. It includes Rakesh Srivastava, Prakhar Sharma, Diwakar Narendra Singh, RE Shukla. Sahu, Mithlesh Kumar and Kamlesh Kumar. Rakesh will coordinate in the team. Assistant Commercial Manager Sanjay Gautam will monitor the team. Amit Singh, PRO, Prayagraj division said that master trainers will teach employees in a phased manner. This workshop will be held twice a week at all the stations of the division. This training will continue for six

months, he added. TWO INJURED: Two youths were injured after a man stabbed them in their stomach over trivial dispute in an area under Phulpur police station here on Monday. The accused escaped from the spot. after getting a chance. The family admitted both the youths to the Phulpur community health centre (CHC) In view of their critical condition, the doctors referred them to the Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. The police have registered a case against the accused in this connection. Inspector Phoolpur Deendaval Singh said the injured youths are undergoing treatment at Swarooprani Nehru Hospital.

Black carbon level decreasing in Varanasi: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) along with his research student Bharat Ji Mehrotra and their team, conducted a study using 13-year-long data from 2009 to 2021. Its aim was to measure changes in the atmosphere caused by polluted and hazardous black carbon in Varanasi and the central Indo-Gangetic plains for the first time. The study concluded that the amount of polluted and hazardous black carbon is consistently decreasing in these regions, including Varanasi. Varying effects on summer, winter and monsoon seasons were also noticed. The study observed a reduction in the increase of atmospheric temperature due to black carbon. This research paper was recently published in the prestigious journal of earth and environmental science, the Journal of Geophysical Research -

a consistent decrease in black Prof Manoj Kumar carbon levels in the atmos-Srivastava, a meteorologist phere. During winter, black in the Geophysics Department carbon levels averaged 14.67 micrograms per cubic metre. while during the monsoon season, the levels dropped to an average of 4.4 micrograms per cubic metre. Higher black carbon levels in winter were due to local factors like biomass burning, fossil fuel usage and adverse dispersion conditions. The study recorded an annual average decrease of 0.47 micrograms per cubic metrr in black carbon levels. Additionally, seasonal black carbon levels also showed a consistent decline, with a post-monsoon average decrease of 1.86 micrograms per cubic metre and a pre-monsoon average decrease of 0.31 micrograms per cubic metre. The study reported that the black carbon in Varanasi and the central Indo-Gangetic plains mostly reaches from distant sources, rather than local factors. These black carbon particles travel long dis-

upper Indo-Gangetic plains, Pakistan, the Middle East, and southern peninsular regions. levels can be attributed to air pollution, which is a major recent government policies. The use of electric and CNG vehicles may have played a significant role. Improvements in brick manufacturing, reduction in open burning in agriculture, improvements in fuel and vehicle standards, access to clean household energy, better access to finance and technology and global efforts for clean air have contributed to the reduction of black carbon emissions.

Black carbon, also known as soot, is a black, carbon-rich substance emitted from gas and diesel engines, coal-based power plants and other sources that burn fossil fuels. It forms from the incomplete combus-tion of wood and fossil fuels, producing carbon dioxide (CO2), carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds. Black carbon is a significant component of particulate mat-

Atmosphere. The study found tances from the lower and ter (PM-2.5), a harmful air pollutant. It warms the atmosphere by effectively absorbing light. Black carbon is a component of The decrease in black carbon fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) environmental cause of poor health and premature deaths. These particles are much smaller than grains of table salt, can penetrate deep into the lungs and facilitate the transport of toxic compounds into the bloodstream.

PM 2.5 air pollution is linked to various health issues, including heart and lung disease, stroke, heart attacks, chronic respiratory diseases like bronchitis, severe asthma and premature deaths in adults suffering from heart and respiratory conditions. It also affects children, contributing to premature deaths from acute lower respiratory infections like pneumonia. These particles have been found in the lungs, liver and brain of normal of unborn babies, potentially affecting early childhood devel-

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ

MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH PUNJAB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

(Established by Govt. of Punjab vide Punjab Act No, 5 of 2015)

No.E-TENDER/MRSPTU/DPR/PURCHASE/2024/523 Dated: 05-07-2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for Purchase of FT-IR Spectrophotometer, UV-Visibl Spectrophotometer, Water Purification System and Rotary Vacuum Evaporator.

For details visit: www.mrsptu.ac.in. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued or University website only. Time & Schedule:- Start Date: 10-7-2024 (11:00 AM), Last Date of Submission.

ਸਿਹਤ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਕਾਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਨਾ-ਵਰਤਣ ਯੋਗ/Non E-Waste ਸਮਾਨ ਦੀ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਰਾਹੀ 15-07-2024 (ਸੌਮਵਾਰ) ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 11:00 ਵਜੇ ਸਿਹਤ ਕੇਂਦਰ, ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੈਂਪਸ. ਅੰਮਿਰਤਸਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਦਿਲਚਸਪੀ ਰੱਖਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਸਮਾਨ ਦਾ ਨਿਰੀਖਣ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਬੋਲੀਕਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪੇਸ਼ਗੀ ਵਜੋਂ 5000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਜਮ੍ਹਾ ਕਰਵਾਉਣੇ ਪੈਣਗੇ।

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THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MIL SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH		
Notice Inviting		www.verka.coo
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Hiring of services for outsourcing activities/ contactor milk & milk products / beverages at Verka Milk Plant, Chandigarh.	Annual Rate Contract	
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For complete details regarding above tender www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. ep Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on web	roc.punjab.gov.in.	ur website i.e.
NA/12/23971/2023/35420 Dated CHD :- 7/8/2024	Dy. General M	anager (Purchase)

verka'

Suppliers Invited Inviting e Auction for the purchase of following items through

The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd Chandigarh procuring Trace Minerals for Cattle Feed Plants Khanna 8 GKB on annual basis (i.e. MFP Molecule, Formaldehyde Solution (with drum), Ferrous Sulphate/ Iron Sulphate, Zinc Sulphate, Manganese Sulphate, Calcium Chloride, Sodium Thiosulphate, Copper Sulphate, Magnesium Chloride, Sodium Butyrate, Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetner, Cattle Feed Grade free flowing Powder, HMTBa based chelates, Saccharohyces, Potassium Lodide, Potassium Carbonate, Choline) through e-Auctions at NCDFI e-Market across Punjab on 13.07.2024. Interested suppliers/vendors are invited to register and participate in above said e-auction through www.ncdfiemarket.com portal. For registration:

Contact: + 91 9998019608; +91 9978601585 Help Desk. +91-2692-288388 E Mail: contracts_pack@ncdfiemarket.com, virender.choudhary@neml.in, divakar.juneja@neml.in.

NA/12/23975/2023/35425 Dated CHD :- 7/8/2024

T tion works are going on in full swing at Mau railway station of Varanasi Division of NCDFI Wemarket North Eastern Railway (NER)

under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at a cost of ₹48.98 crore which include construction of a two-storey station building and a new porch and beautification of the facade. "The work of installing stone cladding on 300 square metres has been completed and the work of remaining 2,700 square metres is in progress. In the 700 metre long station approach road, 300 metres road widening and 75 metres divider

work has been completed and the

remaining work is in progress",

informed Divisional Railway

Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar

Srivastava. According to him,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The renovation and upgrada-

about 70 per cent work of 60 metre platform extension work has been completed and about 1,700 square metres work has been completed in the 10,000 square metres platform surface improvement work. "The construction of 450 metres long boundary walls towards circulating area has already been completed and the remaining 150 metres construction work is in progress. Besides, 80 per cent construction work of 2,700 square metres PP shelter on platforms has been completed and the work of replacement of 800 PP sheets is in progress",the DRM said, adding that apart from this improvement in traffic movement, beautification work of circulating area (5,000 square metres), aesthetic, wide and well-lit frontage/porch improvement in circulation area etc are also going on in full swing.



Kuldeep Yadav felicitated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Mayor Pramila Pandey and Kanpur Cricket Association (KCA) felicitated Kuldeep Yadav, a member of the T-20 World Cup Champion Indian team here on Sunday evening. Mayor felicitated him with a shawl and blessing him. She said all citizens had prayed for Kuldeep's best performance in every match. At a function organised at the Ganges Club, president of Kanpur Cricket Association and former president of All India Chess Federation Dr Sanjay Kapoor

and president of the club Vijay Kapoor felicitated Kuldeep Yadav and his father Ram Singh with a memento and a shawl. The oher office-bearers of KCA also honoured him. Kuldeep gave the credit for beginning of his cricket career to his mentors Manish Malhotra and Sanjay Kapoor. In his address to budding cricketers, he asked them to maintain discipline as cricket was a game of discipline and team effort.

A documentary on Kuldeep's cricket journey was also screened on the occasion.

Rath Yatra taken out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Agrand Rath Yatra was taken Out from Shri Radha Krishna Mandir Trust (JK Temple) on the auspicious occasion of Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra on Sunday. The Rath Yatra started at 5 pm in which after the ritualistic worship, the Lord was seated in a grand chariot decorated with beautiful flowers with the blowing of conches by the students of the temple Gurukul while singing Vedic mantras. The Rath Yatra started with the melodious music of Vedic mantras and devotional hymns. The Rath Yatra lasted for two

hours. The women workers of Gayatri Parivar, who came in special traditional attire, made the yatra even more grand by joining it with kalash in their heads. Thousands of devotees reached the temple to have 'darshan' of the Lord and seek blessings and enjoyed this grand Rath Yatra. On behalf of the Singhania family, Manorama Singhania and Varsha Singhania also participated in this grand Rath Yatra.



(JK Temple) taking out grand Rath Yatra on Sunday.

After it mahaprasad was distributed to all the devotees. The regular Aarti of the temple was completed at 7 pm and after that a spiritual and cultural programme 'Bhakti Sandhya' was organised. In the Bhakti Sandhya, 'bhajans' were presented by the artistes of Malav Malay Music College and dance performances were given on devotional songs. All the devotees present enjoyed this pro-



Rahul visits Manipur for the third time

ongress on Monday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying while it will be Rahul Gandhi's third visit to Manipur since violence broke out in May last year, the PM has neither found the time nor even had the inclination to visit the state for even a few hours.

"Today, the non-biological PM goes to Moscow while the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha heads for Assam and Manipur. Of course, the drumbeaters of the non-biological PM have claimed that he stopped the Russia-Ukraine war for some time. Presumably, this Moscow trip will lead to even more bizarre claims," he

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi visited relief camps in Manipur's Jiribam and Churachandpur districts and interacted with the

People displaced by the ethnic violence in the northeastern state, which claimed over 200 lives since May last year, are staying in those relief camps.Rahul, accompanied by senior Congress leaders, visited Manipur for the first time



after the Congress won both Lok Sabha seats in the state. He first visited Manipur weeks after ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3 last year. He also began his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' from the state in January 2024.

From Jiribam, Rahul Gandhi came to Imphal airport via Silchar in Assam and reached by road a relief camp in Tuibong village Churachandpur district.

There also he interacted with inmates. Ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities since May last year claimed more than 200 lives in Manipur.

The Congress leader also visited Assam and arrived at Kumbhirgram airport en route to strife-torn Manipur.

Rahul was received at the airport by Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhupen Borah and other senior state and district party

Borah submitted a memorandum to Rahul Gandhi urging him to take up the issue of the devastating flood with the Centre as a special case to get adequate relief and compensation for the severe losses incurred due to the deluge.

VP Dhankhar slams Chidambaram's comments on new criminal laws

PNS NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday said a member of Parliament shows concurrence by not participating in a debate on a bill, as he launched a fresh attack on former Union minister P Chidambaram over his comments on the three criminal iustice laws.

This is for the second time since Saturday that Dhankhar has targeted Chidambaram over his remarks on the three criminal justice laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam -- which came into force on July 1. Addressing a group of Rajya Sabha interns, Dhankhar, without naming Chidambaram,

"He said nothing in the House (Rajya Sabha). He was a member of the committee (department-related standing committee on Home)".

If a member is part of the committee, makes his point of view before the committee, the committee by majority holds otherwise, that member has great opportunity to participate in the proceedings before the House and make his point



known and try to convince others by persuasion, logic and rationality, Dhankhar said.

"If you do not discharge your constitutional duty, if you do not participate in the debate, if you do not take your point further, you are in a sense not performing your duty.

And then if you say something outside, you suffer the handicap that you had valuable opportunity, constitutional platform, a rare opportunity that is available only to members of Parliament, you fail to avail the opportunity, in a sense you forfeit your right." the vice president said.

Dhankhar asserted that "you show your concurrence by non-participation, by observ-

ing silence". He said by not participating in the (House) proceedings and making remarks outside is not correct.

On Saturday, the vice president

lashed out at Chidambaram over his comment that the three new criminal laws were "drafted by part-timers", terming it as inexcusable" and urged him to withdraw his "derogatory, defamatory and insulting observation.

Dhankhar said he was 'shocked beyond words" when in the morning he read Chidambaram's interview to a leading national daily wherein he had said that "the new laws were drafted by part-

SC asks Centre to frame model policy on menstrual leave for women

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on I Monday directed the Centre to frame a model policy on menstrual leave for women employees by holding consultations with states and other stakeholders.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the issue related to policy and was not an issue for the courts to look into. Moreover, such a decision from a court on granting such leave to women may prove to be counterproductive and "detrimental" to the cause as employers may avoid employing them.

How will the leave encourage more women to be part of the workforce, the court asked the petitioner and said mandating such leave will lead to women being shunned from the workforce". "...We do not want that," the bench said

"This is actually a government policy aspect and not for the courts to look into, " it said. "Petitioner says that a representation was submitted to the Centre in May 2023. Since the issues raise multifarious

objectives of state policy, there is no reason for this court to intervene in light of our previous order," it said.

The bench, however, permitted lawyer Rakesh Khanna, appearing for petitioner and lawyer Shailendra Tripathi, to move the secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

'We request the secretary to look into the matter at the policy level and take a decision after consulting all stakeholders and see if a model policy can be framed," it ordered.

The court made it clear that that the consultation process of the Centre will not come in the way of states if they take any steps in this regard.

The top court had earlier disposed of a plea seeking men-

strual pain leave for women students and working women across the country. It had then said that since the issue falls under the policy

domain, a representation can be made to the Centre. The senior lawyer said that till date no décision has been

Namami Ganga: ₹ 211 cr splash to keep Maha Kumbh eco-friendly

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As Uttar Pradesh readies ditself for Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, the focus is on enhancing environmental sustainability ahead of an anticipated gathering of 50 crore participants from around the globe along the banks of the Ganga river.

In this context, the Namami Ganga Mission, a central flagship has drawn a Rs 211 crore massive plan towards initiatives aimed at preserving the purity of the Ganga river and ensuring cleanliness throughout this significant religious event slated from January 14 to February 26, 2025, in Prayagraj.

Three projects were cleared at the 55th meeting of the Executive Committee held under the chairmanship of Rajiv Kumar Mittal, Director General of National Clean Ganga Mission.

In the meeting, additionally, a was sanctioned for interception and diversion, along with STP works in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh.

Furthermore, Rs 27.02 crore was allocated to enhance the capacity of the STP located in Barikala, Lucknow.

Notably, Rs 152.37 crore has been allocated for sanitationrelated infrastructure for Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj. This project includes the construction of 54,400 toilets and urinals, along with a primary solid waste collection system. The objective is to provide adequate facilities for the con-

venience of pilgrims attending Mahakumbh by constructing temporary sanitation facilities

and ensuring cleanliness and improved river water quality during the event, said an official from the Mission. Additionally, Rs 55.57 crore has been approved to intercept and

treat sewage from 22 drains in Prayagraj during Mahakumbh. The main aim of this project is to stop and completely treat the sewage from these drains, thereby ensuring the continuity and purity of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers during the festival.During the meeting, a project worth Rs 134.71 crore was approved for interception and diversion and STP works in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh. The project aims to enhance

sewage infrastructure by constructing and implementing measures to prevent and divert sewage and pollution of local water bodies.

Additionally, Rs 27.02 crore has been approved to increase the capacity of the 1 MLD STP at Barikala in Lucknow to 3.5 MLD. This upgrade is intended to strengthen the existing sewage treatment infrastructure to handle the increasing

flow of sewage more effectively. A senior official said, "Given the massive influx of pilgrims, the event requires extensive infrastructure to manage accommodations, sanitation, healthcare, security, and trans-

Temporary tent cities (Kumbh Nagars) are set up to accommodate millions of pilgrims. "Ensuring cleanliness and sanitation is crucial during the Maha Kumbh.

portation.

Large-scale projects are undertaken to build temporary toilets, urinals, and solid waste management systems to maintain hygiene and prevent pollution of the rivers.

The sanctioned project aims to ensure cleanliness and contamination free water to the visitors and pilgrims," he added. Since the inception of the Namami Gange Programme in financial year 2014-15 till 2022-23, the Government has released Rs 14329 crore to the scheme for the implementation of the project aimed to implement a comprehensive set of interventions for pollution abatement measures to tackle different sources of pol-

Justice UU Lalit to head panel on appointment of VCs in West Bengal PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday appointed former Chief Justice of India UU Lalit to head a search-cum-selection committee to oversee the appointments of vice-chancellors for state-run universities in West Bengal.

The ruling TMC dispensation has a running feud with West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose, who is also the chancellor of state-run universities, over how the state's universities should be run. A bench of Justices Surya

Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan directed that the committee be constituted within two weeks after noting that both the state and the office of the governor agreed on the formation of the

Besides Justice Lalit, the comalphabetical order for appointment of vice-chancellors in each university.

The time period prescribed for completing the entire process is three months, the apex court said.

The apex court said the committee's recommendations, endorsed by the chairperson, will be presented to the chief minister.

"If the CM finds any candidate unsuitable, the supporting material and remarks will be forwarded to the chancellor (governor) within two weeks, the bench said.



The committee's remuneration will be borne by the state and former CJI Lalit will receive Rs three lakh per effective meeting of the committee.

The West Bengal Assembly had passed an amendment bill raising the number of mittee will comprise five members in the search comuniversities from three to five. The BJP had opposed the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 alleging that the new search committee would further enhance the ruling party's control over the appointment of vice-chan-

> The top court was hearing an appeal of the West Bengal government against the June 28, 2023 order of the Calcutta High Court, which said there was no illegality in the orders issued by the West Bengal governor appointing interim vice-chancellors (VCs) in 11

capacity as the ex-officio chancellor of these institutions.

In October last year, the top court had stayed the emoluments of the newly appointed interim vice-chancellors and asked the governor to sit with members, who will prepare a mittee set up for appointing panel of three names in an vice-chancellors in state-run of coffee" to resolve the deadlock over appointment of VCs. The apex court had said there was a need for reconciliation between the governor and the chief minister "in the interest of educational institutions and the future careers of lakhs of students".

Sanat Kumar Ghosh, a petitioner who moved the high court, and the West Bengal government claimed the orders appointing VCs to state-run universities were illegal as the governor had not consulted the higher education department before making the appointments.

SC to review bail of Soumya Vishwanathan murder convicts

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine the pleas filed by Delhi Police challenging the high court's order granting bail to four convicts, who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the murder case of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma issued notice on the four pleas filed by Delhi Police and tagged them with the the convicts have been in cuspending petition of Vishwanathan's mother against the bail granted to the four convicts.At the outset, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for Delhi Police informed the court that since a notice has already been issued by the apex court, all the pleas be tagged. The bench issued notice and tagged the pleas with the pending matter.

The high court had on February 12 suspended the sentence of Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Singh Malik and Ajay Kumar till the pendency of their appeals challenging their conviction and sentence and enlarged them on bail. The high court had noted that Shukla, Malik and Kumar



tody for over 14 years. On April 22, the apex court had agreed to examine the plea filed by Vishwanathan's mother against the bail granted to the four convicts. It had issued notices to Delhi Police and the four convicts on Madhavi Vishwanathan's petition.

Vishwanathan, who worked with a leading English news channel, was shot dead in the early hours of September 30, 2008 on Nelson Mandela Marg in south Delhi while she was returning home from work in

her car. A special court had on November 25 last year awarded two life terms to Kapoor,

under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 3(1)(i) (committing organised crime resulting in the death of any person) of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act Crime Act (MCOCA). The court had made it clear that the sentences

will run "consecutively". The fifth convict, Ajay Sethi, was handed down three years of simple imprisonment under section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) of the

He was sentenced to the period already undergone in custody during the trial.

While sentencing Kapoor, Shukla, Malik and Kumar to double life imprisonment, the trial court had also imposed a fine of Rs 1.25 lakh on each of them. It had imposed a fine of Rs 7.25 lakh on Sethi.

Out of the four convicts, Kapoor, Shukla and Malik were also convicted for killing IT professional Jigisha Ghosh. According to the prosecution, the trio later confessed to police they were also behind Vishwanathan's murder, and the weapon used for killing her was recovered from their pos-

Dharmik Fund after Hathras tragedy PNS NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{armer leader Rakesh Tikait}}_{\text{on Monday said if the NDA}}$ government wants to make India a Hindu nation, it should set up a "religious fund" for giving compensation after Hathras-like tragedies.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union

(BKU) spokesperson made the jibe when he visited Hathras and demanded Rs 50 lakh compensation to the victims of the Hathras stampede that killed 121 people on July 2. Talking to reporters, he said there is no responsibility of anyone in "accidents" like these and urged the authorities to learn from the incident in order to prevent future tragedies.

Advocating governmental responsibility, Tikait said, "If the government wants to make it a Hindu nation, then it should also create a Dharmik Fund' (religious fund) for disbursing compensations in such accidents. If not the government, then who will compensate for such acts?" Responding to queries about

the government's agenda. He alluded to broader political strategies, and said, "For the next 'Yudh' (religious war), the government has already said Mathura is our agenda. This area (Hathras) falls in the 'paridhi' (range) of Mathura. Such programmes will be

Asked about the timing and context of the event, Tikait remarked, "The agenda was the political implications of the started 20 years ago, much before 2014," and highlighted gathering, Tikait alleged that the religious programmes are



Farmer leader Tikait demands

ments in the region. "rishi" (saints). he said.

the longstanding nature of

religious and political move-He said India is based on "krishi" (agriculture) and

"Any fiddling with either will lead to 'andolan' (protests), "

Tikait, who had played a leading role in the year-long farmer protest against the three farm laws which were later withdrawn, referred to recent government initiatives and said.

"If in Ayodhya, the govern-

ment is running free trains, then how would anyone stop such events here?" he added. Tikait stressed the need for compensation and preventive measures in the wake of the stampede after the 'satsang' of self-styled godman Surajpal, who is also known as Narayan Sakar Hari and Bhole Baba, at Fulrai village in Hathras' Sikandra Rau area.

The victims should get a compensation of Rs 50 lakh, like it was done in the Lakhimpur Kheri case. Give them the compensation and it will help victims," he said. In the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, some farmers were mowed down allegedly by a car linked to the then Union

minister Ajay Mishta Teni in October 2021. Tikait criticised the use of provocative language used in the Hathras stampede.

He dismissed the efficacy of lodging cases or conducting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, suggesting instead that such inquiries merely serve to acknowledge the possibility of accidents at crowded events.

Prior to Tikait's visit, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha men" triggered the stampede.

Rahul Gandhi also met with victims' families and called for a hike in compensation awarded to them.

The Centre and the UP government have announced Rs 2 lakh each for the dead and Rs 50,000 for those injured in the July 2 stampede.

So far nine people, including the chief organiser and fundraiser of the July 2 event, Devprakash Madhukar, have been arrested as part of the police investigation into the case which does not mention the name of preacher Surajpal as an accused.

Separately, a judicial commission headed by a retired high court judge and a special investigation team led by an additional director general of police are carrying out their inquiries into the episode.

Government agencies, including police, have so far blamed the organisers for mismanagement at the event, noting that the size of the crowd exceeded to over 2.50 lakh from the permitted 80,000, even though the lawyer of the 'godman' on Saturday claimed some poisonous substance" sprayed by "some unidentified

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Macron makes it

From the UK to Iran and now France, progressive voices and inclusive thinking is making a comeback

rance has just about managed to keep the ultra-right at bay. Ultra rightwingers have lost to the liberals in the snap poll ordered by French President Emmanuel Macron. France has a rich history of liberalism and social progressivism, yet in recent years, the country has seen a rise in far-right nationalism. However recent elections and political movements indicate a resurgence of progressive values. A left-wing alliance secured the most seats in the French parliament after tactical voting in Sunday's second-round election thwarted Marine Le Pen's far-right party. But the victory of the Left is not decisive. France now faces political uncertainty, as no party achieved an absolute majority in the National Assembly. President Emmanuel Macron's gamble seems to have worked as he had ordered a snap poll and decided to go to elections despite his waning popularity. He has championed a centrist approach that blends liberal economic policies with progressive social



reforms. His administration has focused on addressing climate change, promoting gender equality, and fostering a more inclusive society. His surprise win, despite predictions to the contrary, suggests that people across the globe are moving towards liberal values and giving them prominence over reactionary forces.

This shift could have far-reaching implications for the European Union and beyond. However, to take a pragmatic approach, France has just about managed to defeat the far right who went on a rampage after the elections did not go in their favour as was widely expected. In the time to come, the

challenges for President Macron may multiply as no one has secured a simple majority in the lower house of 577 seats. So now France enters the unchartered waters of coalition politics. The new government would be anything but stable and may give right-wingers a chance to discredit it. President Macron would face several significant challenges. Politically, he would need to navigate a fragmented landscape with diverse parties, address low public trust, and manage frequent protests. Economically, tackling inequality, unemployment, and high public debt while balancing social spending demands would be critical. Right now, France is struggling to pull back its economy from crisis. So far annual growth has been 0.7 per cent in 2024 after a significant slowdown in the second half of 2023 but may gain momentum in 2025 (1.3 per cent). Socially, issues like immigration integration, pension reforms, and the housing crisis would require careful attention. Finally, Macron would have to address sensitive cultural issues, including secularism, religious freedom, and debates around national identity and multiculturalism. To effectively tackle the far right, President Macron would have to focus on reducing socioeconomic disparities to address the economic grievances that fuel extremism.



Indians dying on the Russian frontline

The presence of Indian nationals on the Russian side of the Ukraine conflict raises broader questions about the ethics of foreign combatant recruitment.

he issue of Indians fighting along with the Russian forces in the Ukraine War is particularly piquant, given India's historic relations with the Soviet Union earlier and Russia now. The fact that many had claimed to have been 'forced' to fight had forced the Indian Government to intervene. It is a claim that hasn't been conclusively confirmed as the Indian Émbassy was aware of many Indians having signed up for support jobs in the Russian Army. Pending confirmation that their terms of service had been unfairly and involuntarily extended to fight on the frontline, the Indian authorities had formally sought their discharge. It further advised Indians to "exercise caution" and "stay away from this conflict" diplomatese for dissuading Indians from joining any Russian Army, in any capacity, given the situation. But as it routinely happens e.g., as it happened with advisories to Indian students to leave Ukraine before the fullfledged assault, some heeded the call and some didn't, till the situation became desperate and inextricable for them. The Russians have been particularly keen to swell their ranks with foreigners given the heavy loss of lives in the bloody stalemate and the accompanying sense of fatigue and despondency amongst its combatants.

The inclusion of private militias like the 'Wagner Army' is under that impulse. But the inclusion of individual foreigners is a formalized initiative that can be traced back to Law 29 March 1998 'On Military Obligation and Military Service' – which has since then been made increasingly attractive and lenient to attract new intake. Talks of individuals from Central Asian Countries (for the Soviet Union), Cuba, Afghanistan, Nepal, Syria, Somalia etc., have been doing the rounds. For these foreign inductees, besides the relatively lucrative salary (\$2000-\$3000), the additional lure of Russian citizenship is dangled. Estimated to be numbering in thousands, BBC reported that as of last year's end, 254 foreigners had been killed in the conflict.



for support jobs and how many were forcibly taken for active combat, remains a mat-

ter of conjecture. The tact of enlisting 'mercenaries' is an old and convenient practice, as besides the relatively low levels of accountability, they also come with the plausible option of deniability. Under the International Criminal Court and the International Humanitarian Law, the status of 'mercenary' does not constitute a specific crime. But they are not entitled to the status of 'prisoner of war' and its necessities. The idea is to discourage mercenaries as material greed-based and amoral entities as opposed to soldiers of the nation who are driven by a sense of national purpose, patriotism, and professional excellence. To qualify as 'mercenaries', six criteria need to be fulfilled.

Firstly, the person is specially recruited internally/abroad. Secondly, the belligerent participates in conflict.

Thirdly, he/she is motivated by private gain, as promised by one side in the conflict. Fourthly, they are not national, resident or interested party in the said conflict.

Fifthly, they do not belong to the militaries of either side. Sixthly and lastly, they have not been sent by a non-interested state on any official duty as a member of their military. Therefore, it could be pre-

THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN **PARTICULARLY** KEEN TO SWELL THEIR RANKS WITH FOREIGNERS **GIVEN THE HEAVY LOSS OF** LIVES IN THE **BLOODY** STALEMATE AND THE **ACCOMPANYING**

SENSE OF FATIGUE AND DESPONDENCY AMONGST ITS **COMBATANTS**

sumed some Indians who are unfortunately caught in a form of combat that they probably had not imagined whilst signing up, and may still qualify as 'mercenary'.

Such a scenario does not reflect well on the nation as it is suggestive of limited job opportunities domestically and therefore suggests societal des-peration which is understandable for broken nations like Somalia or Syria, but not India.Sadly, portents of 'can-non fodder' or even 'human trafficking' are rife, but given the opaqueness that surrounds the Russian reality, nothing can be confirmed. Such times birth human trafficking networks that paint a very different picture to recruit the gullible when the truth is starkly dif-

There have been gut-wrenching pleas from some Indians beseeching the Indian authorities to secure their release, with some losing their lives, soon after that. The Indian External Affairs Minister is believed to have reiterated his concern to his Russian counterpart during a recent bilaterthe query, if S Jaishankar had taken up the issue of stranded Indians, he assured, "Very clearly and strongly... several Indians have been pressed into service with the Russian Army. Only when they come back will we know the full cir-

cumstances. But whatever the circumstances are, to us it is unacceptable that Indian citizens find themselves in the army of another country in a warzone. I told him that we seek their cooperation and that they are our friend and partners. We have to find a way so that these people can return to India as quickly and effectively as possible." Thankfully, despite the ostensibly pro-Ukraine position taken by Delhi, it has maintained a parallel and strong relation with Russia, replete with non-linear moves as part of its 'strategic independence'. However, while the government had initiated the needful from Russian authorities, there is a reciprocal expectation of Indians abroad to heed advisories, and not wait for situations to deteriorate.

No right-thinking country would encourage its citizens to partake in conflicts given the diversity of complex geopolitical and societal ramifications, amongst which guaranteeing their safety would be para-

For Russians, foreign recruital in Astana, Kazakhstan. To ment makes practical sense for Indians to be availing the same, reflects poorly.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are

Paving the way for India's own Green Silicon Valley



SUBRAMANIAN

Climate change offers an opportunity to create an international market for green products, capital and goods through cooperation and collaboration

rowth, Employment and Climate Change, the trifecta of modern economic challenges, have rekindled the interest of policymakers in bringing back the craft of industrial policymaking right at the centre of the discussion table. Ominous estimates highlight climate change as a critical factor negatively impacting growth and employment, whereby ~ 18% of GDP and labour productivity equivalent to 72 million jobs might be lost, therefore the argument by Nicholas Stern and Joseph E. Stiglitz that "the only long-run growth trajectory is a green trajectory" echoes loudly for adaptation by Industrial policymakers globally. Fashionably rechristened as Green Industrial Policy, the craft embeds within itself a series of government intervention measures (supply and demand focussed subsidies, regulations, incentives and standards) that aim at achieving economic

development while simulta-

neously cutting greenhouse

gas emissions. Globally leading nations have com-



bined different elements of the Green Industrial Policy craft for building national competitive advantage towards catalysing economic growth, increasing skilled employment and climate

Japan: Introduced five policy tools of Grant funding, Tax incentive, Guidance policy on transition finance, Regulatory reforms and international collaboration, targeting over 18 trillion yen for fourteen green growth sectors such as wind power, nuclear power, mobility & battery etc.

The US: manufacturing, strengthening national security through supply chain resilience and accelerating the energy transition by supply and demand side spending and tax cuts of ~\$400 billion that aims to create ~1.5 million jobs.

India has made some for- entrepreneurship through midable moves towards a green future by focusing on domestic market formation and localization of compo-Strategy submitted at COP27 articulates seven transitions to low-carbon development such as elec- introduced industrial politricity systems, transport cy support that encourages systems, sustainable urbanization etc.

renewable energy equipment space and technologyfocused national missions on hydrogen and energy storage are steps in the right direction that can be aptly followed by a broader green industrialisation policy for India.

The broader green industrialisation policy by catalysing investments in manufacturing of decarbonisation technologies which are foundational in oration. These initiatives the short run can trigger the Schumpeterian process of innovation and discovery in the medium term towards high-carbon growth and employment. In this regard, the thrust on clean energy

industrial policy and a green R & D policy can foster breakthrough innovations and patents that can nents. Its Long Term-Low create and monetise new Emission Development solutions. Japan and Korea have acknowledged this potential of startups as open innovation resources and them to partner with larger conglomerates to propel The production-linked the innovativeness of the incentive schemes in economy at large and compete with their European, Chinese and American competitors. Green startups with their agility and Conglomerates with their market power and experience can aspire to create our own green Silicon Valley. Climate change offers an opportunity to create an international market for green products, capital and goods through international cooperation and collabcan catalyse a virtuous cycle of growth, employment and carbon neutrality. (The writer is a Chevening

Scholar and an International Development expert; views are personal)

HOPE FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

Madam — Observing Rahul Gandhi's political trajectory reveals his focused objectives: welfare for the poor, social justice, MSME development, and job creation. Once dismissed with derisive labels, he now stands as a pivotal opposition figure and a national benefactor. In Parliament, he champions crucial issues like poverty rights, constitutional protection, and unemployment, spotlighting concerns from the Agniveer scheme to NEET. We trust he will persist in combating corruption for India's bright future.

Rahul Gandhi's tenure as Leader of the Opposition has been marked by a transformation from skepticism to significance. Initially dismissed, he has emerged as a pivotal voice, advocating for the marginalized and pressing critical issues in Parliament. His agenda emphasizes welfare for the poor, social justice, MSME development, and job creation. Gandhi's relentless pursuit of transparency and accountability has kept the government accountable on issues ranging from poverty alleviation to constitutional protection. His proactive stance on national challenges like unemployment and inflation underscores his commitment to India's future, positioning him as a proactive and influential leader in the opposition ranks.

Masood Ahmad | Barabanki

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE BUDGET Madam — Amidst anticipation of the upcoming budget session, national attention is fixated on its contents. India Inc. hopes to retain production incentives, while salary earners seek raised exemption limits and improved tax slabs. The common man yearns for relief from economic hardships, and farmers seek guaranteed minimum returns. Senior citizens anticipate travel benefits and healthcare

subsidies. Supporters are poised, their

lists ready, crucial for the government's

Implications of Iran's election

E EDITO



he untimely demise of Iran's conservative President Ebrahim Raisi has necessitated an election amidst regional tensions,

exacerbated by the Gaza conflict and disputes over Iran's nuclear program. India anticipates evolving bilateral ties under reformist President-elect Pezeshkian. Despite historical ties spanning language, culture, and commerce, both nations face a crucial juncture. With shared roots and significant strategic interests, India and Iran navigate a relation-

ship poised for new dynamics. The future of Iran under liberal leadership holds promise for significant domestic and international shifts. Potential reforms could ease tensions, particularly regarding Iran's nuclear program, fostering better relations with the West. Internally, liberal policies may encourage socio-economic progress and cultural openness, reshaping Iran's global image regional dvnamics..Dimple WadhawanKanpur

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

nerable government.

The common man eagerly anticipates budgetary relief through increased exemption limits, revised tax slabs, and measures to alleviate everyday financial burdens. Expectations include provisions for healthcare subsidies, travel benefits for senior citizens, and incentives supporting livelihood stability, reflecting hopes for tangible improvements in quality of life.

AG Rajmohan | Anantpur

KEIR STARMER'S VISION FOR CHANGE

Madam — Apropos, "Now we get to work, Starmer to cabinet," The Pioneer, July 7. The British election results that led to Labour leader Keir Starmer's entry into 10 Downing Street mark a pivotal moment in the country's politics, promising to steer the nation through the turbulent aftermath of 14 years of Conservative governance. The enormity of Labour's victory cannot be overstated. Achieving a massive majority in survival. The budget's essence lies in who Parliament, Labour has been given a clear gains and by how much from this vul- mandate to implement change. His

acknowledgment of the public's lack of trust in politics is a refreshing departure from the often defensive posture of recent administrations. His promise to heal this mistrust through actions rather than words is a step in the right direc-

The British public has grown cynical after enduring repeated scandals, including the infamous Downing Street parties during the Covid-19 lockdowns, which eroded confidence in government integrity. Economically, Mr Starmer inherits a nation grappling with significant challenges.

The tax burden is at its highest since the post-World War II era, and public services, particularly the National Health Service, are under immense strain. His government's ability to deliver on ambitious promises, such as green spending initiatives and public service improvements, will be a key measure of success.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

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FIRST COLUMN

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

Embracing life's challenges with a grateful heart leads to a profound awakening



RAVI VALLURI

Almighty divinity, through the prowess of nature, and the resplendent and ever-mutating cosmos is eternally showering bounties on humans. However, the human mind is not wakeful or grateful to accept this materiality. A question of attitudelt is primarily and predominately our attitude which reinforces gratitude within our personalities. The word gratitude strikes its roots in the word the Latin word gratis, meaning to be thankful. It is always sagacious to recite a short prayer before a meal. Language is no trammel. Annadata Sukhi Bhava. By remembrance of these lines (Sanskrit), we express our gratefulness and indebtedness to the agrarian community and the cook for producing and preparing the meal respectively. Body: a divine instrumentNature has gifted us with something incomparable and priceless, the human body. We have been provided with a supercomputer of a brain.

Prowess of the breathNext humans are blissfully unmindful of the power of our breath. It can be likened to a cell phone which nature has provided to connect us with divinity. Breath is perhaps the most potent form of effervescence and pizzaz of our personalities. Humans are insensible to the fact that ninety per cent of toxins get expatriated from our bodies through the potency of breath. If we delve deep into the ancient practices like pranayama or the unique rhythmic technique of Sudarshan Kriya (imparted in various bouquets of courses of the Art of Living) the primacy of breath is under-



stood by us. An inestimable nunAeons ago lived an exalted and celebrated Zen nun. There were far and few like her. It was believed that few women could attain the venerable state like this pious lady. Once she had undertaken an arduous pilgrimage and arrived at a village as the sun sank in the horizon.

In all humility, she begged for lodgings for the night. However, the villagers slammed their doors and were unwilling to accommodate her in the village. They were opposed to the tenets of the Zen school of thought. They thought it to be exceedingly revolutionary. Thus, the clichéd and conformist individuals were unwilling to accept the nun into their fold even for a night. The traditionalists banished her from the village and she was compelled to wage the battle against inclement weather out in the cold. At the stroke of midnight, she woke up abruptly, unearthed the cherry tree which fed her ravenous body with sweet fruits, talking to the full moon which light-

Immediately she was engulfed with waves of emotions and suffused with love and affection for all those who had exiled and expatriated her from the village. She experienced the quintessential silence of an awakened one. She was extremely grateful to the villagers who had not accommodated her, to the cherry tree that fed her, the meditative silence that encompassed her body, all of which had wily nicely contributed to her awakening, an almost celestial spectacle. "Thus, a stock individual, a savant, a sage or a nun becomes a Buddha the moment he/she accepts all that life brings with its variegated, paradoxical situations.

The one who accepts these situations which gratitude and gratefulness, without admonishing anyone or carping verily becomes an awakened one." - The Buddha. "Good men and bad men differ radically. Bad men never appreciate kindness shown them, but wise men appreciate and are grateful. Wise men try to express their appreciation and gratitude by some return of kindness, not only to their benefactor, but to everyone else," said Gautama Buddha.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd.and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living)

The cost of freebies and the legal quagmire



Despite a Supreme Court ruling highlighting the impact of freebies on election fairness, political parties continue to leverage public funds for electoral gain



n the Maharashtra Budget for 2024-25 presented by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, the BJP-led MahaYuti has announced financial assistance of Rs 1,500 per month for eligible women between 21 to 60 years of age, a stipend up to Rs.10,000 per month for youth in industrial and non-industri-al sectors, electricity bill waiver for farmers etc. Unambiguously, these are freebies - an acronym for something given by the State free of charge – aimed at garnering votes during the State assembly elections later this year.

In a July 2013 order in S Subramaniam Balaji vs Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors, the Supreme Court (SC) had said that the distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people; that "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree". Yet, it had held that promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as "corrupt practice" under the Representation of People Act (RPA), or any other prevailing law and, hence, distribution of freebies can't be stopped when the ruling party uses public funds for this purpose through the passage of Appropriation Acts in the state assembly. In the same order, it directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) "to frame guidelines that could govern the contents of the election manifesto of all the recognized political parties as when it had acted while framing guidelines for general conduct of the candidates, meetings, processions, polling day, etc". Further "this can also be included in the model code of conduct – under a separate head for guidelines for election manifesto - for guidance of political parties and candidates".The ECI never came out with any such guidelines.Emboldened by ECI inaction, the political parties who in the past, were placing freebies in a corner of their manifestos, have started catapulting

them to the centre stage.

Now, freebies hold the key to winning elections. In February 2020, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led by Arvind Kejriwal mesmerized Delhi, voters, by promising free or heavily subsidized electricity and free water, free bus rides for women, free Wi-Fi, and so on. In 2022

ty to each household for consumption up to 300 units per month, waiver of all outstanding power bills, Rs 1000 per month to every woman aged 18 or above etc. The party won the state with a thumping majority. In Uttar Pradesh also in 2022, BJP promised 20 million smartphones for poor students, two free LPG cylinders every year, Rs 100,000/- for the marriage of girls from poor families, and so on.Meanwhile, the matter came up before the SC through a public interest litigation (PIL).

On January 25, 2022, it observed "This is no doubt a serious issue. Budget for freebies is going above the regular budget". It also reiterated that "this disturbs the level playing field". On August 3, 2022, it gave a sense that it is for Parliament, besides the ECI, to take the initiative to enact a law on curbing freebies. It also sought IN FEBRUARY suggestions on the composition of committee that could go into the issue "dispassionately" and make recommendations.

NOW, FREEBIES

WINNING

ELECTIONS.

2020, THE AAM

AADMI PARTY

(AAP) LED BY

MESMERISED

DELHI, VOTERS,

BY PROMISING

SUBSIDISED

FREE WATER,

FOR WOMEN,

FREE BUS RIDES

FREE WI-FI, AND

FREE OR HEAVILY

ELECTRICITY AND

ARVIND

KEJRIWAL

HOLD THE KEY TO

But, the above decisions haven't been acted upon. Although, on its part, the ECI had sent out questionnaires asking parties to give 'specifics' of what they intend to promise voters, financial impact and how this will be funded, there hasn't been any follow-up. Meanwhile, the freebies continue to proliferate. In Karnataka elections in May 2023, the grand old party (GOP) promised five guarantees viz. Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi, Sakhi programme, Yuva Nidhi, and Anna Bhagya. The trend continued during elections in Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and

Telangana held November/December 2023. While, in Rajasthan, Congress promised Rs 10,000 every year to the female head of the family under the Gruha Lakshmi Yojana, in MP, BJP increased the grant to

Behna Yojana; the amount to be would cost Rs 46,000 crore a hiked to Rs 3,000 per month. Additionally, in MP, under Ladli Lakshmi Yojana, the BJP promised girls Rs 200,000/- till they get married. In Chhattisgarh, it promised Rs 12,000 per year to married women under the 'Mahtari Vandan Scheme'.

In Telangana, the GOP beat all promising 10 grams of gold besides Rs 100,000/- cash to women getting arrival elections run-up to the general elections, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on December 23, 2023 supply of free foodgrain under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to over 800 million persons, Congress gave ten guarantees in its manifesto "Nyay Patra" released in April, 2024. Meanwhile, in Delhi, Kejriwal promised Rs 1000 per month to all women above the age of 18 years under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana (MMSY). For State elections later this year, parties are

readying to give another round of big doles. As mentioned earlier, the BJP-led MahaYuti has already announced bountiful package for

Maharashtra. For others viz. Haryana, and Jharkhand, parties will follow suit. The SC will follow suit. assertion on January 25, 2022 "Budget for freebies is going above the regular budget" is confirmed by facts on ground zero. Whereas, in Delhi, these cost the exchequer

around Rs 12,500 crore annually, in Punjab the impact is close to Rs 20,000 crore. In Karnataka, at over Rs 60,000 crore, the cost of five guarantees exceeds the existing fiscal deficit. Redeeming the guarantees promised in GOP's "Nyay Patra"

Government a mammoth around Rs 46,00,000 crore. In Maharashtra, Rs 1,500 per

could cost the Central

When the top year. court says freebies are bad, why doesn't it ban them? deterrent is none other than the SC order of July 2013 which says "... it can't be construed as corrupt

practice... Within the meaning of section 123(1)(A) of the RPA, 1951, the expression 'bribery' has been defined to mean any gift, offer or promise by a candidate or his agent or by any other person with the consent of a candidate or his election agent of any gratification with the object of inducing an elector as a reward to his candidature. The irony is, that when a candidate uses his own pocket money to bribe the voter, it is treated as corrupt practice, but when the party on whose symbol he is seeking election bribes voters using 'public money', the top court doesn't treat it that way. The Union Government's star dards of financial propriety lay

down inter alia that "no authority shall exercise its powers of sanctioning expenditure to pass an order which will be directly or indirectly, to its advantage; and the expenditure from public moneys should not be incurred for the benefit of a particular person or a section of the people unless a claim for the amount could be enforced in a court of law or the expenditure is in pursuance of a recognized policy or custom".

The reckless spending of the taxpayer's money on freebies is neither a recognized policy/custom nor it is sanctioned in a court of law. It is a blatant financial irregularity that amounts to bribing voters using public money solely to gain electoral advantage. The SC should change its stance to recognize this and force the Parliament to enact a law if it feels existing laws don't provide for it.

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

in Punjab, AAP promised free electrici-Rs 1,250 per month under Ladli month to eligible women alone Transforming healthcare with digital technologies

The health-tech sector is poised for exponential growth, reshaping the future of healthcare for all its citizens

igital technologies are anticipated to offer swift and personalized clinical services to each patient through their handheld Technologies (NATs), including Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), mobile technologies, cloud computing, Big Data, and 5G, are becoming essential tools in the realm of "Smart Health." Smart Health refers to an interconnected healthcare system that utilizes NATs for clinical analysis, treatment, medical setups, and hospital management.

Examples of Smart Healthcare systems include surgical robots, RFID-based supply chains, and integrated health management platforms or achieve "Universal Health



CHARRU MALHOTRA

Healthcare systems provide real-time connectivity to doctors, reduce treatment costs, and offer predictive, personalized information to patients. For example, IoT-based wearable smart devices can track patients' progress, help manage medical emergencies, and promptly notify healthcare providers.India's National Health Policy 2017 aims to Health-stacks. These Smart Coverage for all citizens," grad-

ually transitioning from fragmented healthcare systems to a holistic approach using digital technologies.

The Ayushman Bharat scheme, launched in September 2018, is a notable nationwide public health insurance program that provides health coverage of up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization through the 'Abha-ID' for each patient. Additionally, the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), launched on August 15, 2020, aims to create an integrated healthcare system linking practitioners and patients digitally, allowing real-time access to health records. Driven by these national initiatives, along with the rise of health startups, increased

growing demand for highquality healthcare services, the health-tech sector in India is experiencing significant

According to recent reports, the health-tech industry in India is expected to reach \$6.5 billion by 2024 and \$78.4 billion by 2033, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 28.67% during this period.India has already implemented initiatives such as the National Health Portal and the Health Management Information System (HMIS), with several state-level initiatives as well.

Programs like the CoWIN Vaccine Platform, the Aarogya Setu contact tracing app, and the eSanjeevini National Telemedicine Service Platform



deserve special mention. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, private equity firms are increasingly investing in health tech companies. The health startup ecosystem in India primarily consists of six segments: telemedicine, pharmacy, fitness, wellness, IT healthcare, and home healthcare. Leading telemedicine startups such as Practo, 1mg, mFine, iCliniq, Digi-Doctor, and myUpchar are reporting impressive increases in teleconsultations.

mation on health indicators, identify individuals, verify them, and connect their health records with informed consent.However, the adoption of these technologies presents significant technical, legal, and socio-economic challenges. There is a lack of a cohesive and robust legal and regulatory framework, particularly in the health-tech domain. Security in smart healthcare is crucial, as it is an ecosystem susceptible to attacks or infiltration by individuals or hackers. The privacy of patients' sensitive health data requires an extra layer of protection beyond what is currently available through India's Digital Personal Data Protection

Data interoperability and dig-

(DPDP) Act.

Drawing inspiration from the globally recognized Unified Payment Interface (UPI), a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for healthcare should be made accessible to all. Our anganwadi workers, in partic-

ous stakeholders.

for the seamless exchange of

India can address this gap, but

also face challenges such as

limited access to and adaptabil-

These issues are further com-

pounded by inadequate logis-

tics support, a shortage of

skilled manpower, and a tech-

resistant attitude among vari-

ity to digital technologies.

ital connectivity are essential additional tech-savvy personnel. Capacity building for our health data. The emerging 5G communication network in healthcare providers and ensuring their access to digitechnological constraints hintal devices and connectivity der the widespread adoption of should be prioritized through in-home health monitoring common service centers (CSCs) and Public Health services. Healthcare specialists Centers (PHCs). Additionally, it is time for India to expand the scope of its Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, by including special provisions for handling the sensitive health data of patients. With these efforts, every Indian will not only have easy access to but also trust the "Digital Doctor in their pock-

> (The writer is a professor at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New-Delhi; views are personal)

BMW crash: Manhunt for Maharashtra leader's son

Aday after he fatally knocked down a woman and injured a man while driving a BMW car in an inebriated condition, the Mumbai police on Monday issued a 'Look Out Circular' (LOC) against Shinde Shiv Sena deputy leader Rajesh Shah's absconding son Mihir Shah, even as Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde said that government stood firmly with the victim families in hit-and-run cases.

On a day when the chief minister reiterated that the crimes like "hit-and-run" cases would not be tolerated and no accused however close to the powers-that-be would get any immunity, the Mumbai police intensified its search for Mihir

suspected, might try to flee the country.

A LOC is an advisory issued by the police to prevent a person from leaving the country. It is a coercive legal tool used to prevent a person accused of a cognizable offence from fleeing the country to avoid prosecution or to prevent a person from leaving the country until an investigation is completed.

If an accused tries to flee the country from airports and ports even after the issuance of LOC, then the immigration personnel detain him and hands over to the law enforcement agency concerned.

Mihir has been booked under under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to

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

The incident took place at at 5.30 am between Atria Mall and Worli. Earlier, Mihir had consumed liquor along with his friends at a bar and en route, he insisted that he would drive the vehicle and took over the wheel from his family driver in a drunken state. Mihir — who was behind the



wheel of a BMW car owned by his father Shinde Sena's deputy leader for Palghar district Rajesh Shah - allegedly knocked down a two-wheeler

occupied by two fish sellers -Kaveri and Pradik Nakva. After being hit by the speeding car, the two were flung into the air and they crash-landed on

WAZA seeks clarification if Delhi

man jumped down quickly. However, Mihir carried Kaveri on the bonnet for nearly two kilometres before flinging her on the road near Bandra Worli Sea Link. Later, the accused reached Kalanagar at Bandra (East), dropped the driver, abandoned the car and fled. The police arrested Mihir's father Rajesh Shah and Shahs' family driver Rajendra Singh Bidawat immediately after the mishap for allegedly trying to destroy evidence and helping the accused to flee from the crime scene.

Meanwhile, a Mumbai court granted provisional bail to Rajesh Shah after initially remanding him to 14 days' judicial custody, while his family driver Rajrishi Bidawat has been sent to a day's police

The investigators recovered the abandoned BMW car involved in the mishap from Kalanagar at Bandra (East) in north-west Mumbai. Meanwhile, chief minister

Eknath Shinde said that his government stood firmly with the families affected by hitand-run incidents and that such crimes would not be tolerated

Talking to media persons here on Monday, Shinde said: "I am deeply concerned by the rise in hit-and-run incidents in Maharashtra. It is intolerable that the powerful and influential misuse their status to manipulate the system. Such miscarriages of justice will not be tolerated by government".

The lives of ordinary citizens

directed the State Police department to handle these cases with the utmost seriousness and ensure justice is served. In addition, we are implementing stricter laws and harsher penalties for hit-andrun offenders," the chief minister said.

"No one, whether rich, influential, or the offspring of bureaucrats or ministers, affiliated with any party, will have immunity as long as I am the Chief Minister of the State. I have zero tolerance for injustice," Shinde said.

"Let me make it clear that my administration stands firmly with the victims and their families. We are committed to creating a safer Maharashtra for all its citizens," the chief

Congress' frantic search for Adhir's replacement as PCC chief

SAUGAR SENGUPTA | KOLKATA

In its frantic search for a replacement of Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury the All India Congress Committee has reportedly zeroed in on four persons Pradesh Congress insiders say.

According to sources "the AICC is zeroing in on four names for the PCC post in the post Adhir era." The names that are doing the round are Nepal Mahato a former Purulia MLA and veteran Congress man, Shankar Malakar also a former MLA and a party heavyweight from Siliguri in North Bengal, Abdus Sattar a CPI(M) discard who was a minister during the Left rule but subsequently joined the Congress Party and Deepa Dashmunshi, inside sources said adding the final name would be decided on after Rahul Gandhi's return from Manipur.

the Congress in Lok Sabha Chowdhury lost to Trinamool Congress' Yusuf Pathan the former India cricket player in the recently concluded general elections.

own or the high command were being talked on. easing him out of his post. He also said that Dasmunshi large majority of its members

himself said that he had never been a permanent PCC president and he would be doing whatever his leaders in Delhi wanted him to do.

The PCC has already left it in the hands of the high command to select a new State president ... but at the same time the central leadership should be aware of the fact that anyone who comes should match the ability of Adhir da who had livened up the Congress Party once again after many years ... though we have been

The five-time Behrampore MP and the former Leader of himself has been defeated the Congress Party in Bengal has been working as a single unit in the past several years ... taking on the goons of the TMC in a united manner," a senior PCC member said After his defeat there were adding Chowdhury had no talks about his quitting on his problem with the names that

Amid rumors Chowdhury may not take the charge as she

had done a few years ago. Deepa di may not be willing to take the responsibility for her personal reasons ... but if she takes it then again there will be no big issue," he said.
"In any case if the high command decides to choose a name that will surrender before Mamata Banerjee as she wants then there will be no Congress Party left in Bengal ... because the Congress which has its maximum strength in Malda, Murshidabad and to some extent in Purulia will vanish into wilderness as Mamata Banerjee will devour whatever that remains in the Congress today ... and also most of the grassroots will withdraw into their shells," the leader said adding "it is better to fight the elections

with the TMC. A staunch Mamata Banerjee baiter Chowdhury had spiked pre-poll Congress-Trinamool Congress alliance in Bengal and took his party Left wards saying the Marxists were far more reliable than the Bengal Chief Minster who despite coming to power in 2011 with the help of the Congress had literally erased it from the State's horizon by engineering defections in its ranks and forcing "under gunpoint" a

alone in Bengal than to go

zoo elephant chained for months **STAFF REPORTER** NEW

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and the Director of the National Zoological Park have received a letter from the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), which has sought clarification on whether the lone African elephant in the Delhi zoo was tethered to a chain for months. Sources in Delhi's National Zoological Park said the 29-year-old elephant brought from Zimbabwe has been restrained by a chain for the past nine months "due to aggressive behaviour". This has restricted the elephant's movement and impacted its well-being, the source said.

Nine months before in September 2023, the elephant, Shankar, broke a part of the boundary wall of its enclosure while in a state of musth -- a condition of heightened aggression and unpredictable behaviour in male animals, particularly elephants and camels, associated with a surge in testosterone levels. The Delhi zoo, meanwhile,

has written to the forest and wildlife department, seeking assistance of a veterinary doctor to tranquilise the elephant, which is in musth again.

Zoo director Sanjeet Kumar said that a veterinary team will take a call on the elephant



depending on requirement. A veterinarian visited the zoo on Monday and said a wound in its leg is being treated.

In its letter to the Delhi zoo and the CZA, global animal care group WAZA posed 12 questions and requested clarification on them.

WAZA is a global alliance comprising regional associations, national federations, zoos, and aquariums dedicated animal care and conservation

worldwide. It asked the zoo authorities if the elephant was tied by a chain since the September 2023 incident, asking further if it was chained for all 24 hours during this period.

The letter, sent at the end of last month, enquired if the elephant was unchained in March this year or was kept in chains beyond it. It asked for before and after pictures and videos of the elephant and its records for the last 12 months. On June 16 this year, a worker

who had been employed at the Delhi zoo for nine years, told PTI that he was attacked by Shankar, resulting in injuries to his thighs. Subsequently, he left the job due to the injuries, he said.

Shankar is the solitary African elephant at the zoo since arriving at the facility in 1998. In addition to Shankar, the Delhi zoo also houses two Indian elephants, according to officials.

The Delhi zoo has also reached out to the forest and wildlife department of the Delhi government, seeking assistance to tranquilise the elephant in musth.

The letter to the forest department said, "The National Zoological Park in New Delhi urgently requires the expertise of Dr. Sumit Nagar and tranquilisation drugs for the safe immobilisation of our 29vear-old African elephant in musth. Dr. Abhijit Bhawal will coordinate with Dr. Nagar for this crucial procedure on July 8, ensuring the elephant's well-being throug professional veterinary care. tĥrough

After the Zoo's letter, Nagar, a veterinarian, visited the Delhi zoo in the afternoon on Monday to check the elephant's condition. Nagar told PTI that the

elephant has a wound on its leg caused by the chain which is being treated.

HC refuses to refer to medical board man's case for passive euthanasia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI inclined to accept the request

The Delhi High Court has Trefused to refer to a medical board the case of a 30-year-old man, who suffered head injuries in 2013 and is lying in a vegetative state, for allowing to undergo passive euthanasia.

The high court said the facts of the case indicate the man is not being kept alive mechanically and he is able to sustain himself without any extra external aid.

"The petitioner is not on any life support system and the petitioner is surviving without any external aid. While the court sympathises with the parents, as the petitioner is not terminally ill, this court cannot intervene and allow consideration of a prayer that is legally untenable," **Justice** Subramonium Prasad said.

The high court also referred to several Supreme Court judgements in which it was held that active euthanasia is legally impermissible. "The petitioner is thus living and no one, including a physician, is permitted to cause the death of another person by administering any lethal drug, even if the objective is to relieve the patient from pain and suffering," it said. The court said it is not

of the petitioner to refer him to a medical board to consider whether he can be allowed to undergo passive euthanasia and dismissed the petition. Passive euthanasia refers to intentionally letting a patient die by withholding artificial life support such as a ventilator or feeding tube.

The high court was hearing a plea by a man for a direction to constitute a medical board to examine his health condition for administration of passive euthanasia. As per the petition, the petitioner, who is about 30 years old, was a student of Punjab University and had suffered head injuries after falling from the fourth floor of his paying guest house in 2013.

The plea said the petitioner's family has done their best to treat him, however, he has been confined to bed since 2013 due to diffuse axonal injury with permanent vegetative state and 100 per cent disability.
The plea said his family has

consulted various doctors and they have been informed that there is no scope of his recovery and the petitioner, who has not responded for the last 11 years, has developed deep and large bed sores which have caused further infection.

Rain fury cripples financial...

Following heavy rains, the Maharashtra government declared a holiday for government and private schools and colleges in the

During a 22-hour period from 8 am Sunday (July 7) to 6 am Monday (July 8 2024), the Island city of Mumbai recorded an average 110.10 mm rainfall, while the eastern suburbs and western suburbs had 150.53 mm rainfall and 146.35 mm,

women.

Sandeshkhali...

From Page 1
It is also dealing with the alleged attack by the men of Shahiahan the on Enforcement Directorate national (ED) officials who went to the island reverine of Sandeshkhali on January 5 to investigate his connection

with the ration scam.

The CBI started investigating the third case around Sandeshkhali when the Calcutta High Court directed it to take over the complaints Basirhat parliamentary seat of land grab and sexual assault where Sandeshkhali is an on women in the North 24 Parganas village surrounded backwaters and Sunderbans. The High Court had directed

a court-monitored CBI investigation wherein it has asked the Agency to file which had won 2 seats in 2019 widespread is the leak," said comprehensive reports on the managed to win only one seat. the bench which also

alleged land grab whence the occupied agricultural lands had been converted into water bodies for pisci-culture and the cases of crimes against

Apart from hitting the headlines the Sandeshkhali incident became a major electoral issue before the general elections though it is another matter that none of the political opposition including the Left and the BJP could extract any political dividend out of it with the TMC not only winning Assembly segment but also improving its overall tally from 22 to 29 whereas the BJP came down from 18 seats to 12 seats whereas the Left could win none. The Congress

NEET re-test if exam sanctity...

to join her party.

From Page 1
It said if the breach was confined to specific areas and it was possible to identify the wrongdoers, then it may not be appropriate to order for a retest in an examination of such a massive scale.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices IB Pardiwala and Manoi Misra, hearing a batch of petitions challenging the NEET-UG 2024 exam, also sought number of wrongdoers identified so far and methodology adopted

for the paper leak. "Let us not be in self-denial. Self-denial is only adding to the problem," a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud told the Centre and the NTA, which conducts the prestigious test, in a string of stronglyworded observations. "One thing which is very clear is that the leak has taken place. That the sanctity of the exam has been breached is beyond doubt.

The question is how widespread is the leak," said

comprised Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The Supreme Court was hearing 38 petitions related to the NEET UG 2024 exam irregularities and a demand for retest. The Chief Justice however

flagged that if the paper leak took place through social media or electronic means of communication then it would have spread like "wildfire".

"The fact that the sanctity of the exam has been compromised is beyond doubt, that there has been a leak ... We take it that there is a leak, there is no question about it. But the nature of the leak is what we are determining.
The fact that there was a

leakage of question papers cannot be disputed. Now, what is the consequence of that leak would depend on the nature of that leak ... If it is not extensive, then there is no cancellation. Before we order a retest, we must be careful. What is the nature of that leak?

We are dealing with the careers of 23 lakh students ... What is the point of time

that the leak took place? How was the leak disseminated? These are important questions. And next, very important - what are the actions which the government of India and NTA had taken to identify the wrong-doings and who are the beneficiaries of the wrongdoings?" the CJI remarked.

The bench asked the NTA to apprise it about the steps taken to identify the centres and cities where the question paper leak took place, the modalities followed for identifying the beneficiaries and their numbers ascertained so far. "Before we decide to pass an order for a re-test, we must understand what is the nature of leak," the bench said, adding it was tough to ask over 23 lakh candidates to re-appear for the

examination. "What is the modality in which the leak took place? If the modality of the leak is through electronic means like Telegram and WhatsApp ..., then there is a possibility that the leak is widespread," it said.

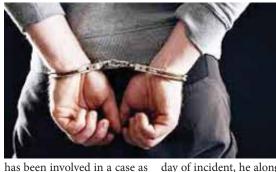
23-year-old arrested for stabbing friend to death over minor issue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Crime Branch arrested a 23 year old man for stabbing his friend to death over a small altercation between them in Delhi's Shahbad Dairy.

According to the police on Monday, on June 30, at about 10:15 PM, 28 year old Sunny got admitted by his relatives in Rohini's Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital and he was declared brought dead by the doctors."The deceased was having stab injuries near private parts and on other parts of the body too," said DCP Crime Branch Amit Goel, adding that a case under section 302 (Punishment for murder) was registered at Police station Shahbad Dairy. The accused was identified as Deepal, alias Deepu, who has studied up to 9th class and is unemployed. "He is unmarried and has one brother and two sisters. After being a dropout from the school, he fell in bad company

and got indulged in crime. He



a juvenile also. Besides, he has previously been involved in a case of robbery after abducting a person of PS Shahbad Dairy," the DCP added.

On the basis of technical surveillance and local input gathered, it came to know that the accused will come near Japanese Park in Rohini to meet one of his friends, where the team laid a trap and the accused was nabbed.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that one of his associates namely Ajay, alias Modi, had an old dispute with the deceased. "On the

Hemant Soren wins trust in Jharkhand...

day of incident, he along with his associates namely Ajav. alias Modi, Guddu, Daddu, Chetan, Prakash, Roshan, Sagra and others were going together and somehow met with the deceased on the way. Verbal altercation started between them. In between, accused Ajay first slapped the deceased and then all the accused persons started beating him," he added.

The DCP stated that all the accused caught hold of the deceased and the accused Ajay took out a knife and stabbed the deceased. After that all of them ran away from

Modi, Putin to focus on boosting...

From Page 1
"I look forward to reviewing all aspects of bilateral cooperation with my friend President Vladimir Putin and sharing perspectives on various regional and global issues," he said.

New Delhi has been stoutly defending its "special and strategic privileged partnership" with Russia and maintained the momentum in the ties notwithstanding the Ukraine conflict. India has not yet condemned Russia's

The Prime Minister said the vibrant Indian community in Russia. In the talks, Modi is support staff to Russian military and ensure return to home of those still operating in the force.

The annual summit between the prime minister of India and the president of Russia is the highest institutional attack on Ukraine and dialogue mechanism in the consistently pitched for resolution of the conflict the two countries. The annual through dialogue and summits are held alternatively

in India and Russia. The last summit was held on visit will also provide him an December 6, 2021 in New opportunity to meet the Delhi. President Putin had visited India to attend the summit. The summit saw expected to urge the Russian end recruitment of Indians as and agreements besides coming out with a joint statement titled "India-Russia Partnership for Peace, Progress and Prosperity". Prime Minister Modi and President Putin last held bilateral talks on the margins

of a summit of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation

(SCO) at Samarkand in

Uzbekistan on September 16,

A touch of spirituality mooted in DU...

From Page 1

The elective paper on Upanishad Parichaya will introduce foundational Hindutva as analysed in the Upanishads. "The Hindu Thinkers paper aims to familiarise students with the prominent thoughts of distinguished Hindu thinkers from ancient and modern times. Furthermore, the Dharma and Religion paper will introduce and develop foundational concepts of Hindu Adhyatma and Dharma, comparing them with Western religious traditions," reads the learning objective of the proposed electives.

other leaders including few new face took oath as ministers in the Hemant Soren government. Champai had resigned from the post of CM on July 3, a day before JMM executive president Hemant Soren took oath as the 13th chief minister of Jharkhand on July 4.

Speaking on motion, confidence

Hemant's predecessor Champai Soren and 10 other leaders is 1...

The ruling alliance comprises the JMM, Congress and the RID while it is supported from outside by the lone CPI Liberation legislator.

After the Lok Sabha elections, the strength of the JMM-led alliance has been reduced to 45 MLAs in the 81-member House, Leader of Opposition with 27 of the Jharkhand Amar Bauri alleged that Mukti Morcha, 17 of the

the JMM-Congress-RJD Congress and one of the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Two JMM MLAs -- Nalin Soren and Joba Majhi --

parliamentarians, while Jama legislator Sita Soren resigned to contest the Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket. The JMM expelled two more legislators – Bishunpur MLA Chamra Linda and Boriyo MLA Lobin Hembrom - from the

party. Similarly, the BJP's strength in the assembly

Mahto (Baghmara) and Manish (Hazaribag) - are now MPs. The saffron party expelled Mandu MLÁ Jaiprakash Bhai Patel after he joined the Congress. The current strength of the 81-Jharkhand member Assembly is 76. The ruling JMM-Congress-RJD alliance had handed over a support list of 44 MLAs to the Governor when Hemant Soren staked his claim to form has reduced to 24, as two the government on July 3.

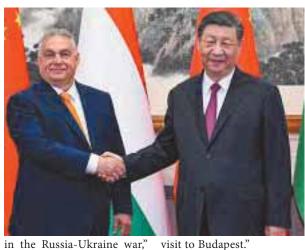
Additionally, the Centre plans to offer six new interdisciplinary electives specifically for Political Science students.

Xi urges global powers to facilitate direct Russia-Ukraine talks

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on world powers to help Russia and Ukraine resume direct dialogue during a meeting on Monday with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Orban made a surprise visit to China after similar trips last week to Russia and Ukraine to discuss prospects for a peaceful settlement of more than the two-year war. Hungary assumed the rotating presi-dency of the European Union this month and Orbán has since embarked on a peace mission, which, however, lacks the endorsement of other European leaders.

"China is a key power in creating the conditions for peace



in the Russia-Ukraine war," Orban wrote on the social media platform X. "This is why I came to meet with President Xi in Beijing, just two months after his official

Orban is widely seen as hav-

ing the warmest relations with

Xi and Russian President

Vladimir Putin among

European leaders. His visit to

Moscow last week drew condemnation from Kyiv and EU officials, who insisted Orbán was not acting on behalf of the whole European bloc. Their rebuke failed to deter

Orban from extending a similar visit to Beijing, which he called "Peace mission 3.0" in a picture posted on X.
During his meeting with Xi,
Orban described China as a

stabilising force amid global turbulence and praised its "constructive and important" peace initiatives.China has been promoting its own six-point peace plan, which it issued with Brazil in May. Beijing says it is neutral in the conflict, though in practice it supports Moscow through frequent state visits, growing trade and joint military drills. While hosting Orban, Xi called on Russia and Ukraine

to cease fire and on other built substantial political and major powers to create an environment conducive to talks. Only when all major powers project "positive energy rather than negative energy" can a cease-fire occur, Xi said, according to CCTV.

Orban hosted the Chinese

leader in Hungary only two months ago as part of a threecountry European tour that also included stops in France and Serbia, which unlike the other two is not a member of the EU or NATO.

During the trip, China upgraded its ties with Hungary to an "all-weather, comprehensive strategic partnership", one of its highest designation. ignations for foreign relations that in addition to Hungary applies only to Belarus, Pakistan and Venezuela. Hungary under Orban has

economic ties with China. The European nation hosts a number of Chinese electric vehicle battery facilities, and in December it announced that Chinese EV manufac-turing giant BYD will open its

first European EV production factory in the south of the country. The Hungarian prime minister broadly opposes Western military aid to Ukraine and has blocked, delayed or watered down EU efforts to assist Kyiv and impose sanc-

tions on Moscow over its invasion. Orbán has long argued for a cessation of hostilities in Ukraine but without outlining what that might mean for the country's territorial integrity or future security. That posture has frustrated Hungary's EU and NATO

accept any cease-fire or temporary break in hostilities that would allow Ukraine "to recoup losses, regroup and rearm". Putin repeated his demand

Europe.

that Ukraine withdraw its troops from the four regions that Moscow claims to have annexed in 2022 as a condition for any prospective peace talks. Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected that demand, suggesting it is akin to asking Kyiv to withdraw from its own territory.
China meanwhile has spread

allies, who have denounced

Russia's invasion as a breach of

international law and a threat

to the security of Eastern

Standing alongside Orban last

week in Moscow, Putin declared that Russia wouldn't

its influence in Central Asia

and Eastern Europe in recent years beyond its "no limits" partnership with Moscow. Over the weekend, China held 'anti-terror" military drills with Belarus - a key ally of Russia - near the border with Poland. The drills came after last week Belarus joined a regional security organisation led by China and Russia.

Orban will next head to Washington, D.C., where NATO leaders are holding a summit to discuss ways to assure Ukraine of the alliance's

continued support.
"Next stop: Washington,"
Orbán posted on his social
media account Monday. It was not clear whether he would meet separately with President Joe Biden, or Donald Trump, whose presidential candidacy Orbán openly supports.

French vote divides among left, center, and far-right, risking political deadlock

French voters divided their legislature among left, center and far right, with no single political faction getting even close to the majority needed for form a govern-ment. The risk of paralysis loomed Monday for the European Union's secondlargest economy.

President Emmanuel Macron gambled that his decision to call snap elections would give France a "moment of clarification," but the outcome showed the opposite, less than three weeks before the start of the Paris Olympics thrusts the country on the international stage. France's main share index opened with a dip in response to the vote.

According to the second-round led in the first round of voting, results tallied early Monday, a leftist coalition surged to take the most seats in parliament. Macron's centrists have the second-largest faction and the unpopular president will have to form alliances to run the government. Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally, which

Leaders express relief mixed with concern about French election result

Berlin (AP): Leaders across Europe reacted with relief but also some concern to the results of the snap election in France which leave a key EU country facing the prospect of a hung parliament and politi-cal paralysis. Relief, because the far-right National Rally did not come out as the strongest party, as many pro-European leaders had feared — but also concern, because no political grouping has a majority in the National Assembly. The gov-ernment in Germany, which

came in third after political maneuvering to keep its candi-

dates from power.
Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said he would present his resignation Monday, but could stay on through the Olympics or longer if needed. Newly elected and returning lawmaktogether with France has long been viewed as the engine of

European integration, expressed relief on Monday that the nationalist far right had not topped the polls. "For now, a certain relief prevails that things that we feared have not materialised," Steffen Hebestreit a spokesperson for Hebestreit, a spokesperson for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, told reporters in Berlin. "Only time will tell what happens with this elec-tion result and France will

ers were expected to arrive at the National Assembly to begin negotiations in earnest. Macron himself will leave later

mit in Washington. Political deadlock could rattle markets and have far-ranging implications for the war in Ukraine, global diplomacy and

in the week for a NATO sum-

Europe's economic stability. According to official results released early Monday, all three main blocs fell far short of the 289 seats needed to control the 577-seat National Assembly, the more powerful of France's two legislative chambers.

The results showed just over 180 seats for the New Popular Front leftist coalition, which placed first, ahead of Macron's centrist alliance, with more than 160 seats. Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally and its allies were restricted to third place, although their more than 140 seats were still way ahead of the party's previous best showing of 89 seats in

Macron has three years remaining on his presidential term. In announcing his resignation, Attal made clearer than ever his disapproval of Macron's shock decision to call the election, saying "I didn't choose this dissolution" of the outgoing National Assembly, where the president's centrist alliance used to be single biggest group, albeit without an absolute majority.

Kyiv children's hospital among buildings bombarded; dozens killed

major Russian missile attack across Amajor Russian missing actions at least 31

Ukraine on Monday killed at least 31 people and injured 154, officials said, with one striking a large children's hospital in the capital of Kyiv, where emergency crews searched the rubble for victims.

The daytime barrage targeted five Ukrainian cities with more than 40 missiles of different types, hitting apartment buildings and public infrastructure, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post. Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 30 missiles.

Strikes in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy's birth-place in central Ukraine, killed 10 people and injured 47 in what the head of city administration, Oleksandr Vilkul, said was a massive missile attack. Seven people were killed in Kyiv, authorities said.

'It is very important that the world should not be silent about it now and that everyone should see what Russia is and what it is doing," Zelenskyy said on social media.

Western leaders who have backed Ukraine will hold a three-day NATO summit in Washington beginning Tuesday. They will look at how they can reassure Kyiv of the alliance's unwavering support and offer Ukrainians hope that their country can come through Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

At the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in

Kviv, rescuers searched for victims under the rubble of a partially collapsed, two-story wing of the facility. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said at least 16 people, seven of them children, were injured.

On the hospital's main 10-story building, windows and doors were blown out and walls were blackened. Blood spattered the floor in one room. The intensive care unit, operating theatres and oncology departments all were damaged, officials said. Rescuers searched for children and medical workers in the rubble. Volunteers formed a line, passing bricks and other debris to each other. Smoke still rose from the building, and volunteers and emergency crews worked in protective masks. The attack forced the evacuation of the hospital and its temporary closure. Some mothers carried their children away on their backs, while others waited in the courtyard with their children as calls to doctors' phones rang unanswered.

A few hours after the initial strike, another air raid siren sent many of them hurrying to the hospital's shelter. Led by a flashlight through the shelter's dark corridors, mothers carried their bandaged children in their arms and medical workers carried them on gurneys. Volunteers handed out candy to try to calm the chil-

Marina Ploskonos said her 4-year-old son had spinal surgery on Friday. "My child is terrified," she said. "This shouldn't be happening, it's a children's hospital," she said, bursting into tears. Ukraine's Security Service said it found wreckage from a Russian Kh-101 cruise

missile at the site and had opened proceedings on war crime charges. The Kh-101 is an air-launched missile that flies low to avoid detection by radar. Ukraine said it shot down 11 of 13 Kh-101 missiles launched on Monday.

Czech President Petr Pavel said the hospital attack was "inexcusable" and that he expected to see at the NATO summit a consensus that Russia was "the biggest threat for which we must be thoroughly prepared."

The German government also condemned the attacks. A foreign office spokesperson called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to "put an immediate end to this war of aggression against so many innocent people." Russia's Defence Ministry said the strikes targeted Ukrainian defence plants and military air bases and were successful. It denied aiming at any civilian facilities and claimed without evidence that pictures from Kyiv indicated the damage was caused by a Ukrainian air defence

Since early in the war that is well into its third year, Russian officials have regularly claimed that Moscow's forces never áttack civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, despite what officials in Kyiv say as well as Associated Press reporting.

apology calls to ex-MPs

London (PTI): Former British prime minister Rishi Sunak spent the weekend calling the Conservative Party candidates who lost their seats in the general election last week to apologise for the party's worst performance at the ballot box, with just 121 seats in the House of Commons.

Several former members of Parliament told 'The Daily Telegraph' about the "very sympathetic call" they received from the British Indian MP, who won his own seat of Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire and remains the Leader of the Opposition until the Tories elect his successor. The 44-year-old had apologised to his party colleagues and the nation in his farewell speech at 10 Downing Street on Friday, when he also announced his resignation as Tory leader after the Labour Party won a landslide victory with 411 MPs in a 650-seat Commons.

Sunak makes | UK's PM Starmer seeks to improve | 'It's time for party drama to end' on 'botched' trade deal with EU

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is seeking to reset relations at home and abroad. During a visit on Sunday to Edinburgh, that he billed as an "immediate reset" with the regional governments of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, Starmer said he would also seek to improve the UK's "botched" trade deal with the European Union

"I do think that we can get a much better deal than the botched deal that (former prime minister) Boris Johnson saddled the UK with," he said in reference to the pact negotiated after Brexit.

Starmer said there were many discussions ahead to strengthen trading, research and defence ties with the EU. But he said those talks had begun as his top diplomat made his first visit abroad to Germany, Poland and Sweden.



From left, Northern Ireland Secretary Hilary Benn, Northern Ireland's First Minister Michelle O'Neill, deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer pose for a photo, at Stormont Caste, during the Prime Minister's tour of the UK following Labour's victory in the 2024 general election, in Belfast, Monday,

With two of Starmer's ministers in Europe ahead of a NATO meeting, the premier made a point of visiting the leaders of the regional govern-

ments in the UK following his party's landslide victory last

Starmer, who said he has a "mandate to do politics differ-

tors by 2035 to cope with the

ently", met with Scottish First effort to "turn disagreement into cooperation".

"We will serve every single person in Scotland," Starmer told a group of enthusiastic supporters. "Performance, selfsupporters. "Performance, self-interest — they are the politics of the past. The politics of this Labour government of 2024 is about public service, restoring standards of making sure that we always, always have in our mind's eye the people who elected us into government" elected us into government."
While each of the devolved nations in the UK elects members to the House of Commons in London, they also have their own regional

parliaments.
Starmer's Labour Party
trounced Swinney's Scottish
National Party for seats in
Parliament. But the SNP, which has pushed for Scottish independence, still holds a majority at Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament.

Washington (AP): President 4 recess.Deeply torn over years — if not decades — and Joe Biden, in a letter to congressional Democrats, continued Democratic lawmakers return icy priorities are now entertain-

called for an "end" to the intra-party drama that has torn apart Democrats about whether he should stay in the race.

Biden wrote in the two-page letter Monday that "the question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end". He stressed that the party has "one job", which is to defeat presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump in November.

'We have 42 days to the Democratic Convention and 119 days to the general election," Biden said in the letter. "Any weakening of resolve or lack of clarity about the task ahead only helps Trump and hurts us. It's time to come together, move forward as a unified party, and defeat Donald Trump."

The letter was sent from the campaign to Democratic lawmakers as they return to Washington following the July

to work to revive his campaign or edge out the party leader, a make-or-break time for his reelection and their own polit-

ical futures.

Anxiety is running high as topranking Democratic lawmakers are joining calls for Biden to step aside after his dismal public debate performance and defiant response to the uproar.

At the same time, some of the president's most staunch supporters are redoubling the fight for Biden's presidency, insisting there is no one better to beat Republican Donald Trump in what many see as among the most important elections of a lifetime.

As lawmakers weigh whether Biden should stay or go, there appear to be no easy answers in

It's a tenuous and highly volatile juncture for the president's party. Democrats who have worked alongside Biden for

to stand firm against calls for him to drop his candidacy and moment as they decide whether to Washington at a pivotal ing uncomfortable questions about his political future. And it's unfolding as Biden hosts world leaders for the NATO summit this week in Washington.

Time is not on their side, almost a month from the Democratic National Convention and just a week before Republicans gather in Milwaukee to renominate Trump as their presidential

pick. Many Democrats are arguing the attention needs to be focused instead on the former president's felony conviction in the hush money case and pending federal charges in his effort to overturn the 2020 election. It's what Biden himself might call an inflection point.

As he defiantly says he will only step aside if the Lord almighty comes and tells him to, Democrats in the House and Senate are deciding how hard they want to fight the president to change course, or if they want to change course at all.

South Korea to cancel plan to suspend licenses of striking doctors

Seoul (AP): South Korea said Monday it'll withdraw its earlier plan to suspend licenses of striking doctors as part of its efforts to resolve the country's months-long medical impasse.

It wasn't immediately known whether and how many of thousands of the striking doctors would return to work in the wake of the government's announcement. Also, the plan could invite criticism that it hurts the principle of fairness over the government's dealing with other previous labour strikes as well as doctors who already returned to work.

Health Minister Cho KyooHong said Monday the government has decided not to suspend their licenses of the strikers, regardless of whether they return to their hospitals or

He said the government's decision is meant to address a shortage of doctors treating



emergency and serious patients and restore a training system to add more professional doctors. More than 13,000 junior doctors, who are medical interns and residents, walked off the job in February in protest of the government's plan to sharply boost school admissions. Their walkouts have significantly bur-dened operations of university

hospitals where they had worked while training.
A Seoul court in May ruled in support of the government's plan.The government later withdraw its plan to suspend licenses of doctor who returned to their hospitals but didn't do so on others who remained off the job. Officials have said they want to add up to 10,000 doccountry's fast-aging population and a shortage of physicians in rural areas and in low-paying yet essential specialties like pediatrics and emergency departments.Doctors say schools aren't ready to handle an abrupt increase in students and that it would ultimately undermine the country's medical services. But critics argue that physicians, one of the bestpaid jobs in South Korea, are mainly worried that having more doctors would lower their incomes.The striking doctors are a fraction of all doctors in South Korea, estimated to number between 115,000 and 140,000. But in some major hospitals, they represented about 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the doctors, assisting fully qualified doctors and department chiefs during surgeries and other treatments while

AP ■ MATAGORDA Beryl made landfall on the Texas coast near Matagorda early Monday with a dangerous

storm surge and strong winds, knocking out power to more than half a million homes and businesses.

The storm's centre hit land as a Category 1 hurricane around 4 am Central Standard Time about 85 miles southwest of Houston with top sustained winds of 80 mph (128.7 kph) while moving north at 12 mph (19.3 kph), the National

Weather Service reported. High waters quickly began closing roads around Houston, which was again under flood warnings after heavy storms in recent months washed out neighbourhoods and knocked out power across the nation's

fourth-largest city. More than 750,000 customers were without power, many of them around Houston, before daybreak Monday, according to CenterPoint Energy in Houston. More than 1,000 flights have been canceled at Houston's two airports, according to tracking data from FlightAware

Beryl makes landfall in Texas

Beryl dumped soaking rains across Houston after coming ashore and was expected to bring damaging winds into East Texas, near Louisiana, as the storm pushed north after

making landfall.
"Beryl's moving inland but this is not the end of the story vet," said Jack Beven, senior hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center. Beryl strengthened and became a hurricane again late Sunday. The storm had weakened after leaving a path of deadly destruction through parts of Mexico and the Caribbean.

A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Texas coast from Mesquite Bay north to Port Bolivar, the center said. Beryl is expected to weaken to a tropical storm Monday and a tropical depression Tuesday, the weather service said, forecasting a turn to the northeast and increase in speed Monday night and Tuesday.

The storm's center is expected to move over eastern Texas on Monday and then through the lower Mississippi Valley into the Ohio Valley on Tuesday and Wednesday, the weather

service said. People on the Texas coast boarded up windows and left beach towns under an evacuation order. As the storm neared the coast Sunday, Texas officials warned of power outages and flooding but also expressed worry that not enough residents and beach vacationers in Beryl's path had

heeded warnings to leave. "One of the things that kind of trigger our concern a little bit, we've looked at all of the roads leaving the coast and the maps are still green," said Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who is serving as the state's acting governor while Gov. Greg Abbott is travelling overseas. "So we don't see many people leaving. Tropical storm winds extended 115 miles (185 kilometers) from the center and the hurricane center warned residents to be prepared for possible flash flooding in parts of middle, upper and eastern Texas as well as Arkansas as the storm gradually turns to the north and then northeast later Monday.

Along the Texas coast, many residents and business owners took the typical storm precautions but also expressed uncertainty about the storm's inten-

In Port Lavaca, Jimmy May fas-tened plywood over the windows of his electrical supply company and said he wasn't concerned about the possible storm surge. He recalled his business had escaped flooding in a previous hurricane that brought a 20-foot (6-meter) storm surge."In town, you know, if you're in the low-lying areas, obviously, you need to get out of there," he said.

Time to push disinvestment of public sector banks: SBI report

 $T^{\text{he government should go}}_{\text{ahead with disinvestment}}$ of public sector banks (PSBs) as they are in good condition, SBI said in its research report on Monday. The report also pitched for the consolidation of existing government-owned

"As banks are in good condition, the government report titled 'Prelude to Union Budget 2024-25' said.

With regard to the privatisation of IDBI Bank, it said the government and Life Insurance Corporation of India are selling an almost 61 per cent stake in the lender. "They invited bids from buyers in October 2022. In January 2023, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) received several expressions of interest for the



expect the government to clarify this in the Budget," it said. Presently, the government owns over 45 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, and LIC has a 49.24 per cent shareholding.

The report also recommended that the government should tweak the tax on deposit interest and make flat tax treatment across the maturity ladder in line with mutual fund and equity markets.

"Household net financial savings has declined to 5.3 per

should take stance on IDBI Bank stake on offer. We cent of GDP in FY23 and is disinvestment of PSBs," the expect the government to expected to be 5.4 per cent in expected to be 5.4 per cent in FY24. If we make deposit rate attractive in line with MFs, then this could push up household financial savings and CASA," it said.

As this amount will be in the hands of depositors, the report said, it could unleash additional spending and thereby, more GST revenue to the government.

Increase in bank deposits will bring not only stability in core deposit base and financial

stability in household savings as the banking system is better regulated and having a superior trust as compared to other alternatives with volatility/risk," it said.

Deposits are taxed on an accrual basis and other asset classes only on redemption and there is also a need to remove this treatment, it added.

The report by the Economic Research Department, State Bank of India (SBI), expressed expectation government will look into the concerns over the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) that must be improved and expediting cases under the IBC

should be a key change.
Recoveries through IBC in
FY24 were 32 per cent, and financial creditors lost 68 per cent of their claims. The time taken to reach a resolution is 863 days instead of the stated 330 days, it said.

Markets settle Rupee falls 1 paisa to on flat note in muted trade

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Monday in a lacklusture trade as investors opted to book profits after the recent record rally in equities. Weak cues from Asian markets also added to the muted trend in domestic equities.

After beginning the trade on a weak note, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 36.22 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 79,960.38. During the day, it went lower by 264.77 points or 0.33 per cent to 79,731.83.

The NSE Nifty dipped 3.30 points or 0.01 per cent to 24,320.55.

Among the Sensex pack, Titan, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints,

Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest laggards. ITC, Hindustan Unilever,

Nestle, HCL Technologies and Tata Motors were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were trading in the positive territory. US markets ended with gains on Friday.

In a volatile session on Friday, the broader NSE Nifty continued its record-breaking run and inched up 21.70 points or 0.09 per cent to close at its lifetime high of The 24,323,85. however. benchmark,

dropped 53.07 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,996.60. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.97 per cent to USD 85.70 a barrel.

83.50 against US dollar

The rupee pared initial gains to settle 1 paisa lower at 83.50 against the US dollar on Monday, as muted domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.45 and hit the intraday high of 83.44 and a low of 83.50 against the American currency during the session.

It finally settled at 83.50 against the dollar, registering a loss of one paisa over the previous close.

On Friday, the rupee settled at 83.49 against the US dollar. Forex traders said the rupee gained on a weak dollar and decline in crude oil prices. However, weak domestic markets put pressure on the domestic unit.

The US Dollar declined on disappointing non-farm payrolls report on Friday, which raised expectations that US Federal Reserve may cut

Federal Open Committee said meeting," Anui Research Choudhary Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 104.90, higher by 0.03 per cent. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.88 per cent to USD 85.78 per barrel.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the weak tone in the US Dollar and FII inflows. However, a correction in the domestic markets and political uncertainty in France as the election results indicate a hung parliament may cap the sharp upside," Choudhary added.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day 36.22 points, or 0.05 per cent, lower

Mercedes-Benz India posts record half-yearly sales at 9,262 units



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz on Monday reported a 9 per cent growth in sales at 9,262 units in India in the first half of 2024, its highest ever halfvearly sales in the country, riding on strong demand categories and availability of volume models. The company had posted sales of 8,528 units in the ownership, combined with January-June period of 2023, which was its previous highest half-yearly sales, Mercedes-Benz India said in a

statement. It plans to launch six new products in the second half (H2) of 2024.

SUV penetration was at 55 per cent in H1 2024, while the TEV (top-end vehicle) segment priced above Rs 1.5 crore comprised 25 per cent of total sales, it added.

The SUV segment saw robust performance from the GLA, GLC, GLE and GLS models,

Class, outgoing LWB E-Class and S-Class topped customer preference for luxury sedans, it added.

The BEV (battery electric vehicle) portfolio grew by 60 per cent in H1 24, comprising per cent of total sales Mercedes-Benz volumes. India said.

"New and updated products, elevated customer experience at retail and ease of positive customer sentiments boosted our best-ever H1 performance," sales Mercedes-Benz Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer said.

The company further said availability of volume models also played a part in delivering record sales in the first half of this year.

On the outlook for the rest of the year, Iyer said, "We have new products coming up for the upcoming festive season. So we feel we should be able to close the year with a while the sedan portfolio double-digit growth as comprising the A-Class, C-projected earlier."

PTI KOLKATA

T eading FMCG company LTata Consumer Products Limited (TCPL) will continue to invest in its brands and accelerate the growth momentum of the core businesses, tea, coffee and salt, the company's annual report

In the annual report for 2023-24, TCPL said that to strengthen and accelerate core businesses, contribution of modern trade to total sales within the country was 14 per cent driven by the growth of

During 2023-24, the company continued to undertake focused brand-building efforts and launched several products. TCPL said that central to the company's growth strategy was on focusing on the core businesses of tea, coffee and

TCPL (formerly Tata Tea) said the company strengthened the tea and coffee businesses and also created new vectors of growth. The company was also successful in driving profitable growth in the key international markets of UK, USA and



The company's focus on innovation lay in its belief that it is a strong strategic pillar and plays a significant role in meeting future ambitions, both on top line (revenue) and bottom line (profit).

TCPL said in the report, "We aspire to be a leading player in the FMCG industry by expanding our play in the existing categories and venturing into new spaces, adding that the company has taken both organic and inorganic routes to capitalise on industry trends and tap new

Two-wheeler sales volume growth to

consumers and markets.

The company clocked a revenue of more than Rs 15,000 crore during the last fiscal. TCPL acquired Capital Foods and Organic India to address the needs of the diverse consumer spectrum. In the last four years, TCPL's compounded annual growth rate of the tea business in India was nine per cent while revenue from coffee grew 29

per cent year-on-year.
The CAGR of salt during the last four years was 17 per cent, while that of packaged foods in India was 31 per cent.

Event on integration of Al in digital skills development a hit

PNS NEW DELHI

The Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Masterclass, held last week, showcased remarkable global participation, with notable engagement from South countries. African Interestingly, a few from Pakistan and China also took part under India's flagship skilling platform SIDH.

This significant event on July 4, focusing on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital skills development, witnessed substantial turnout from various continents, reflecting reflecting growing international interest in AI and digital education.

Organised by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, and UNESCO, the masterclass brought together



global experts and enthusiasts. It was attended by key dignitaries including Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State Charge), (Independent Ministry of Skill Development Entrepreneurship and (MSDE), Dr Haja Ramatulai Wurie — Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone; Ruben Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia; Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC and MD and others.

NBCC to execute incubation centre at NIT Patna

PNS NEW DELHI

NBCC (India) Limited has been entrusted with execution construction and development of Incubation Centre at NIT Patna (Bihta Campus). The estimated

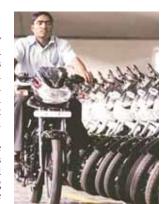
cost for the same is approximately Rs 36 Crore. The Incubation Centre, spanning in an area of 6,500 sqm, shall be a state-of-the-art facility. The facility is designed as basement + ground + 4 floors structure, accommodating various essential amenities and

advanced infrastructure. As per the scope of work, As per the scope of work, NBCC shall be responsible for the conceptual planning, detailed architectural & structural design, drafting, including the supervision of construction for buildings, electrical systems, furniture, IT networking, and more.

continue this fiscal: CareEdge Ratings

The two-wheeler industry is expected to sustain a steady volume growth this fiscal driven by improved domestic sales and good traction in executive and premium segment motorcycles, a report said on Monday. According to CareEdge

Ratings, post-Covid, sales volume of two-wheelers had consistently declined during FY20, FY21 and FY22 before starting to recover from FY23. with sales momentum continuing in FY24 as well. "CareEdge Ratings anticipates two-wheeler sales volume growth to continue in FY25 and it would be more driven by improved domestic sales, higher EV sales, launch of CNG powered two-wheelers and good traction in executive and premium segment motorcycles," said



Hardik Shah, Director at

CareEdge Ratings.
The growth in the twowheeler segment in FY25 is also expected to be aided by the likely interest rate cuts in the second half of FY25, strong demand for new model launches coupled with recovery in exports from its low base and favourable monsoon which is likely to

sentiment and income levels. said Arti Roy, Associate Director at CareEdge Ratings. In FY23, the Indian twowheeler industry recorded sales of 19.51 million units, an 8 per cent growth compared to the previous fiscal year's 18.01 million units. In FY24, the

continued its trajectory, achieving 9.8 per cent growth with a total sales volume of 21.43 million units. However, this was still short of the peak sales volume recorded in FY19, when annual sales volume had reached 24.46 million units, it

During FY24, the domestic two-wheeler industry witnessed total sales volume of 17.97 million units, reflecting a growth rate of 13 per cent, while the exports volume experienced a decline of 5 per cent.

High prices of vegetables causing pain to consumers

markets, causing suffering for the common man.

Tomato prices have soared to Rs 80-100 per kg from Rs 45-50 a month ago, while Brinjal is selling for Rs 110-140 per kg, a jump of nearly 150 per cent from early June, greengrocers in several markets in the city said.

Prices of several other vegetables such as bitter gourd, green chilli and bottle gourd have also increased by an average of 50 per cent. Egg and poultry meat prices have risen by 20-30 per cent in local markets.

"Now tomatoes in Bengal are coming from other states. There is a short supply of tomatoes from Bangalore and Himachal Pradesh due to heat waves and heavy rain. The production was hit due to heat waves and disruptions in logistics due to heavy rain," a source in West Bengal Vendors Association told PTI. Agriculture Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay



conditions have aggravated the situation.
"The West Ro West Bengal government continues to

support our farmers who are facing a rise in input costs. On the other hand, the Centre is reducing various subsidies. Hence, both farmers and commoners are suffering," said Chattopadhyay, also a Trinamool Congress leader. He said that the state government has a retail distribution network, 'Sufal

Bangla,' the outlets of which sell vegetables and food articles at reasonable prices. "In Sufal Bangla, tomatoes are priced at Rs 65 per kg against a minimum of Rs 80 in the retail market. Bitter gourd is sold at Rs 72 per kg, and brinjal at Rs 102 per kg, which are 10-20 per cent cheaper. We are planning to increase the

number of outlets from 484 now," Chattopadhyay said. "Over the last three weeks, the prices of vegetables, eggs, and poultry have surged. Tomato prices have doubled, and onion prices are also inching higher. Inflation in essential items continues to cause us

Manashi Sanyal, homemaker, said. inflation Food

intensified in June from the 8.7 per cent rate observed in April and May. According to Crisil's food plate cost tracker, the cost of a home-cooked vegetarian meal increased by 10 per cent year-on-year, reaching a six-month high, while the cost of nonvegetarian meals hit a sevenmonth peak. The RBI has consistently

expressed concerns over rising food prices. Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index moderated to a one-year low of 4.75 per cent in May. However, inflation in the food basket was 8.69 per cent,

marginally down from 8.70 per cent in April. However, fresh harvests from southern states are set to hit markets soon, which should ease prices within days, the consumer affairs ministry officials expect, adding that summer sowing of key vegetables is expanding robustly on the back of good

Gold rises ₹100; silver rallies ₹870 amid strong global cues

PTI NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 100 to Rs 73,410 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday in line with strong global trend, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal closed at Rs 73,310 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Silver prices also rallied Rs 870 to Rs 94,270 per kg. It had settled at Rs 93,400 per kg in the previous session.

"In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are quoted at Rs 73,410 per 10 grams, up by Rs 100 from the Friday's afternoon price.

"Gold prices at Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) traded lower amid risk-averse sentiment and profit booking after surging in the week gone by," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities,

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was USD 2,373 per ounce, up USD 10 per ounce from the previous

Budget FY25 should focus on tax relief to boost consumption: India Inc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget FY25 should focus on offering relief to taxpayers, especially in the lower income brackets, to stimulate consumption, industry players suggested. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to

present the full Budget for

fiscal 2024-25 on July 23

which will be the first major policy document of the new government. The industry also urged the finance minister to lower corporate tax, phase out tax

exemptions, and broaden tax base to boost economic growth.
"Rationalise and simplify the tax system to improve compliance and promote investment. Consider measures such as reducing corporate tax rates, phasing out tax exemptions, and broadening the tax base to

Assocham said. Rating agency ICRA said the government is likely to set a fiscal deficit target at 4.9-5 per cent for FY25, as against 5.1 per cent estimated in the

make the tax regime more

efficient and equitable,"

without compromising the capital expenditure target of

Rs 11.1 lakh crore. "While developments on the revenue front portend positively for the fiscal dynamics in FY2025, ICRA believes that fiscal consolidation will turn quite challenging beyond the current fiscal," the rating agency said.

Mayank Gupta, co-founder and COO of Zopper Insurtech said the Budget is expected to focus on policies to promote economic growth and offer relief especially for the lower income brackets to stimulate consumption.

"From the point of view of insurance, we suggest amending section 80C of the Income Tax Act to permit a greater limit on insurance premium payments, thereby encouraging more individuals to buy insurance products. Additionally, there should also be an allowance of deduction for term life insurance under the new tax regime," he said.

Anish Mashruwala, partner, JSA Advocates and Solicitors said NBFC sector is expecting some ease of doing business Interim Budget on February 1, considering the multitude of

regulatory compliances. "Of course a balance needs to

be struck in terms of oversight favourable and hopefully this is something that the government ably considers," Mashruwala said. Rumki Majumdar, economist,

Deloitte India suggested that the government must expand the scope of PLI schemes. especially for sectors that can create more jobs, such as textiles, handicraft and leather.

The schemes must continue in sectors that have seen success. such as electronics, auto and semiconductors, Majumdar added.

On expectations from the finance minister, Vishal Goel, managing director, RX Propellant said the life sciences sector has immense potential and has been drawing global players to not only leverage the strength in contract manufacturing but also establishing global capability centres (GCCs). "We are optimistic that the

upcoming announcement will prioritise the life sciences sector, enhancing investment flows and fuelling innovation and success in India," Goel said.

High-scoring Spain faces Mbappé's France with spot in Euro 2024 final on line

Spain and France meet in the semifinals of the European Championship on Tuesday. The match pits one of the highest-scoring teams at the tournament against one of the lowest as France's star forward Kylian Mbappé has struggled to get to grips with his mask. Kickoff is at 9 p.M. Local time (1900 GMT) in Munich. Here's what to know about the match:

Match facts: The winner will England or the Netherlands in the final on Sunday in Berlin. Their semifinal is on Wednesday.

Spain and France's quarterfinals both went to extra time. Substitute Mikel Merino's game-winning goal in the last minute of extra time handed Spain a 2-1 victory over host nation Germany, while France needed penalties to see off Portugal after the

match ended goalless.

No France player has scored from open play at Euro 2024. The French have only scored through two own goals and a penalty from Mbappé. Spain has netted 11 times.

■ Mbappé, who will be facing several of his new Real Madrid

wearing a protective mask after sustaining a broken nose in France's group opener against Austria.

Spain, which is chasing a record fourth European Championship title, has been perfect in Germany. It was the only team to win all its group stage matches, while France could only muster draws against Poland and the Netherlands after a narrow win over Austria.

Team news: Spain paid the price for its dramatic win over Germany and a number of players will miss the semifinal and in some cases the final should La Roja get there -because of suspension or

Midfielder Pedri had to come off in the eighth minute against Germany with a knee injury following a hefty challenge from Toni Kroos and has been ruled out of the rest of Euro 2024. He will again be replaced by Dani Olmo - who came on for the 21-year-old and went on to score the opener as well as set up Merino's winner. ■ Dani Carvaial was sent off

late in extra time for a second yellow card and will be



suspended against France, as will fellow defender Robin le Normand after picking up another booking. Veteran Jesús Navas is likely to be tasked

with marking Mbappé.
■ France coach Didier
Deschamps has no injury problems as Marcus Thuram returned to training on Sunday, alleviating concerns he could miss the semifinal after taking a blow to his thigh at the end of the match against Portugal.

By the numbers: Spain and France have only conceded three goals between them. The only time France goalkeeper Mike Maignan had to pick the ball out of his net was Poland's retaken penalty in the group stage, while Spain conceded against Georgia and Germany.

The teams have met 36 times, with Spain winning 16 to France's 13 - including five

of the past eight.

This is Spain's sixth
European Championship
semifinal. It has only once
failed to advance to the trophy match, losing on penalties to eventual champion Italy at Euro 2020.

France has reached the semifinals on five previous occasions, winning three.

in three of last four major tournaments, losing 1-0 after extra time to Portugal at Euro 2016 and to Argentina on penalties in the 2022 World Cup, but beating Croatia to claim its second world title in

What they're saying "We're in the semifinals and it's something we shouldn't take for granted, even if we may be used to it recently. Now we go to win it." - France coach Didier Deschamps.

"Very few people gave us a chance and staying under the radar helped us start the tournament with confidence. Spain is a team to respect. I knew we had a great team and that's how it turned out." defender Spain Cucurella.

"It's natural for him. He has this gift of carrying the team, the group. He gives ideas, advice to the players. He was born for that. He was born to pull the group up." - France striker Randal Kolo Muani on

Mbappe's captaincy.
"My players are insatiable.
There's always room for improvement, of course, but we can't question their pride, quality and commitment.



India eyeing first win against Myanmar in international women's friendlies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will aim for a first win against Myanmar when they renew their rivalry against their higher-ranked neighbours in two away women's football friendlies beginning at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar on Tuesday.

The 67th ranked Indians are winless in all five of their meetings with Myanmar (WR 54), losing four and drawing

they faced Myanmar with the last one being a 3-3 in the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers

in Mandalay in 2019. Sandhiya Ranganathan, Sanju and Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi, all of them part of the current squad as well, scored in

that fixture. Prior to that, India suffered defeats on each of the four occasions at the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers (2013), AFC Women's Olympic

Qualifiers (2015, 2018) and the Gold Cup (2019).
"We've played against them before, so we have an idea about them. Myanmar are strong and physically tough. Their mobility and speed is also good," Indian captain Loitongbam Ashalata Devi

said in an AIFF release. However, it's been more than five years since India last faced Myanmar, and the captain believes these two games will mark a fresh start in this

rivalry. "Myanmar's game style has changed a lot since we last height and strength. However, played them. In the Asian Games, we watched them play.

more energy on the pitch. Our team has the perfect mixture of senior and young players.

"I believe we can perform better and the Myanmar tour could be a successful one," said the 31-year-old Indian skipper. This will be India's second consecutive FIFA women's international match window higher-ranked facing a opponent.

India had previously faced 48th-ranked Uzbekistan in Tashkent on May 31 and June 4, losing 0-3 and drawing 0-0,

respectively.

"Competing against better and higher-ranked opponents is always an advantage. It leaves us with the opportunity to learn more and change strategies according to different situations as we did against Uzbekistan. I'm sure we'll learn a lot from the Myanmar games too," Ashalata

Myanmar have been out of action since the Asian Games in China last September.

They were knocked out of the group stage after losing to Korea Republic (0-3) and Philippines (0-3), and their only win came against Hong Kong (1-0). Before that, Myanmar finished

runners-up to Vietnam in the Southeast Asian Games. Head coach Langam Chaoba Devi feels India can match them.

closely observed Myanmar's style of play when they faced Korea Republic and

Philippines," said Chaoba.
"Physically they are similar to us, with little difference in they are technically very sound. But again, as I've said, "They have brought in a lot of youngsters, who can generate added the coach."

Never give up, fight till last moment: **Sreejesh's learning from Rohit's**

PTI BENGALURU

Playing in his fourth and probably last Olympics, veteran India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has learnt a valuable lesson from the T20 World Cup-winning gridlet team. cricket team -- 'never give up and celebrate' early and this is something which will be embedded in his mind in the Paris Olympics.

The Indian cricket team rose from the ashes in the final of the T20 World Cup, snatching a seven-run victory over South Africa from the jaws of defeat to end an 11-year ICC

title drought.
India's last major ICC title was the Champions Trophy in 2013 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's leadership.
"I did watch the final. The

biggest learning from this World Cup is that don't celebrate before the last ball. South Africa was almost winning till the 15th over but the Indian team did not give up hope and snatched the win from the jaws of defeat," Sreejesh, who has 328 India caps, told PTI Bhasha. "That's what not only us (hockey team) but every Olympic-bound athlete can learn from our cricket team is that never give up, just wait and fight till the last moment, you will achieve it. I will remember

this in the Olympics," he said. Regarded as the "The Wall of Indian hockey', Sreejesh still four Olympics.
"It's a great honour, a proud moment but comes with a lot remembers that one advice he

cricket', Rahul Dravid. "I met Dravid bhai long back. He told us about the importance of patience and waiting for your moment. That's what I did. I did not become one of the best goalkeeners in the world overnight. I waited for my opportunities. I have also learnt to remain humble from him," he said.

got from "The Wall of Indian

Sreejesh started playing hockey to get grace marks in the board exams but went on to win an Olympic medal --bronze in Tokyo -- and also became the only goalkeeper

from the country to feature in

of responsibilities. You need to guide the youngsters, you need to keep the team together and help to achieve the common goal of winning a medal at the Olympics," said the former FIH player of the

started playing this game for grace marks in board exams. I never thought that I would play hockey, wear an Indian jersey and participate in the Olympics. I just knew the legendary Dhanraj Pillay, who played 4 Olympics, 4 World Cups, Champions Trophy, Asian Games and today I am

the first goalkeeper going to play my fourth Olympics. It's hard to believe."

Sreejesh was the hero of India's win over Germany in the bronze medal play-off match in Tokyo and he is very well aware of the expectations from him in Paris.

"Expectations come with achievements and we don't believe that it will give us the boost to perform even better in Paris. I want to tell the youngsters in the team that expectations and criticism will be there but on the field you are the boss. Stick to your basics, execute your plans and enjoy the game," he said.

He also acts as a mentor for the youngsters of the team and

loves to throw challenges to get the best out of them. "Mentoring is very important as you are the one who played

this game, failed, succeeded and when you tell these things to the kids, they understand. I always challenge forwards, make fun of them if they don't score. They accept this and try to do better," he said.

"The Olympics are too much pressure. It's like a pressure cooker. You are closely followed by the media, there will be social media, coaches, people give you many ideas and these things distract you. I just tell them to play as a team without hearing these noises."
India are placed in a tough
Pool B in the Olympics along side Argentina, Australia, Belgium, New Zealand and

Ireland. "Argentina have good 3D skills, the Australians are very strong and Belgium have very experienced forward line but I feel that on that particular day, have to take it negatively. I it's all about using your experience and against them," he said.

For me visualization is the key. You play hockey for 365 days and in the Olympics we are also going to play the same but the ground, the audience and the atmosphere put you under pressure. Those who can play their best hockey under that pressure can win."

Majhi announces ₹15 lakh for two sportspersons from Odisha who will represent India in Olympics PTI BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on incentive of Rs 15 lakh each for hockey player Amit Rohidas and ace javelin thrower Kishore Jena who will be

representing India in the Paris Olympics. The CM expressed hope that the incentive will inspire the two sportspersons from Odisha to excel and bring glory to the country, an official

Majhi said Jena and Rohidas have made their native places as well as the entire state proud by qualifying for the Paris

work, dedication and perseverance displayed by the two sportspersons will inspire young and budding talents in the state, he said.

"There is no dearth of sports talents in Odisha and the state government is committed to providing the infrastructure, financial support and all other facilities at the grassroots level for the all-round development of such talents in every corner of the

won a Bronze in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Thomas logs first Top-10 finish in his second start as pro

India's Rayhan Thomas, playing only his second professional event, got a big boost in his career as he finished in Top-10 at the USD 2 million International Series Morocco golf tournament here. The Indian golfer, who is based

PTI RABAT (MOROCCO)

in Dubai but played college golf in the US, shot 69-73-69-72 to finish 9-under for the week and was tied eighth and the best Indian in the field. Of the 16 India who started only five made the cut. The next best Indian on the final leaderboard was Veer Ahlawat (73) who was T-29, while Olympic bound Gaganjeet Bhullar (79) was T-33 alongside Varun Chopra (74) and Rashid Khan (74) was T-37. Thomas, who played for India

six times at the prestigious Asia Pacific Amateurs with a best of second place, made his pro debut last month at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open, where he made the cut and finished T-68. Thomas, who got an invite this week to Morocco, will be hoping for another shot at the International Series in England at Foxhills in August and some more on Asian the Tour.

Ben Campbell snatched a sur-

prise victory from John Catlin

right at the very end to win the

title after a sensational finish



here on the Red Course at Royal Golf Dar Es Salam. New Zealand's Campbell holed a 20foot birdie putt on the par-five 18th to win on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off, having been three behind playing partner Catlin with two holes to play. Campbell shot a two-underpar 71, helped by an eagle on the par-four 17th and a birdie on 18th in normal time to tie Catlin with a 72 on 15-under. American Caleb Surratt (71) and Eugenio Chacarra (73) from Spain were tied for third, three behind the top two.

statement said. Olympics. The effort, willpower, hard

state," he added. The Indian men's hockey team

Coco Gauff can't get a new game plan at Wimbledon and loses to Emma Navarro

AP ■ LONDON

 $T_{\text{Coco}}^{\text{hings were not going well for }} \text{ were not going well for } \\ \text{Gauff against Emma}$ Navarro at Centre Court, not well at all, and she kept looking at her guest box for help from her coaches. One, Brad Gilbert, would stand up and gesture, and they would talk back and forth, but a fix did not arrive.

Gauff has yet to make it past the fourth round at Wimbledon, and she exited at that stage again Sunday, eliminated by Navarro 6-4, 6-3 in an all-American matchup.

"We had a game plan going in, and I felt that it wasn't working. I don't always ask for advice from the box, but today was one of those rare moments where I felt I didn't have solutions," said Gauff, the reigning U.S. Open champion and seeded No. 2 at the All England Club. "I while Paolini advanced Sunday when Madison Keys stopped playing because she was hurt.

don't want to say I didn't have any, because I think I'm capable of coming up with some. Today, mentally, there was a lot going on. I felt like I wanted more direction." Hers was the latest in a series of departures by top women from the Wimbledon bracket this year: No. 1 Iga Swiatek lost on Saturday, No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka withdrew with an injured shoulder before playing a match and No. 6 Marketa Vondrousova, last year's champion, was defeated in the first round. Only two of the 10 highest-seeded women remain: 2022 champion



The 19th-seeded Navarro, who it on my side of the court. (But) I writes herself notes in her phone to prepare for matches, reached a major quarterfinal for the first time. She showed exactly the type of tennis she's capable of playing in the second round, when she got past four-time major champion Naomi

"I'm believing that this is possible as it's happening. I'm starting to think, Why not me? Why not? Why can't I make a quarterfinal run? Why can't I go deep in Grand Slams?" said Navarro, 23, who grew up in South Carolina and won the 2021 NCAA championship in her first year at the University of Virginia.

On Sunday, she noticed the interactions between Gauff and Gilbert - and the player's growing displeasure with her performance. "I don't normally give the other side of the court too much energy. I keep

guess seeing her kind of frustrated and looking at her box, putting her arms up in the air - it's definitely a little bit of a confidence boost," Navarro said. "I guess it maybe gave me a little bit of momentum and just some energy that I needed."

In addition to Gauff's trophy from New York last September, the 20vear-old from Florida has been the runner-up at the French Open and reached the semifinals at the

Australian Open.
And while her first big breakthrough came at the All England Club at age 15, when she became the youngest qualifier in tournament history and beat Venus Williams in the first round en route to getting to the fourth, Gauff never

has bettered that result. She also exited in the fourth round in her next appearance, in 2021,

and the first round a year ago. On Sunday, Gauff kept making mistakes, finishing with more than twice as many unforced errors, 25, as winners, 12. Her biggest issue was the shot that opponents know is Gauff's weakness: the forehand. Navarro kept hitting to that side, and it worked.

then lost in the third round in 2022

"I really wanted to attack her forehand," Navarro said afterward. Gauff made 16 unforced errors with forehands, and another 16 forced errors, accounting for 32 of the 61 total points won by Navarro.

"I have the ability to raise my level when players play well, and I feel I didn't do that today," Gauff said.
She explained that when she's sought a mid-match assist from her coaches in the past, "They usually gave me something," but added: "I don't think we were all in sync."

INDIA EYE IMPROVED BOWLING SHOW IN FINAL WOMEN'S T201 AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

esperate to level the three-match series after the second game was washed out, India would hope wasned out, India would hope weather doesn't play spoilsport, besides eyeing a much-improved bowling effort in the final women's T20I against South Africa here on Tuesday.

India are trailing the three-match series 0-1 after losing the opener by 12 runs. Their problems compounded after the second game here on Sunday was washed out midway due to persistent drizzle.

And with 30 to 40 per cent of rain forecast for Tuesday, the Indians are left on the mercy of weather gods.

In both the matches, the Indian bowlers cut a sorry figure as South Africa amassed 189 for 9

and 177 for 6 respectively.

Barring Pooja Vastrakar, who picked up two wickets each in both the games, and spinner Deepti Sharma, most of the Indian bowlers failed to shine against the Proteas women. Renuka Singh leaked runs in

the first game and was subsequently replaced by Sajeevan Sajana in the second T20I but the latter also didn't her cause.

Shrevanka Patil and Radha Yadav picked up a wicket each on Sunday but continued to leak runs.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur would want her bowlers to pull up their socks with the series at stake.

On the batting front, it has been a decent show by the Indians in the first game. The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues (53 not out), Smriti Mandhana (46), Harmanpreet (35), Shafali Verma (18) and Daylan Hemalatha (14) all making

double digit scores.
Uma Chetry, who made her
T20I debut on Sunday, is likely
to persisted with as
Harmanpreet and the team management would like to see her exploits with the bat. South Africa, on the other hand, has been rock solid with

leading the charge. Besides Brits, skipper Laura Wolvaardt, Marizanne Kapp

the bat with Tazmin Brits, who

hit consecutive half-centuries,



Anneke Bosch have contributed with the bat as well for the visitors. South Africa's only concern is

Chloe Tryon, who has scored identical 12 runs in the two

And with the upcoming T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in mind, Tryon will be desperate to prove her detractors wrong. TEAMS (FROM):

India Women: Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Smriti Mandhana(vc), Uma Chetry(wk), Richa Ghosh(wk), Dayalan Hemalatha, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Sajeevan Sajana, Deepti Sharma, Asha Sobhana, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Shabnam Shakil, Pooja Vastrakar and Radha Yadav. South Africa Women: Laura Wolvaardt(c), Tazmin Brits, Woivaardt(c), Iazmin Brits, Mieke de Ridder(wk), Sinalo Jafta(wk), Anneke Bosch, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Chloe Tryon, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Eliz-Mari Marx, Klaas, Nonkululeko Mlaba and Tumi



Mentor Yuvraj was very happy when I got out for duck, he must be proud now: Abhishek Sharma

PTI ■ HARARE

opener Abhishek ∎ndia Sharma has revealed that his mentor Yuvraj Singh was delighted when he got out for a duck on his T20I debut against Zimbabwe here as the swashbuckling former all-rounder, for reasons best known to him, felt it was a 'good start".

Making his India debut, Abhishek was out on duck as the Men in Blue lost the first T20I against hosts Zimbabwe by 13 runs on Saturday. But the 23-year-old came back strongly to set the stage ablaze with a blistering maiden century (a 47-ball 100) to fashion India's 100-run win in

the second game a day later.
"I spoke to him yesterday (Saturday) also, and I don't know why he was very happy when I got out on zero. He said that's a good start but he must be very happy and proud just like my family," Abhishek said in a video posted by BCCI. He credited the hero of India's

2011 World Cup triumph for not only helping him hone is skills on the cricket field but also supporting him in his life away from the field.

"It's all because of him as well, the hard work he has put in (shaping) me. (For) two-three years, he has worked really hard not only on my cricket but off the field (life) as well." After Sunday's game, Abhishek called Yuvraj, who couldn't be happier for the youngster. "Well done very proud, you deserve it. Many more (such innings) to come this is just the start," Yuvraj said.

Since there was no rest day in between the first two games, the visitors didn't get a lot of time to think about the opening loss and that worked in India's favour as they levelled the five-match series

"We lost yesterday but I felt, today is my day and I should take the match to the end, the positive was that we didn't have much time to think about the next game," he pointed out. Abhishek combined with Ruturaj Gaikwad (77 not out off 47 ball) for a matchwinning 137-run stand for the second wicket. "I was in a flow, and just wanted to express myself. I spoke to Rutu as well, he said the same thing that 'don't think much about the balls and hit what you think you can'," he said.

He once again thanked India skipper on the tour and his Punjab teammate Shubman Gill for lending him his bat.
"Special thanks to Shubman

who timely gave me his bat, this was a much-needed innings for me and the team.

"This has been going on from U-14 times. Whenever I play with his bat I have done well, today also, the same happened. "I played with his bat only, which I got after a lot of difficulty, he doesn't give it easily. That is like my last option when I feel I have to play with his bat for a comeback," he quipped.

Have been living a dream for past few days, filled with gratitude: Bumrah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Monday said he has been "living a dream" for the past few days as he expressed gratitude for the stupendous gratitude for the stupendous reception that he and the rest of his teammates got for winning the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean.

The 30-year-old, who picked up 15 wickets in the mega-event that concluded on June 29 in Barbados, was a key figure in India's second overall and first in 17 years world trophy in the shortest format. He was adjudged Player of the for Tournament

performance. "I am so thankful for the last few



days. I've been living a dream and it has filled me with happiness and gratitude," Bumrah posted on X, along with a video of him enjoying the rapturous homecoming that included a breakfast meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a victory parade attended by lakhs victory parade attended by lakhs

victory parade attended by lakhs of fans in Mumbai.

The 42-second clip featured the audio of Virat Kohli's speech during the felicitation function after the parade last Thursday where the champion batter had lauded Bumrah's contribution. The fast bowler had combined with all-rounder Hardik Pandya to turn it around wonderfully for

India in the final. The two were brought in for their second spell in the match at a time

when South Africa needed 30 off 30 balls. They wreaked havoc to ensure that the Proteas eventually fell short by seven runs. Kohli had called Bumrah a "once

in a generation" player during the speech at the Wankhede Stadium, prompting the assembled crowd to chant the bowler's name in appreciation

appreciation
"What I would like everyone to do
is to applaud a guy who brought
us back into games again, and
again, and again. It was
phenomenal. He is a once in a
generation bowler. I am so glad he plays for us," Kohli, who retired from T20 Internationals at the end of the World Cup, had said. Bumrah was welcomed with flower petals after arriving at his Ahmedabad home recently.

in Global Chess League

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has become a co-owner of the American Gambits, a new team which will feature in the second edition of the Global Chess League, a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and International Chess Federation.

The League on Monday unveiled the six franchises for the second edition to be played in London from October 3 to

American Gambits, owned by prominent business leaders Prachura PP. Venkat K Narayana and Ashwin, will replace Chingari Gulf Titans.
"We're thrilled to introduce the American Gambits to the chess world. With a blend of strategic brilliance and unwavering determination, our team aims to redefine the game. As coowner, I'm excited to witness their journey and contribute to their success," Ashwin was quoted as saying in a media Adding to the excitement and

Cricketer Ashwin buys team

The five other franchise --Alpine SG Pipers, PBG Alaskan Knights, Ganges Grandmasters, defending champions Triveni Continental Kings and Mumba Masters will return for a

second season. Sameer Pathak, CEO, Global Chess League, said, "We are thrilled to welcome the teams for the second season of the Global Chess League. We have found the right partners to strengthen the league's global reach and look forward to

bringing an exciting season of chess to fans worldwide. "The teams made season one a huge success and we believe that their impact and popularity will continue to expand in the world of chess." The players will compete in a unique joint team format consisting of six players, including two top women chess players and a prodigy player per team.

innovative format will be aired on major OTT and broadcast platforms worldwide. In the tournament, each team

will play a total of 10 matches in a double round-robin format, with the winner of each match being decided in a best-of-six board scoring system.

Éach team will play 10 matches across black and white pieces. The sides will play five matches, with all six players in each team initially playing with the white or black pieces against their opponents, followed by a reverse round in which the entire team will play five matches with the reversed colour pieces against the same opponent.

The winning team for every match will be determined by the points aggregated from wins and draws across all six games played in the match. The top two sides will advance to the final round.

Jayasuriya named Sri Lanka's interim coach ahead of limited overs series against India

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya was on Monday named the interim head coach of Sri Lanka's cricket team ahead of this month's whiteball home series against India with the country's board saying that he is "wellpositioned" to guide the side till a "permanent solution" is found in the next few months. The Indian team will be touring Sri Lanka for three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs, starting July 27. Jayasuriya, who has also served as a chief selector in the past, will continue in the post till Sri Lanka's Test tour to England in August-September, comprising three games.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of Mr. Sanath Jayasuriya as the 'Interim Head Coach' of the national team. He will function in the position until the completion of Sri Lanka's tour of England in September 2024," the SLC said in a statement.

55-year-old, swashbuckling opener in his prime, was named for the Chris Silverwood resigned last week as Sri Lanka head coach. Parliament from 2010-15.

Silverwood stepped down in the wake of the country's disastrous T20 World Cup campaign, during which it was ousted from the league stage itself.

One of the most attacking batters of his time, Jayasuriya had recently been a consultant for the team during this year's T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean.

"Jayasuriya is currently serving as the full-time 'Cricket Consultant' of Sri Lanka Cricket. His new appointment comes into immediate effect." 'Sanath with his wealth of cricketing international experience is well positioned to guide the national team, until we find a permanent solution," said SLC CEO

Ashley De Silva. Jayasuriya featured in 110 Tests between 1991 and 2007, scoring 6973 runs at an average of 40.07, with the help of 14 centuries and 31 fifties. In the 445 ODIs he played, the left-hander struck 13,430 runs at an average of 32.36, with 28 hundreds and 68 half

centuries. He was a key member of the Sri Lankan team that won interim post after Englishman 1996 ODI World Cup. He also served as Member

Maldives' tourism body invites T20 world champ Indian team to celebrate trophy there

PTI MALE

The recently-crowned T20 world champion Indian cricket team has been invited to celebrate its triumph in Maldives by the country's tourism association and its marketing and public relations corporation.

The Rohit Sharma-led Indian team won the trophy in Barbados after beating South Africa by seven runs in the final on June 29.

"Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/ Visit Maldives) in collaboration with the Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) have jointly extended a special and open invitation to the Indian National Cricket Team," the two bodies said in a joint statement.

Ibrahim Shiuree, the CEO and Managing Director of MMPRC, and Ahmed Nazeer, Secretary General of MATI, said they look forward to

Indian women's cricket team fielding coach Munish Bali lauded Uma Chetry for her

fielding skills, and said the

young wicket-keeper is a "truly

Chetry, 21, made her T20

International debut against

South Africa in the abandoned

second game of the three-

match series here on Sunday,

and inflicted a stumping off

Deepti Sharma's bowling to get

rid of a well-settled Tanzim

This was after Chetry had

earlier missed a similar chance

against Brits as she collected

But Bali backed the youngster

and recalled how she had

bravely fielded at the short-leg

during the Test match against

"I was happy when she was

South Africa last week.

the ball ahead of the stumps.

hard-working cricketer".

PTI CHENNAI

Brits.



hosting the team, which returned to India on Thursday last week.

It was welcomed by frenzied fans in both Delhi and Mumbai, which also played host to a victory parade featuring lakhs of supporters. "We would be honoured to host you and ensure that your stay is filled with memorable moments, relaxation, and bespoke experiences," Shiuree and Nazeer said in in the joint statement.

They said the invitation also highlights the strong and longstanding cultural and sporting ties between the Maldives and

"It would be an immense honour for the Maldives to welcome the Indian Cricket Team and share in the joy of their triumph," Shiuree further

"We eagerly await the opportunity to host them, offering the perfect setting for them to create lasting memories of their victory celebration," he added.

The team is currently on a break. Its next international assignment is a six-match limited-overs series against Sri Lanka beginning July 27. The series comprises three ODIs and and as many Internationals. T20

Chetry is a truly hard-working cricketer: Indian women's fielding coach Bali

handed her debut cap. During the Test, she fielded for around 70-80 overs -- she is a brave girl," he said during the postmatch press conference.

"Standing at the short-leg is not easy. She got hit by the ball, but she stood there in pain. She has great attitude and is a truly hard-working cricketer. I was so happy for her to have stumped Brits." Rain washed out the second T20I between India and South Africa with the tourists setting the hosts a target of 178 to level the series. Despite some slip-ups on the field, Bali was overall content with the team's effort. "It's difficult to grip the ball when



it's drizzling. But still, we fielded very well. We are working on it (fielding)

getting better slowly. "No one drops catches intentionally. The players have been and it's in progress as we keep practising hard during our

(training) sessions, giving their best. At times, things click, and sometimes, it doesn't. Errors happen during matches. So, we keep telling them to keep giving their best and results will follow," he said.

Bali also praised the bowling effort of spinner Deepti Sharma, who returned with with figures of 2 for 20.

"She (Deepti) is an experienced bowler. Having played all three formats, she knows where her strength lies, and she keeps backing herself. Also, her experience of bowling at the death is immense, which makes her a truly good bowler.

I TRY TO BE PRESENT IN THE GAME AND DO THE BEST I CAN: ANNEKE BOSCH: Meanwhile, South Africa all-rounder Anneke Bosch is not bothered about her selection for the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in October. ... But, you still cannot be sure if you will get a chance or not and it's never guaranteed," said Bosch, who scored a 32-ball 40 on and shared a 38-run stand with Brits on Sunday.

"So, it helps, but I don't focus on that too much. I try to be present in the game and try to do the best I can at that moment. Whatever is meant to be, it will be.'

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