**OPINION 6** 

**WORLD 9** 

**MONEY 10** 

Late City Vol.160 Issue 192 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



# Spiralling terror in Jammu claims four Army personnel

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

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

of security forces was lured into the deep forest area where they were ambushed by the well-entrenched group of the foreign terrorists.

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

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



contact with the terrorists inducted to flush out the hiding in the area, which is a thickly forested and mountainous area with restricted visibility due to low clouds and rain.

In the initial volley of fire, four Indian Army personnel were injured, who later succumbed to their injuries. troops and Rajnath Singh spoke to Indian have been Army Chief General Upendra Additional troops equipment

terrorists and the use of drones and other technical resources is being ensured. The bravehearts have been identified as Captain Brijesh Thapa, son of Col (Retd) BK Thapa, Naik D Rajesh, Sepoy Bijendra & Sepoy Ajay. Union Defence Minister

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

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

Continued on Page 8

ALONG KUKRAIL — P3

#### Implementation of digital attendance of govt teachers put on hold

PNS LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday decided to suspend its order for digital attendance of teachers till further orders and constituted a committee to submit its report on the

'The decision to implement digital attendance of teachers has been suspended till further orders. It has been decided to form an expert committee to listen to the problems and suggestions of the teachers and submit its report," an official statement issued here said.

This committee will include the education department officials, teachers' union members and educationists, and will consider all aspects of education and give its suggestions for improvement. Digital attendance will be kept suspended till further orders. Any further decision will be taken on the basis of the committee's report, it said. The decision was taken after a meeting of Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh with department education officials and teachers' organisations. Details on P3

CM YOGI GIVES RESIDENTS RELIEF FROM DEMOLITION



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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA/CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

n two separate ghastly Imurder incidents that have sent shock waves across Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and the political circles of the national Capital days ahead of Parliament Session, former State Minister Mukesh Sahni's 70-year-old father was found stabbed to death at his native home in Darbhanga district. Meanwhile, in southern India, a senior functionary of Naam Tamilar Katchi was hacked to death in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday. The killing of Balasubramanian,

who is Madurai district deputy secretary of the NTK,

comes days after the murder

of Bahujan Samaj Party state

chief K Armstrong in Chennai. Jitan Sahani, father of Mukesh Sahani, was allegedly found murdered at his ancestral

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

former Bollywood

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

speedy investigation. Continued on Page 8

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre has convened I an all-party meeting on July 21 ahead of the Monsoon ssion of Parliament which will start next Monday during which the full fledged annual Budget of the third term of the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government will presented.
The traditional "halwa"

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

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

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



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

Budget session.

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 8

#### RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

They would also be able to decide in which order they want the BU, CU, and VVPAT to be connected. The



**EC** releases SOPs for EVMs

order in which the units are connected does not have an impact on how they work. According to the SOP, the checking would be done by authorised and trained engineers from BEL and

The entire process would be carried out under CCTV cameras and in the presence of candidates or their representatives.

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

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

The poll body said the cast votes. eligible candidates can give All EVM units will undergo choices of polling stations or serial numbers of machines from within the Assembly segment or constituency, subject to a maximum of five per cent EVMs used in that segment or seat to undergo check and verification

are picked up from across the constituency as per choice of the applicant without the involvement of a third party or officials in selecting or leaving out any particular machine. The ch and match EVM units from any polling station in the assembly constituency has also been offered. If any applicant candidate selects any specific unit -

This will ensure the EVMs

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

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

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

Continued on Page 8

## Top babus tasked to push Modi's 100-day agenda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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



Rajiv Gauba

concerted steps should be taken for India to become the third largest economy in the shortest possible time. He said Modi has emphasised

that all Ministries and departments should identify at least one impactful project to be commissioned, one project to be grounded and one scheme or initiative to be

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

each Ministry and department will formulate initiatives and ideas for implementation as part of 'Panch Pran' (five resolutions) announced by the Prime Minister during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2022.

"Each Ministry/ department effect qualitative in their improvements grievance redressal systems to make them more sensitive, accessible and meaningful

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

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

Continued on Page 8

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

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

recalled Puja "for further action", the Maharashtra Government kept her district



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

and immediately recall you for further necessary action. Therefore, you are hereby relieved from the district training programme of the State Government of Maharashtra.... You are instructed to join the academy at the earliest but not later than July 23, 2024 under any circumstances," Maharashtra's additional chief secretary (P) Nitin Gadre stated in a letter issued to Puja. Puja's recall to LBSNAA came on the heels of her transfer to Washim from Pune, amid allegations of manipulation of disability and OBC certificates for getting into the civil services.

Continued on Page 8

### **Extortion demanded from** man constructing house

PNS LUCKNOW

history-sheeter demand-Anistory-sneeter

ed extortion for allowing a house to be constructed on a plot and protection from goons in Lucknow's Sushant Golf City area.

To prevent police from tracking him, the history-sheeter threatened the complainant on a video call and demanded extortion money. The victim was told by the caller to come to the court and pay the money there.

The police are investigating the case on the complaint filed by the victim and are collecting evidence to corroborate the miscreant's crime. According to the reports, Vikas Kumar Singh, of

3,000 square feet plot in Madharmau Kala in Lucknow. In this plot, 1,500 square feet area is in the name of Vikas Singh and 1,500 square feet in the name of Sarita Singh. Vikas Singh is living there

after building a house in the portion of land in his name since 2020. On July 10, he was getting construction done on the remaining area when 12-15 people came in the afternoon. They pointed a pistol at Vikas Singh and asked him to talk to a person on a video call. The person talking on the video introduced himself as Rishabh Rai and said he was a history-sheeter and people feared him. He told the complainant that if he wanted to

done on the plot, he would have to pay Rs 9 lakh. "For this, come to the court and meet me. If you do not pay, you will be murdered," he threatened Vikas.

Vikas Singh gathered informa-tion about the person who talked to him on the video call to cross-check and was shocked to know that he was history-sheeter Rishabh Rai of Faizullaganj on Sitapur road against whom several cases were registered at police sta-

Inspector of Sushant Golf City, Anjani Kumar Mishra, said a complaint to this effect was filed and a case would be registered and appropriate action would be taken.

> After this, Karan told his mother that he would come home after some time and sent her home. When he did not return home for a long time, the mother and her second son searched for him but he was not found. The family then informed the police about the matter. The police said the post-mortem report give the cause of death.

Teenager found dead in Alanbagh

**Lucknow (PNS):** A 14-year-old boy was found dead in Alambagh police station area of

On Tuesday, the boy was found

lying unconscious behind the

Pink Booth at Eco Garden. On

receiving information, Eco

Garden police outpost in-charge reached the spot and took the boy to Lok Bandhu Hospital

where the doctors pronounced

The deceased was identified as

Karan Rawat (14) of Pyarepur

village under Harichanpur

police station of Rae Bareli dis-trict. He was living with his mother and brothers in

Kailashpuri (near Eco Garden)

in Lucknow. Both he and his

brother worked as daily-wage labourers. Their mother works

Karan used to work at fast food

and tea shops near Eco Garden.

Karan's mother said that last

Monday night Karan had gone

to Eco Garden along with her and there he drank coconut

Lucknow.

him dead.

as a maid.

### Khurram Nagar flyover likely to be completed in 2 months

SHARMILA KRSHNA

The Khurram Nagar flyover, which is under construction currently, is likely to be completed in two months' time. This flyover will help reduce traffic snarls in the crucial catchment area in this region. The flyover starts a little ahead from where the Munshi Pulia-Ayodhya road flyover ends and will relieve snarls in Indira Nagar, Jankipuram, Aliganj, Kursi road, Vikas Nagar, Gomti Nagar, Mahanagar, Tedhi Pulia and Khurram Nagar.

Officials say this flyover will also maintain the traffic flow as it will reduce the chaos and decongest the traffic, saving time, fuel and energy of lakhs of daily commuters. It will also ensure quicker healthcare as there are many important hos-pitals along the highway's alignment such as Jagrani Hospital, Regency Hospital and others which cater to emergency healthcare for the local popula-

A PWD official said that it was a continuous bridge, "Most bridges are constructed span by span and this is a bridge which does not have bearings. Least number of expansion joints

have been used in the design and each expansion joint is at least 90 metres away so there is a continuous motorability which is itself a structural marvel," he said

An official from the construction company, while giving details, pointed out that the total length of the flyover is 2.6 km and it starts from Sector 19 of Indira Nagar and ends at the mini stadium in Vikas Nagar. "It is a four-lane flyover and will provide continuation to all those who want to go to Ayodhya because if one is coming from the side of IIM-L then the commuter will move over the Madiyaon flyover, Tedhi Pulia flyover, Khurram Nagar flyover and then Munshi Pulia flyover - a continuous chain of flyovers," he said, adding that the flyover was being constructed as a project of Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highway Authority of India with PWD as

the authority engineer.
"Ninety-five per cent of the construction work has been completed and the flyover will be ready by the month of September this year," he added. Talking about the uniqueness of this flyover, he said that it had V-shaped piers which form an arches over which the load rests,

"Normally all piers of flyovers are in vertical portions and the load rests them on unlike this flyover where the load rests on the arches. This is the latest technology and V-shaped piers are unlikely in any other flyovers in the city, he said.

He said that the flyover had a big arch near the Kukrail bridge, "The beam will rest on the arch in this portion since no pier could be constructed there," he added.

He said that they had also installed steel girders at five points in the flyover, "We cannot make RCC girders at crossings because it can cause severe traffic snarls hence pre-assembled steel girders are placed at these points which include Khurram Nagar, Jagrani and Indira Nagar Sector 25," he added.

The official said that the flyover had approach portions from both sides whose total length was 375 metres – 201 metre of the approach road from the Indira Nagar side and 174 metres approach road from the mini stadium side with 2,236 metre long main structure work. "The construction started in 2022 and the total construction cost is Rs 200.66 crore," the

### Man accused of kidnapping son

PNS LUCKNOW

Aman fighting a legal battle with his wife for the custody of his son was accused of kidnapping him in Gosainganj on Tuesday.

In her complaint to the police, the wife directly accused him while referring to the footage of a CCTV camera installed at the school. She also accused the school administration of carelessness and being unconcerned with the child's safety. The incident came to light when the boy, Mahib, was not found in school when his maternal uncle went to the school to pick him up for the

The police have registered a case on the complaint of the woman and the child is being searched.

Shagufta Parveen of Gosaiganj market told the police in her complaint that her son Mahib (8) is a Class 3 student at a school in the area. She said Mahib went to the school with his maternal

uncle at 7:30 am on Tuesday and later was reported miss-

Parveen alleged that her husband, Sajjad, had kidnapped her son.

When the child's maternal uncle went to pick him up from school in the afternoon, he was not found in school. The school staff told the complainant that some unknown person had taken away the child by luring him. After this, the police were informed about the matter over the phone. Police reached the spot, and when the CCTV of the school was scanned, a person was seen taking the child away. The person taking away the child was identified by the complainant as Sajjad, according to police.

Inspector Brijesh Chandra Tripathi said that the child's father was a section officer in the Education department in Delhi. He said an FIR had been registered against Sajjad on the basis of the complaint and police teams had been

formed to search for the child. Preliminary investigation revealed that a divorce case is going on between Shagufta and Sajjad. The couple is also fighting a legal battle for custody of Mahib and the case is pending in court.

#### STUDENT KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

A Class VII student was killed after a brick laden tractor-trollev hit him in Gosainganj on Tuesday. The incident evoked protest by the villagers who demanded arrest of the errant driver. They were pacified by senior cops who assured quick action in the case.

The victim, Raj (15) of Kutubpur village of Gosainganj, was going to his school in Gopi Khera by cycle when a tractor driver identified as Taj of Rehmat Nagar knocked him down, killing him on the spot. The driver abandoned the tractor-trolley

Police registered a case and seized the tractor-trolley.

#### **Home guard under scanner** The cops also detected blood

retired home guard is Aretired nome guard is under police scanner in connection with the murder of a mentally challenged woman whose body was recovered from the bank of a pond in Sarojini Nagar police station area two days back.

A police team has detected marks of dragging on the pathway between a small room in the vicinity and the bank of pond from where the victim's body was recovered on Sunday. Also, soil was found stuck on the back of the woman's body.

stains and droplets of blood at the crime scene.

The small room is owned by a retired home guard who pleaded innocent, saying he had the keys of the room with him. The cops could not detect the lock put up on the small room nor did they find any mark on the door and its latch to suggest the lock was broken.

Also, a youth is on the radar of police. The youth, a vagabond, was reportedly seen going towards the crime scene a day before the body was recovered. Sources said the woman was

mentally challenged and she probably strayed her way and was overpowered by the killers who battered her to death.

"But without a motive, no one kills anyone. In this case, the victim was sound enough to explain to her parents about the sexual assault, if it took place, or she would have seen the killers committing some other crime," the sources said while explaining the possible motive behind the murder of the woman. On the other hand, the autopsy report revealed that the woman had 12 wounds caused by some heavy object on her

head. She also was attacked on the stomach but no bruises or cut wounds were found on her private parts. The cops made a slide of blood sample and swab and have sent it to forensic lab to ascertain if she was raped. The police had recovered the body of a woman from the bank of a pond in an area in Sarojini Nagar on Sunday. Some villagers had spotted the body and called the police. DCP (South) Tej Swaroop Singh had said the woman was murdered and the police

#### Man, wife shot by nephew

A man and his wife were shot dead by his nephew who also shot at the victim's son in Takrohi area of Indira Nagar late at night on Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Rajendra Singh and his wife Saroj Singh. Their son, who was injured in the gun fire, was identified as Shrawan Singh.

Police said Rajendra and Saroj were pronounced dead at the hospital. Shrawan suffered gun-

मेरे Passport और marksheet मे नाम MOHD HUZAIFA S/O MOHD OAMAR AJAZ जो गलत है मेरा नाम MOHAMMAD HUZAIFA S/O पहचाना जाये, R/O M&8/24, K-D-A-COLONY. JAJMAU KANPUR-208010

मेरे Passport में मेरा नाम SALMAN S/O SHABBIR जो गलत है मेरा नाम MOHD SALMAN S/O SHABIR है मुझे इसी नाम से जाना पहचाना जाये, R/O PLOT NO- G1, DTS ROAD, GAJJU PURWA, JAJMAU KANPUR-208010

#### **NOTICE**

I. Roshan Ara Khan, aged about 50 years, wife of Abdul Rehman Khan, residing at 592/965, Bengali Tola, Kharika, Telibagh, Lucknow, U.P.-226002, hereby declare in my full senses that from today. I shall be known and recognized by the name of Roshan Ara Khan.

#### **NOTICE**

I, Abdul Rehman Khan, aged about 54 years, son of Mohammad Anees Khan, residing at 592/965, Bengali Tola, Kharika, Telibagh, Lucknow, U.P.-226002, hereby declare in my full senses that from today, my daughter shall be known and recognized by the name of Andleeb Rehman Khan.



#### CHANGE OF NAME

Islam alias Mohd Talha Shamsul Islam S/o Shamsul Islam R/o, Devaganv Mandap-Gonda Uttar-Pradesh-271313 changed my name to Talha Shams Saiyed.

PD(603)A 208002

### **AUCTION-NOTICE**

शिविर कार्यालय शिक्षा निदेशक, (माध्यमिक), उ०प्र०, 18—पार्क रोड, लखनऊ में निष्प्रयोज्य घोषित कार्यालय सामग्रियों की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु. 10.000/- नगद फर्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण के साथ

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, JC-732659H Sub Maj Vijay Kumar Maurya resident of Vill & PO- Chhapiya, Tehsil - Sadar, District - Gorakhpur, PIN-273016 (U.P.), Unit - HQ Central Command (Ord). In my service record my son's name is wrongly recorded as Abhishek Maurya and DOB is 08 Jun 1999 whereas his correct name is Abhishek Kumar Maurya and DOB is 08 Jun 2000.

#### **NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Manish Shridhar To Manoranjan Shridhar for all future purpose, Manoranjan Shridhar Vishnu Kant Shridhar R/o 7/107, No.108, Habitat Apartment,Swaroop Kanpur Nagar 208002

#### **NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my name in Aadhar card pan card and school documents is Afreen Siddiqui whereas in my passport the name has been entered as Afreen Sadiq by mistake, The correct name is Afreen Siddiqui D/o Mohd Sadiq,R/o 265 Nizampur Malhaur Chinhat Lucknow

#### NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name in Aadhar card pan card and school documents is Mohd Farman Siddique whereas in my passport the name has been entered as Mohd Farman Sadiq by mistake. The correct name is Mohd Farman Siddique S/o Mohd Sadiq R/o 265 Nizampur Malhaur Chinhat Lucknow

#### **NOTICE**

have changed my name from A.K.Gupta To Ashwani Gupta for all future purpose, Ashwani Gupta S/o Late Roshan Gupta R/o 9/79, Arya Nagar Kanpur,

### Bag full of cash and jewellery stolen at wedding function

lerv at a weddi function in a lawn in Sushant Golf

City here. The theft was captured on CCTV cameras installed in the lawn. On the complaint of the victim, the

police registered a case against unknown thieves and have started looking for him on the basis of the

Pramod Kumar Shukla, a resident of Adarsh Nagar near Omaxe City R-1, in his complaint to the police, said that his daughter's wedding was held on July 11 at Balaji Lawn located in Ahimamau.

"On July 12, at around 6 am, I kept a bag full of jewellery and cash in the pavilion and went to bless the bride and groom. When I returned, the bag was missing," he said.

According to Pramod, the bag contained a gold chain, a gold ring and cash. He searched around a lot but could not find the bag. On checking the footage of CCTV cameras installed in the lawn, a 12-year-old boy sitting behind him in the pavilion for

Lucknow (PNS ): A thief stole a bag a long time was seen taking the bag Sushant Golf City Inspector Anjani Kumar Mishra said that a case had been registered and the thief was being

A man stabbed his neighbour and latter's son after the latter's wife scolded his son for making noise outside their shanty late in the night on July 14 in

Krishna Nagar. The injured boy Arjun and his injured father Suresh were admitted to Lok Bandhu Hospital and the police are looking for the accused who is on the

As per reports, Santoshi Sahu of a slum behind the CMS Jai Jagat Park scolded children of her neighbour Shiva for making noise in the night

while playing.
This snowballed in a verbal spat as Shiva's wife confronted Santoshi. As the verbal spat intensified, Shiva came out of his shanty and attacked Santoshi's son and her husband with a knife and fled the scene.

#### Missing toddler's body found in **Meerut village**

Lucknow (PNS): A shocking incident unfolded in Bhavnapur's Datawali village in Meerut, where a two-and-a-half-year-old girl from Ghaziabad went missing during her uncle's wedding procession on Monday and she was found Tuesday.

Reports said that after a frantic search by police and villagers, the toddler's body was discovered near the cremation ground in Bhavnapur's Datawali village in Meerut during the early hours of Tuesday.

Disturbingly, the girl's body bore marks of a sharp

While there is speculation that the murder might be linked to "black magic", the exact motive remains unclear. The police have sent the body for post-mortem.

The police have detained three persons for questioning and are making efforts to determine the exact motive behind the heinous act.

Meanwhile, four children drowned while taking a bath in a pond in Gursahaiganj area of Kannauj

Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Anand said on Tuesday that four children - Abdullah (12), Shadan (11), Hasan (12) and Junaid (13) of Gardabad in Samdhan town under Gursahaiganj police station - had gone to take bath in a pond located nearby on Monday. They drowned as they

went into deep water. He said that the local people took out the bodies of the children from the pond.

#### were looking for the motive shot injuries in his hand RLD to work for winning all seats in UP bypolls

PNS LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal national secretary Anupam Mishra ensure that the ruling party wins all the 10 seats in the UP assembly bypolls irrespective of how many and which seats were allotted to the RLD as per negotiation with the Bharatiya Ianata Party.

He was speaking to newsmen about the bypoll to the UP assembly seats vacated either after the sitting MLA was elected to the Lok Sabha or for other reasons.

Mishra said Meerapur was a Jat-dominated constituency and was with RLD. "It vacated after our MLA

Chandan Chauhan was elected to the Lok Sabha. So it is a bastion of the RLD and we are sure we will win it for the National Democratic Alliance if given the seat in negotiations," Mishra said.

Political analysts say the Khair and Ghaziabad assembly constituencies are Brihman and Jat dominated and Brahmin

and Rajput dominated respectively. "The Jat and Vaish stand third and fourth respectively in Ghaziabad assembly has said that the party leaders constituency. If these two and workers will work hard to seats fall in RLD's kitty then the seats would be won by the NDA alliance in all probability," the analysts said.

They say the RLD being a major player in west UP could give an edge to the NDA in the UP bypolls. "The BJP leadership is in talk with RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary and they are cobbling an equation to decide the seats the party will get," the analysts said.
Anupam Mishra said the

party was not in the bind of seat allocation in bypolls and number of seats it got. "We will contest the election under the NDA as a joint political force and will aim to bag all the 10 seats. If the alliance will be strong we will also be strong also. There is no looking back now and the RLD will be contesting elections as per alliance rules and with the aim of winning all the seats," the RLD national secretary

## 143 out of 162 block-level road projects completed in state

PNS LUCKNOW

A s part of its commitment to developing a network of high-quality roads to provide better transport facilities to the citizens of Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath govern-ment has completed 88.27 per cent of the work related to the construction of two-lane roads connecting block headquar-

In the last seven years, there has been a significant transformation in the state's road infrastructure. National highways, state highways, main district roads (MDR) and roads connecting blocks and villages are all being developed in an integrated manner. The detailed action plan, prepared according to Chief Minister Yogi's vision, is progressing rapidly, ensuring comprehensive development

According to the Public Works Department, 162 road projects are to be completed at the block level, mainly focusing on two-lane roads connecting block headquarters. Of these, 88.27 per cent of the projects (143) have been completed so far, whereas the

across all road networks.

remaining eight will be fin-ished by September, and five more by December. Thus, by the end of this year, 13 pending projects will be completed, with the remaining six will be finished in the first quarter of 2025. The state government is particularly focused on completing these projects within the set time frame, which is why the road construction and redevel-

opment plans at the block

level are progressing rapidly. According to the PWD, the

Yogi government is advancing

the development of interstate

border routes in the state. Out of 102 total projects for developing these roads, 86 have been completed, which is about 85 per cent. Currently, 16 projects are under construction, with eight expected to be completed by December 2024, and the remaining eight by the first quarter of 2025. Additionally, work is underway on 142 projects approved under the Central Road Fund.

Out of these, 138 projects have been completed, and all projects are expected to be finished by the first quarter of 2025. So far, 97.18 per cent of the work has been completed. The PWD is working on various projects in the state. These include developing national highways, roads funded by the Central Road Fund, roads built with loans from the World Bank, NABARD and Asian Bank, and the construction of bridges and ROBs (rail over bridges), as well as the development of block-nagar panchayat and rural roads.

During the Yogi government's tenure over the past seven years, 28,538 kilometres of rural roads have been developed and re-constructed. The state is advancing the

construction of 46 new national highways covering 4,115 kilometres and 70 new state highways covering 5,604 kilometres. Notably, during the Yogi government's tenure, road widening and strength-ening have been progressing at an average of nine kilometres per day, while one bridge is being constructed every two days. In the past seven years, the government has developed 2,503 kilometres of state highways, 5,934 kilometres of major district roads. and 13,849 kilometres of other district roads.

#### **SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN-2024** In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Summer Special Train as per details given below:-

Train No.: 03113		1 074710110 4	Train No.: 03114	
ARR.	DEP.	<b>↓</b> STATIONS <b>↑</b>	ARR.	DEP.
	23:55	Sealdah	10:20	
01:25	01:27	Bardhaman	08:08	08:10
02:18	02:20	Durgapur	07:00	07:02
02:50	02:55	Asansol	06:05	06:10
03:18	03:20	Chittaranjan	05:16	05:18
04:03	04:05	Madhupur	04:37	04:39
04:58	05:03	Jasidih	04:07	04:12
06:55	07:00	Jhajha	03:30	03:35
07:45	07:47	Kiul	01:45	01:47
08:18	08:20	Mokama	01:03	01:05
10:30	10:40	Patna Jn	23:25	23:35
11:00	11:02	Danapur	22:35	22:37
14:30	14:40	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn	18:25	18:35
15:35	15:40	Varanasi	17:15	17:20
16:00		Banaras		17:00

DAYS OF RUN: 03113 from Sealdah on every Saturday from 27.07.2024 to 17.08.2024 and 03114 from Banaras on every Sunday from 28.07.2024 to 18.08.2024

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General For any other information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139

or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download Railmadad app. **NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

# Online attendance for council | CM Yogi alleviates fears of school teachers postponed

### Govt to form expert committee for further action

PNS LUCKNOW

The system of recording online attendance of teachers of council schools has been postponed for the time being. This decision was taken after a meeting of teachers' organ-isations with Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh here on Tuesday.

Now an expert committee will be formed in which there will be officials as well as educationists and then it will be implemented.

Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh claimed that the decision was taken on directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who advocated that quality of education in schools should be improved and other shortcomings removed and only then the government would be able to accomplish the goal set by the prime minister for world

class education in the country. He said that now necessary steps, including online attendance, would be taken after the expert committee would submit its report. The online attendance system was implemented on July 8 and since then teachers are continuously opposing it. Primary Teachers' Association president Dinesh Chandra Sharma and Uttar Pradesh BTC Teachers' Association president Anil Yadav have expressed happiness over this decision of the

government. Earlier all opposition political parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, had supported the teachers agitating against the online attendance system

Meanwhile after Śamajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati has also come out in support of teachers opposing online attendance in

government schools of Uttar Pradesh. She has described the government decision to make online attendance mandatory a step taken in haste without full preparation.

Mayawati wrote on social media on Tuesday, "Due to acute lack of necessary basic facilities in government schools of Uttar Pradesh, complaints of poor condition have been common, on which instead of solving those serious problems by making proper budgetary provisions, the government is doing only superficial work to divert attention from it; is this right?" She further wrote that digital attendance of teachers also seems to be a similar new step of the government which has been imposed "in haste without

full preparation". More important than this is the recruitment of the correct and appropriate number of teachers as well as development of basic

facilities so that good quality education can be ensured, she added.

The issue of digital attendance in the primary schools of the state does not seem to be resolved. Teachers of the entire state are adamant that they will not mark online attendance until their demands are met. There are protests in all the districts regarding this.
On the other hand, the chief

minister has given instructions to the officials to resolve this matter. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that all the district magistrates should communicate with the local teacher representatives along with BSA and ABSA, resolve their problems and queries appropriately, receive the report from the teacher representatives and send it to the headquarters. It should be ensured that the teaching-learning continues smoothly, he added.

### Over 55 lakh drumstick saplings to be planted during plantation drive

A iming to enhance the state's greenery and tackle the challenges of climate change, the Yogi Adityanath govern-ment is gearing up to set anoth-er remarkable record on July 20 by planting 36.50 crore saplings in a single day.

m a single day.

Moreover, the campaign underscores the government's commitment to public health by focusing on the plantation of drumstick saplings, called the powerhouse of nutrition. This year, the drive will include planting 55 lakh drumstick saplings. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed that every Anganwadi centre and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiary should be given drumstick saplings. Additionally, in aspirational districts that are lagging in development stan-dards, every family should be encouraged to plant a few drumstick saplings. This is also the idea behind the home garden initiative. If people become aware of the benefits of drumsticks and consume them, it would be akin to a successful battle against malnutrition.

The Central government has also recognised the benefits of drumsticks. Last year, the Centre instructed states to include drumsticks along with locally grown, nutrient-rich spinach, other vegetables, and legumes in the PM Poshan Scheme during the season. Drumstick is not just a plant; it is a powerhouse of nutri-

#### 10,000 trees to be planted on banks of Kukrail river

n view of the main tree I plantation programme to be held on the banks of the Kukrail river on Ayodhya road Akbar Nagar-1 on July 20, Divisional Commissioner Dr Roshan Jacob, District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar and Police Commissioner Amarendra Kumar Sengar jointly inspected the site.

During the inspection, land-scaping work was found to be

going on.
The divisional commissioner said that there should be greenery four and a half kilometres along the river Kukrail. She said that Saumitra Van and Shakti Van would be developed on about 25 acres of land, which would have a series of oxygen-giv-

The district magistrate said that under the massive tree plantation campaign, about 10,000 saplings would be planted using Miyawaki method near river Kukrail out of which 6,000 would be big plants and 4,000 small

plants.
During the inspection, the district magistrate gave instructions to make arrangements of ambulances, drink-

ing water tankers and mobile toilets at the venue as a large number of people would attend the programme. He also instructed that the landscaping work should be completed and the work of digging pits should be start-

ed from Wednesday morning.
The divisional commissioner gave instructions that parking arrangements should be ensured for the convenience of the people participating in the programme. The divisional commissioner said that 32 species of trees er said that 32 species of trees including Sheesham, Jamun, Bel, Arjun, Mango, Tamarind, Amla, Jackfruit, Guava would be planted in the forest area. Apart from this, 10 herb species like Sarpagandha, Aloe Vera and shrub species like Lemon, Karonda and Chandni would also be planted, she added. Joint Police Commissioner Kirit Rathod, Lucknow Development Authority Vice Chairman Prathamesh Municipal Kumar, Commissioner Indrajit Singh and Divisional Forest Officer Shitanshu Pandey along with

other officers and engineers

were present during the

tion. Its leaves and pods possess properties that can prevent over 300 diseases. They contain 92 types of vitamins, 46 types of antioxidants, 36 types of amino acids. The drumstick has seven times

more Vitamin C than oranges, four times more Vitamin A than carrots, four times more calcium than milk, three times more potassium than bananas and three times more protein than yogurt. Wherever there is a problem of malnutrition in the world, drumsticks exist. This is why it is also called a miracle plant. In the southern Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, drumstick is cultivated and its pods and leaves are used in various ways. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has developed two varieties of drumsticks named PKM-1 and PKM-2. PKM-1 is particularly suited to the agricultural climate of the region. It can grow in all types of soil, as long as it receives ample

The benefits of drumsticks do not end here. Using its fresh or dried leaves as fodder has been reported to increase milk production in animals by more than one and a half times and weight by more than onethird. Additionally, spraying crops with a solution of drumstick leaf juice mixed with water results in an increase in yield by more than one and a quarter times.

# demolition along Kukrail

#### Residents laud CM, express gratitude

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has stepped forward to allay fears and provide reassurance to residents of Pantnagar, Indraprastha Nagar Pantnagar, Indraprastha Nagar and Rahimnagar, who have been in grip of anxiety for months over rumors of impending demolition of their houses due to the Kukrail river revival project.

According to an official communique released on Tuesday evening, responding to the growing concerns of the resgrowing concerns of the residents, Chief Minister Yogi summoned the affected people to his residence early Tuesday morning. His compassionate approach during the meeting brought immense relief to the distressed community. Initially arriving with tears of anguish, the faces of the representatives of the residents of these localities were idents of these localities were lit up with smiles of relief within an hour as they left. the release claimed.

The spontaneous outpouring of gratitude and prayers for Chief Minister Yogi echoed across the region, with many crediting his leadership for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every Uttar Pradesh resident under his care. As one local remarked, "As long ilies found refuge under newly provided roofs after the as Baba's protection extends over Uttar Pradesh, no harm bulldozers. can touch us." The commu-

mafia, criminals and unlawful activities. He has reiterated time and again that the bulldozers are not there to harass the poor, ordinary citizens, traders or the vulnerable by demolishing their dwellings. He has stressed the importance of making proper arrangements before displacing any impoverished individuals.

nique further mentions that

the recent instance where Chief Minister Yogi comfort-

ed the victims is not isolated.

He has consistently empha-

sised that bulldozers are

meant solely for tackling

In a recent incident in Prayagraj, more than 76 fam-

ily warmly welcomed the chief minister. The chief minister

expressed his best wishes for

Mahana's speedy and full recov-

Accompanying the chief min-

ister were state Cabinet minis-

ters Suresh Khanna and

Swatantra Dev Singh, along with Sarojini Nagar MLA

Rajeshwar Singh, among oth-

इंडियन बैंक

Yogi administration cleared mafia-controlled land with

Nisha Jha, a resident of Pantnagar, expressed grati-tude after CM Yogi personal-ly listened to their grievances and assured them that proper documentation would safeguard their homes. His intervention also aimed to understand and alleviate the prevailing sense of panic among residents, ensuring that no homes would be lost. "I cannot thank the chief minister enough," said Nisha, reflecting on the relief brought to her family, especially con-cerning the well-being of her young children during the

"For a week, I could not eat due to worry, but CM Yogi resolved our problem swiftly," Nisha

said. Similarly, Amit Srivastava of Indraprastha Nagar lauded the chief minister's directive to investigate and rectify any confusion caused by officials marking properties.

He emphasised Chief Minister Yogi's commitment that no poor person would lose their land or home, with stringent measures to prevent future flood-related issues.

Gunjan Shukla from Rahim Nagar conveyed heartfelt thanks to Chief Minister Yogi, acknowledging his support for their community.
She highlighted his caring

approach towards children and families, underscoring that his solutions brought them immeasurable happiness. "The words are inadequate to express our gratitude to the chief minister," Gunjan remarked, echoing the sentiment shared across

### Yogi visits Mahana to enquire about health



n a gesture of goodwill, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid a visit to the residence of Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana on Tuesday to enquire about his

Last month, Speaker Mahana underwent open heart surgery in Gurugram due to deteriorating health conditions.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया

Date: 17.07.2024, Place: Lucknow

### Party workers being neglected: BJP MLC

In apparent signs of disen-chantment within the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh, ruling party MLC Devendra Pratap Singh has claimed that the workers of the party are being neglected and there is "loot within the bureaucracy'

The BJP MLC blamed the bureaucracy for the resentment among the primary school teachers over the biometric attendance. He said if things in the state do not improve, then the situation could worsen.

chpur-Faizabad constituency said bureaucrats in the state had bought outdated smartphones at double the price, and tablets were being sold at high prices, in a probable reference to Uttar Pradesh government schemes that distribute these gadgets among students. This, he added, should be investigated. Singh has also written a letter to Chief Minister Yogi

Zonal Office: Tindwari Road, Near St. Marry School, Banda, Uttar Pradesh - 210001 Appendix-IV Under [RULE - 8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13 (12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest [Enforcement], Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date 07.02.2024 against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The

borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property / ies

Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

Adityanath, lauding his and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance but alleging a "conspiracy by bureau-crats" to undermine the government.

system for teachers, which has stoked protests in the state. His remarks came on the heels of the BJP state unit's working committee meeting

The letter primarily questioned the digital attendance

on Sunday, its first important congregation after the Lok Sabha elections. The speakers at the meeting included Uttar Pradesh Chief Singh, the MLC from the Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief

Keshav Prasad Maurya and BJP president JP Nadda. At the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi said "overconfidence" had hurt the party in the Lok Sabha elections, while Maurya described the lowered tally as a temporary

setback that the party would overcome by 2027, when the

state holds its next assembly

### **UPPCL** revenue surges 17 pc in 2023-24

inspection.

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) has significantly boosted its revenue collection by over 17 per cent in the last financial year 2023-24 ending on March 31. The power utility has also added to its installed capacity of power distribution.

In 2022-23, UPPCL's revenue collection was Rs 59,635 crore, which has risen by 17.63 per cent to Rs 70,153 2023-24. in Additionally, in 2023-24, the number of electricity connections in the state reached approximately 3.46 crore, with a total load of 73,835 MW. During the recent review meeting presided by Chief mately 2.37 crore in 2022-23 Minister Yogi Adityanath, and over 3.16 crore in 2021-22. UPPCL reported that its revenue collection for 2023-24

reached Rs 70,153 crore, areas. Additionally, domestic marking a 17.63 per cent consumers make up 87 per cent increase.

During this period, significant improvements were also noted in both collection and billing efficiency. Collection efficiency rose from 93.42 per cent in 2022-23 to 99.54 per cent in 2023-24, while billing efficiency improved to 84.44 per cent, up from 83.35 per cent in the previous year. Billing efficiency refers to accurately and promptly issuing electricity bills to consumers, while collection efficiency denotes the timely recovery of these bills from consumers.

In 2023-24, the total number of electricity consumers in the state had nearly reached 3.46 crore, compared to approxi-Among the existing consumers, 60 per cent reside in rural

of the total connections, while commercial and industrial consumers account for 7 per cent, and agricultural consumers represent 4 per cent. Domestic consumers account for 39 per cent of the revenue collection, while industrial consumers account for 22 per cent, government 13 per cent, non-domestic consumers 12 per cent, bulk supply and temporary connections 9 per cent, and agricultural consumers for 5 per cent. Additionally, the total load has seen a significant increase compared to 2022-23, rising from 70,137 MW to 73,835 MW in 2023-24. UPPCL Chairman Ashish Kumar Goyal stated, "In light of this year's scorching heat,

and following the chief minister's directives, we have ensured

a 24-hour power supply across the state from March 15 to

June 30, despite peak demand This continuous supply has been maintained at district and tehsil headquarters, as well as in metropolitan and rural areas."

He noted that peak demand in 2024-25 reached a record 30,618 MW, compared to 29,043 MW in 2023-24, reflecting a 16 per cent increase in average demand as of July 13, 2024. Additionally, quality power is being supplied to consumers without interruption. This has been achieved through effective planning, including advance power procurement via the DEEP portal and power banking arrangements with states such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

#### and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank Branch Fatehpur Aboonagar, Distt. Fatehpur for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below. The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to Name and address of the **Date of Demand Notice** Description of the Immovable Property Borrowers/Mortgagores/Guarantors Dt. of Possession Notice Branch: Fatehpur Aboonagar, Distt. Fatehpur, Mobile No.: 7408763153 Borrower: M/s S.N. Construction and Suppliers, 07.02.2024 Business Address: New Colony Jwalaganj, District-Fatehpur, Abdul Shafiq S/o Abdul Rahman, (Proprietor of M/s S.N. Revenue Village- Qasba Fatehpur South Known as Mohalla Jwalaganj, Pargana, Tehsil and District-Rs. 38,64,232.00 Construction and Borrower in Term Loan and also Mortgagor in both) R/o New Colony, Jwalaganj Bus stop, Fatehpur, UP-212601 Fatehpur, measuring Area- 191 sq.mt. in the name of + intt. & Charges

Mohd. Nafees S/o Abdul Shafiq, (Guarantor in cash credit and Boundaries: East: Rasta Kachha 10 feet, West: Co-Borrower in Term loan) Rasta Kachha 10 feet, North: Plot of Fareed and Smt R/o New Colony, Jwalaganj Bus stop, Fatehpur, Up-212601 Shahjahan, South: Plot of Qaneej Fatma, Place: Fatehpur Aboonagar, Distt. Fatehpur Date: 17.07.2024

> Zonal Office: "Star House" Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010,

Abdul Shafiq s/o Abdul Rahman

POSSESSION NOTICE

11.07.2024

Rs. 38,64,232.00

(as on 07.02.2024)

+ intt. & Charges

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

#### Bank of India Ph.: 0522-2721512 Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercis of powers conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules. 2002 on the dates mentione

of Security interest, Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a Demand Notice, calling borrower to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of same. The borrower having failed to repay the amount

here subj	eunder. The borrower in particular an ect to the charge of the <b>Bank of Indi</b>	d the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies as a for mentioned amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is it available, to redeem the secured assets.	nd any dealings with the property/ies will be
S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower & Guarantor	Description of Immovable property mortgaged / Owner of the property	Amount o/s as mentioned in the Notice u/s 13(2) Date of Demand & Possession Notice
	Branch: Nirala Nagar		
1	Borrower : Mr. Rizwan Zaheer Khan	All that part and parcel of the property belongs to Mr. Rizwan Zaheer Khan situated at House No. 4/1003, Sector-4, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow.  Area: 221.94 Sqmt., Bounded: East: 09 Mtr. wide Road, West: H. No. 4/1002, North: 12 Mtr. Wide Road South: H. No. 4/1034	₹ 16,03,139.51 + interest & other charges
	4/1003, Sector-4, Vikas Nagar Lucknow- 226022 (U.P.)		Demand Notice : dt. 12.04.2024
			Possession Notice : dt. 12.07.2024

### UPCC chief meets DGP, demands rule of law

PNS LUCKNOW

fter Congress general sec-After Congress general sec-retary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra targeted the Uttar Pradesh government over rising custodial deaths in the state, UP Congress president, Ajai Rai, on Tuesday, met Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, and handed him a memorandum, demanding immediate intervention to establish rule of law and also to take action against the guilty

policemen. In an official communiqué of the UP Congress, the party spokesman claimed that deaths in police custody were increasing continuously in Uttar Pradesh. He said that according to the report presented in the Lok Sabha, six people were dying in police cus-tody every day in the country and Uttar Pradesh was number

one in this case. In the year 2021-22, 501 people have died in police custody in Uttar Pradesh alone, which is a symbol of the anarchy prevailing in the state, he added. In Jalaun district, a person named Rajkumar died mysteriously in police custody recently. According to media reports, in Chitrakoot also a person named Anshu Kumar was arrested and taken away by the police, and his body was later found on the track of Panhai railway station.

The UP Congress spokesman further claimed that taking these matters seriously, a dele-

gation of UP Congress Committee led by state president Ajay Rai on Tuesday met the DGP and submitted a memorandum to draw his attention to the deaths occurring in police custody in the state as well as incidents of robbery and murder, harassment of women, mob lynching in Aligarh and Shamli districts of western UP and demanded immediate establishment of law and order in the state and strict action against the guilty policemen.

# Rising trend of Ganga continues in Varanasi

The water level of river Ganga continued to rise in this holy city for the fourth consecutive day on Tuesday. However, tas per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Committee (CWC) the speed of rising trend has slowed down. The water level was rising at a speed of just two centimetres per hour though the water level of this river was increasing by five and 10 cm per hour during the last two days respec-

With the rising trend, the connectivity of many Ganga ghats have been cut off. The devotees are finding it tough to reach from Dashashwamedh Ghat



to Lalita Ghat, near Ganga The water level of Ganga continued to rise in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Dwar, river side gate of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, via ghat-to-ghat. Besides, the site of internationally famous Ganga-Aarti held at Dashashwamedh Ghat has also been changed. With the increase in water level now the boatmen started tying their boats on the banks of the ghats and a pile of 'jalkumbhi' (water hyacinth) is being seen at many places on the banks of the ghats. The river water already entered Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple near Scindia Ghat. Many stairs at Rajghat also got submerged in the river water as well as two cremation ghats, Manikarnika and Harishchandra. Apart from the same, the water has reached the ramp of Namo Ghat. Though half of the

ing severe flood situations, this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP) is still safe as the main rivers are flowing far below the danger mark. However, in Varanasi during the last two weeks, the water level of Ganga river increased by nearly five metres from 57.66 metres on July 1 to 62.34 metres on July 16 at 8 am but it was still far below the danger mark of 70.262 metres but the region received a fresh threat of floods as Ganga was recorded rising right from Prayagraj to Ghazipur but was steady at upstream Phaphamau to downstream Ballia. However, the region received a relief as it remained dry for the last two days. The level of Gomti river remained steady at Jaunpur.

### ATS commandos to be deployed at KVT on Shravan Mondays

s the number of visitors Dwadasa Jyotirlinga since the inauguration of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) on December 13, 2021, and it is expected that the number of devotees will jump up further during the upcoming auspi-cious Hindi month of Shravan and will be over 10 lakh on every Monday of the month. The Shravan month this year will begin on July 22 and will fall on five Mondays during this auspicious month. As a result the district,

police and temple administrations have intensified their preparations and arrangements. To provide elaborate security. heavy para-military, police and PAC personnel will be deployed and on every Monday, according to informa-Antition,

Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos will be deployed at the corridor. Besides, this time more than 150 women police personnel will be deployed in plain clothes in view of the safety of women devotees in the streets and other areas around the corridor. In this direction the Varanasi Police

Commissionerate has already made a blueprint of the security arrangements of the corridor and its surrounding areas and Ganga ghats. Water police, PAC flood relief team and NDRF personnel will be deployed with motorboats from Adikeshav Ghat to Assi Ghat in Ganga

In view of the rising water level

of Ganga, barricading will be done by the Nagar Nigam for the safety of devotees in Ganga. The surveillance system will also be strengthened with the deployment of women police personnel at the crowded places. The police will also set up a help desk and lost and found centre. Two-wheelers will not be allowed to be parked in the narrow streets around the corridor from every Sunday night to Monday night during the auspicious month. To check the incidents of cheating with devotees regarding darshan-worship and prasad purchasing, a joint team of 25

policemen of Dashashwamedh, Chowk and Luxa police stations will roam among the devotees in plain clothes and monitor and action will be taken against those found trying to cheat the devo-

The railway passengers will be able to take advantage of the 'aarti' and 'darshan' of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham

at Varanasi Junction (Cantt), Banaras and Varanasi City stations during the month. They will be able to see the 'aarti' four times at Kashi Vishwanath Temple on the LED screens. These arrangements have been made by Smart City and Railways in the circulating areas. In the passenger halls of Banaras and Varanasi City stations, KVT's 'aarti', 'darshan' and glimpse of other 'shivalayas' will also be seen on LED screens. The worship of the sanctum sanctorum of KVT will be shown on six LED screens of Smart City at these stations while there will be live telecast on one LED screen each at four Ganga ghats apart from Godowlia.

### Panchayat by-poll on Aug 6

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As per the instructions of the State Election Commission, by-election will be held on the vacant seats/posts of area panchayats and district panchayat members of the district, which are not obstructed by the stay orders of the court. Accordingly, in line with the notification of the State Election Commission, District Magistrate/ District Election Officer (Panchayat) S Rajalingam issued a notice on Tuesday for the election on the vacant posts of Panchayat members 39 Chaubepur Khurd (Scheduled Caste) of Area Panchayat/ Development Block Cholapur, 101 Kharavan (Scheduled Caste) of Area Panchayat/ Development Block Baragaon and 72 Rasipatti and Madhavpur (Women) posts of Area Panchayat/ Development Block Harhua. informed about it through public announcement in the vil-

voting will be held on August 6 from 7 am to 5 pm while the counting of votes will be held on August 8 from 8 am till the end of work. Giving other details, he said that the last date and time for submission of nomination papers is July 22 from 10 am to 4 pm while the date and time for scrutiny of nomination papers is July 23 from 10 am till the end of work, the date and time for withdrawal of candidature is July 24 from 10 am to 3 pm and the date and time for symbol allocation is July 24 from

3 pm to the end of work. The DEO said the State Election Officer will issue a public notice at his level on July 18 giving full details of the vacant places / posts of the area panchayat members in the state. The Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Election Officers (EOs) concerned will widely publicise the election programme and people will be

lages. For public information. this programme will be displayed on the notice boards of gram panchayats, area panchayats, district panchayats, tehsil offices and district magistrate office. The said by-elections will be conducted as per Uttar Pradesh Area Panchayat and District Panchayat (Election of Members) Rules 1994. The sale of nomination papers for the post of area panchayat member, filing of nomination papers, their scrutiny, withdrawal of candidature and allocation of election symbol and counting of votes will be done at the area panchayat headquarters / development block office concerned. The election result for the places / posts of area pan-chayat members will be declared at the area panchayat headquarters/ development block office. The offices concerned will remain open even on public holidays falling between the mentioned schedule and action will be taken as per the prescribed programme.

#### 13 Mahamandaleshwars, saints expelled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Not only the government and administration, but also the saints have become active regarding the Maha Kumbh-2025 to be held on the banks of Sangam. The All India Akhara Parishad is constantly engaged in identifying such saints and sages who are involved in money making and other activities instead of religious work. After a confidential investigation, the parishad has expelled 13 such Mahamandaleshwars and saints. Notices have been given to 112 saints. If they do not give a satisfactory answer, they will also be expelled. The expelled Mahamandaleshwars and saints have been banned for the Maha Kumbh. They will not get entry in Kumbh.

About 112 saints have been given notice and asked for a reply. Those who have received the notice will have to respond by September 30. Expulsion action will be taken if a satisfactory answer is not received.

Such saints will not get entry in Maha Kumbh-2025. The investigation was started iApril and is still going on. So far, Juna Akhara has given notice to 54 saints, Shri Niranjani Akhara to 24, Nirmohi Ani Akhara to 34 saints. This includes 13 Mahamandaleshwars, 24 Mandaleshwars and mahants. Mahanirvani group general secretary Srimahant Rajendra

Das has expelled half a dozen saints from the Akhara. These include Mahamandaleshwar Jayendranand Das of Nasik, Mahamandaleshwar Harendranand of Chennai, Mahant Ram Das of Ahmedabad, Mahant Avdhutanand of Udaipur and Mahant Vijayeshwar Das of Mahant

Meanwhile preparations for the Maha Kumbh Mela here have intensified. Special planning is being done on the security plan. The process of making the policemen efficient to deal with every situa-tion has started. All kinds of training have started being given to the policemen. In the Maha Kumbh efforts are being made to control the crowd of crores and to avoid stampedelike situations. Besides, policemen will be sent for separate training for this. **SUICIDE:** Rimjhim Yadav (16)

hanged herself with the help of a saree in Dhoomanganj's Nyayanagar on Monday night. On Tuesday morning when the family knocked on the door, the younger sister woke up. On seeing her elder sister hanging from the noose, she screamed and opened the room and ran outside. The police is investigating the matter. Mahesh Yadav, a resident of Nyayanagar, is a driver. Rimihim, the eldest of his three

daughters, used to stay at home after studies. On Tuesday morning when the family members went to wake her up, they came to know about the incident. On receiving information, the police and forensic team reached the spot. Her parents are inconsolable.

#### Love-sick couple found dead

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Allegedly murdered in Vidhnu police station area. While the youth was found hanging from a tree in the out-skirt of the village, the woman was found dead on the floor about 50 metres away from there. Her face was badly crushed with some heavy object allegedly to conceal her Stray dogs had also mutilated the body. They were identified as Sonu (30) and Seema (33) whose bodies were recovered in the jungle of Kadri Dharahara, Champatpur under Khadeshar outpost area of Vidhnu on Tuesday morning. Forensic team apprehended that bodies were two-three days old. Kin of the youth

alleged his Immediately, his brother Nahar Singh and other family members rushed to spot. At the same time, Seema's kin also reached there. They affirmed about the love affair between Sonu and Seema. Vidhnu police, ACP Vidhnu Raniit Kumar and forensic team also rushed to spot and carried out a probe. During quizzing, kin said that after ending relations with her husband. Seema was living with three children at her parents' house. Meanwhile, she developed friendship with Sonu. Sonu's kin alleged that he was killed and hanged from the tree to make it look like a case of suicide. Seema was killed and dumped on the floor to establish that after killing her, Sonu also hanged himself.

#### 'Projects to attract tourists can prove as catalyst to strengthen economy'

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said projects to attract tourists could prove to be a catalyst in strengthening the economy of the entire area. While addressing a function organised on the occasion of laying of foundation stone of works of a cost Rs 19.61 crores at Vindhyachal on Tuesday, she praised the visionary approach of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who is working in the right direction for the overall development of the state.

She asked the working agency to complete the works within the stipulated time and sought



suggestions of the people's representatives to make the district a tourism hub for which the nature has bestowed a lot. The programme was attended by MLC Vineet Singh, Chairman Zila Panchayat Raju Kanaujiya and others.

### **Kanpur Metro Rail Project: Tunnel construction starts**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Under Corridor-1 (IIT to Naubasta) of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project, tunnel construction has been started on Monday on a 2.4 km (approximately) long stretch from the ramp area near Swadeshi Cotton Mill to Kanpur Central The 'Azad' Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) was launched from the shaft near Swadeshi Cotton Mill, marking the beginning of the tunnel con-struction on this final stretch towards Kanpur Central.

After successfully completing the tunnel construction from the ramp area at McRobertganj to Kanpur Central, Kanpur Metro's next objective is to extend the tunnel through a 2.4 km underground stretch from Kanpur Central Station to the ramp near Swadeshi Cotton Mill. To achieve this, various parts of the 'Azad' Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), including the middle shield, front shield tail shield and cut front shield, tail shield and cutter head, were meticulously lowered into the launching



UPMRC launched 'Azad' Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) to commence tunnel construction towards Kanpur Central on

shaft, which is approximately 13 metres deep near Swadeshi Cotton Mill. After careful alignment and connection of mechanical parts and wiring, the TBM machine was launched on the 'up-line' towards Kanpur Central on Monday.

The 'Azad' TBM machine will firstly construct about a 95metre tunnel in its initial drive. During this time, the backup system unit or control room of the machine, where all the sup-

Successful management of critical

porting systems of the machine are located, will operate from outside the shaft. UPMRC Managing Director Sushil Kumar stated, "Today,

Kanpur Metro has launched the 'Azad' TBM machine to construct 'up-line' tunnel from the ramp area near Swadeshi Cotton Mill to Kanpur Centra Metro Station. In the coming days 'Vidyarthi' TBM machine will also be launched to complete the 'downline' tunnel of this stretch. Upon completion of both tunnels in this stretch, the tunnelling for Corridor-1 will be finished. I am delighted that the Kanpur Metro team is successfully executing the challenging task of tunnel construction beneath one of the city's most congested and busiest areas. To optimise efficiency, our team is concurrently constructing tracks and stations and installing systems with seam-less coordination. We are confident that this momentum will persist in completing all civil construction works for the Balance section of Corridor-1 as per plan."

#### Truck driver ends life

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A truck driver committed suicide by hanging himself in his house in Jari village under Rajpur police area of Kanpur dehat on Monday night. Police sent the body for autopsy after preliminary investigation. Ram Prakash Nishad 60) was a truck driver and due to his addiction to drugs, he often had arguments with family members. On Monday night, he slept in the courtyard while all other family members on the rooftop. Late at night he hanged himself from the hook in the courtyard. Panic prevailed among the family members when they came to know about the incident on Tuesday

morning.
Wife Urmila fell unconscious while sons, Dharmendra, Arvind and daughter-in-law Madhu, became upset. SO Rajpur Prabhat Singh rushed to the spot and carried out a probe in the matter. He sent the body for an autopsy and said the kin failed to give any concrete reason for the suicide. However, a probe in the matter was on, he said.

#### Murder case worked out

With the arrest of the accused, police claimed to have worked out the sensational murder of Deepak in Karchana area here on Monday night. Within 24 hours, the police arrested the accused Sachin Yadav, who was Deepak's neighbour. On his information, the blood-stained shovel used in the murder was recovered. According to DCP Shraddha

Narendra Pandey, the arrested accused has confessed that he killed Deepak by hitting him in this connection.

with a shovel several times at night. The dispute was over use of abusive language under the influence of alcohol. Angry at his comment on his wife, Sachin killed him.

According to a report received here, Deepak of Kulmai village in Karchana, Yamunapar, used to work in a private company in Lucknow. He had come home three days ago. On Sunday night he went to the market to buy vegetables and was murdered by being hit with a shovel and a stick. The police have arrested Sachin of Kulmai

### ADRM inspects progress of development works

dditional Divisional

Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Roshan Lal Yadav inspected the progress of development works going on at Ghazipur City rail-way station at a cost of Rs 16.63 crore under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) on Tuesday. He also tested the quality of construction materials used in the redevelopment plan apart from counselling of security category employees. On the occasion, Senior Divisional Engineer -First Rishi Srivastava, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Safety Officer Balendra Pal,
Divisional Operations
Manager Rupesh Kumar,
Divisional Electrical Engineer
Ramdayal, Assistant Divisional Operations
Manager Hira Lal, Assistant
Divisional Engineer (Gati
Shakti) SK Moitra along with
branch officers of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) and senior observers were also present. During the inspection, the ADRM (Infra) reviewed the progress of the development work going on in the circulating area of ??Ghazipur City station and directed the concerned officers to get the work done at a fast pace. Along with this, he inspected the surface improvement, shed change and stone work of all the platforms and gave directions to the concerned. Yadav conducted a thorough inspection of the various construction works going on under ABSS



and strictly instructed the officials of the implementing agency to complete all the work within the time limit with full quality Ghazipur City station is located on Varanasi City-Chhapra railway section and it is directly connected to major cities of India. Ghazipur City is connected with the electrification of Prayagraj Junction- Varanasi Junction-Ghazipur City-Chhapra Junction railway line and a new rail line from Mau Junction to Ghazipur City and Tadighat stations via bridge over river Ganga is con-nected to East Central Railway (ECR). Ghazipur City is an NSG-4 category station under Varanasi Division of NER with 5 platforms. A total of 46 passenger/ mail/ express trains including Shabdbhedi Express, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Express, Suhail Dev Express, Bandra Express, Jaunpur Passenger, Varanasi City Passenger, Prayagraj Rambagh Passenger and Dildarnagar/ Tadighat Passenger are operating from Ghazipur City station and about 2,500 passengers travel from here daily. After Ghazipur City, the ADRM also inspected the Chitbaragaon station being developed under the doubling project.

# gunshot wound case saves life

A swift and coordinated response by the surgical team at Regency Hospital here led to the successful management of a critical gunshot wound case, saving the life of a 26-year-old male patient. The patient, who arrived at the emergency department on June 29 with a gunshot wound to the left chest wall, was stabilised and underwent emergency surgery within two hours of

The patient was brought to the Emergency department around 3 pm, exhibiting low blood pressure and a rapid heart rate. İmmediate intravenous fluid resuscitation was administered. Examination revealed an entry wound on the left chest, below the heart, with no exit wound, suggesting that the bullet was retained within the body.

A CT scan of the chest and abdomen revealed a blood collection in the abdomen and a bullet lodged at the level of the third lumbar vertebra. The scan also indicated that the inferior vena cava, the main

vein carrying deoxygenated blood from the lower part of the body to the heart, was not clearly visible. Given the severity of the findings, Dr Shashank Tripathi from the cardiothoracic surgical team and Dr Rohan Nu from the gastro-surgical team were consulted. After discussing the risks and prognosis with the patient, urgent surgery was deemed necessary and consent was obtained from the patient's attendants. Within two hours of arrival in

the emergency room, the patient underwent an emergency laparotomy. During the surgery, approximately 800 ml of blood was found in the abdominal cavity. The bullet had traversed from the chest, touching the lower part of the chest bone just below the heart, travelling between the stomach and intestine and impacting near the third lumbar vertebra. The bullet had made a hole in the inferior vena cava. The surgical team meticulously extracted the bullet, controlled the major vein to prevent fur-ther bleeding and repaired the

hole using peritoneum and pledgeted sutures achieving haemostasis. One unit of blood was transfused intraoperatively. Dr Shashank Tripathi, Senior Consultant - Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) said, "The critical nature of this case required rapid and precise intervention. The coordination and expertise of our surgical teams were pivotal in managing the extensive injuries and ensuring the patient's survival. Our multidisciplinary approach allowed us to address the complexities of the wound and provide comprehensive care, leading to a successful outcome. This case underscores the importance of having a skilled and responsive medical team ready to handle life-threatening emergencies with the utmost efficiency and

Post-surgery, the patient maintained stable blood pressure and urine output. He was weaned off general anaesthesia and the ventilator in the operating room and was then transferred to the ICU in stable condition. By the first postopera-

tive day, the patient began consuming oral fluids and semi-solids, indicating a promising recovery. He has since been shifted to the ward. Dr Rohan Nu, who oversaw the gastro-surgical aspect of the treatment, added, "This case was a complex interplay of multiple systems and required a thorough and swift surgical intervention. Our ability to stabilise the patient and conduct the necessary repairs in such a short window showcases the strength of our surgical and emergency teams. The patient's recovery progress is a testament to the high standards of care we strive to provide. This successful outcome reflects our commitment to using advanced surgical techniques and collaborative efforts to save lives in critical situations."

This case highlights Regency Hospital's commitment to delivering prompt and high-quality medical care, showcasing the exceptional skill and dedication of its medical professionals in handling life-threatening emergencies.

#### Tree plantation drive organised PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR In order to create awareness about measures to be taken

for environment protection, 'Just for Environment' organisation organised a tree plantation drive at Shri Kasturba Higher Secondary School, Nawabganj, on Tuesday. Before carrying out planta-tion, the students were

informed about importance of different type of trees in the present context of environmental pollution and their utility to the society. "We don't need decorative plants only but those which can give us oxygen, food, medicines, herbs and shade", said Anita Agrawal, president of the organisation. Hence, here also we planted trees of peepal, neem, guava, jamun, Arjun and amla", she said. A drawing competition was organised for the students on the theme "Save Trees" and "Beat the Plastic Pollution" in which first, second, third and consolation



of two groups, one for class VI-VIII and the other for class IX-X by Anita Agrawal and other office bearers of the organisa-

While extending thanks to the school management, Prof Narendra Mohan, patron of the organisation, announced adoption of school for undertaking such activities round the year. "We have also provided the tree guards and students will be made responsible for protection of trees and undertaking many other activities for creating awareness about pollution prevention and cleanliness. We will continue our support and also give awards to the students carrying out good work", he said.



**UP** provides

84 per cent

rural homes

PNS NEW DELHI

ings were shared.

with tap water

rhe Uttar Pradesh

■ Government on Tuesday

informed the Centre that more than two lakh rural households

in the State have been provid-

ed with tap water connection

Bundelkhand region having an average of 90 per cent cov-

water-scarce



# Exam panel receives feedback on curbing lapses in exam process

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

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

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

There are concerns about the normalisation process too. Some aspirants have suggested against it, some have asked for transparency in the process so

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Toining a network of pre-

include counterparts in the

USA, Europe, and Australia,

India can now boasts to house

Asia's pioneering 'Pre-clinical Network Facility' set up under

of Biotechnology, Faridabad.

It was inaugurated by Union

Tuesday. The facility is

equipped to handle BSL3

pathogens and features one of

the largest small animal facili-

ties in the country, capable of

housing around 75,000 mice

along with other species for

experimental purposes. This

infrastructure will support

high-impact research and

development efforts related to

epidemic preparedness and

BSL-3 laboratories are used to

study infectious agents or tox-

ins that may be transmitted

through the air and cause

potentially lethal infections.

Researchers perform all exper-

iments in a biosafety cabinet.

In addition, Dr. Jitendra Singh

inaugurated the "Genetically

Defined Human Associated

Microbial Culture Collection"

(Ge-HuMic) facility. This new

repository will provide micro-

bial cultures to research insti-

tutions, universities, and indus-

tries, fostering national and

international research collabo-

rations. The facility will also

specific pathogen-free animals,

vaccine development.

clinical hi-tech labs that



drastically reduced," the source

Headed by former ISRO chief R Radhakrishnan, the committee tasked with reviewing the National Testing Agency's functioning had sought suggestions, views and ideas from stakeholders, particularly students and parents, between June 27 and July 7 through the MyGov platform.

The panel has received over 37,000 responses from stuscores are neither inflated nor dents, parents, coaching insti-

embryos and sperm, support-

ing researchers across India,

The Translational Health

Science and Technology

Institute (THSTI), a part of the

Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC),

has played a key role in facili-

vaccine development for Nipah

Virus, Influenza, and other

advancing innovative research

and translational science in

Speaking at the 14th

Foundation Day of THSTI,

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the

institute's accomplishments

over a short span of 14 years,

noting its critical role during

the COVID-19 pandemic. He

acknowledged the contribu-

tions of Dr. M.K. Bhan estab-

lished the facility and empha-

sized the Department of

Biotechnology's progress

despite resource constraints.

Dr. Singh highlighted the

importance of the institute's

contributions to vaccine devel-

opment and its alignment with

the Prime Minister's vision for

a TB-free India. He also

addressed contemporary health

challenges, including lifestyle-

related metabolic diseases and

the global adoption of kanga-

The event was attended by Dr.

Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary of

DBT, Dr. K. Shrinath Reddy,

former President of the Public

and Dr. Kathikeyan, Director of

offer genetically characterized Health Foundation of India,

including cryopreserved THSTI among others.

roo mother care practices.

the country.

said the Minister.

the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and MoUs with the private sec-

(CEPI) at the Regional Centre tor. These agreements focus on

India inaugurates Asia's

first CEPI 'Pre-clinical

Network Facility'

tutions, school teachers, academic institutions and even career counsellors among others. It is supposed to submit its report within two months. In the line of fire over alleged

PNS NEW DELHI

 $A {\it sserting that approximate-} \\ A {\it ly 590 million people in the}$ South-East Asia Region require

rehabilitation services — particularly for conditions such as

low back pain, vision loss, frac-

tures, and chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease (COPD)—

the World Health Organization

(WHO) on Tuesday urged

countries in the region to accel-

erate access to rehabilitative and

assistive technology services.

These measures are crucial for

enhancing quality of life and

fostering community partici-

Additionally, the WHO called

for the integration of basic

rehabilitation into routine

health services and the expan-

sion of innovative care models

to ensure equitable access, par-

ticularly for those in remote and

"Rehabilitation services encom-

pass a wide range of essential

support systems, from physical

counselling for mental health

These services are not merely

about medical treatment; they

are about restoring dignity,

and addiction recovery.

underserved areas.

Govind Jaiswal. irregularities in the medical The committee has also been entrance examination NEET tasked with examining the existing security protocols related to the setting of the and PhD entrance NET, the Centre last month set up the papers and other processes for panel to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of various examinations and making recommendations to examinations through the National Testing Agency enhance the robustness of the

WHO urges Southeast Asia to

expand rehabilitation services

### India protests Zelenskyy's remarks against PM Modi

PNS NEW DELHI

ner over several irregularities,

including alleged leaks, UGC-

NET was cancelled as the

Ministry received inputs that

the integrity of the exam had

been compromised. Both mat-

ters are being probed by the CBI. Two other exams – CSIR-UGC NET and NEET PG –

were cancelled at the last

moment as a pre-emptive step. The panel also includes former

AIIMS Delhi director Randeep Guleria, Central University of

Hyderabad Vice-Chancellor B

J Rao, Professor Emeritus in the

Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Madras K

Ramamurthy, People Strong

co-founder and Karmayogi

Bharat board member Pankaj

Bansal, IIT Delhi Dean of

Student Affairs Aditya Mittal

and MoE Joint Secretary

hope, and the ability to participate fully in society," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East

Emphasising the urgency of the situation, she added, "The last

20 year's trends depicts that the

need for rehabilitation is

increasing in South-East Asia

region, and will further elevate

in coming years, given the

increasing prevalence of con-

ditions associated with ageing

and noncommunicable dis-

Rehabilitation is a set of inter-

ventions designed to optimize

functioning and reduce disability in individuals with health

conditions in interaction with

Primary healthcare facilities

often lack sufficient rehabilita-

tion services and benefit pack-

ages offer inadequate coverage.

Additionally, there is a signifi-

cant shortage of healthcare pro-

"People and communities must

with a focus on increasing

health literacy and enhancing

demand for rehabilitation ser-

vices, including assistive tech-

fessionals in this field.

gaged and

nologies," said Wazed.

eases (NCDs)."

their environment.

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

There was no official word on the matter yet. Last Tuesday, the Ukrainian president described Modi's visit to Moscow as a "huge" disappointment and a "devastating blow" to peace efforts. In a social media post on, Zelenskyy specifically referred to Russia's missile attacks on Ukraine including on a children's hospital in Kyiv.

"A Russian missile struck the largest children's hospital in Ukraine, targeting young cancer patients. Many were buried under the rubble," Zelenskyy



to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day," he said. Modi visited Moscow on July 8 and 9 in his first trip

In his summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi, delivering an unambiguous message, said a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets.In his televised opening remarks, Modi

and very painful in a reference to the strike in the children's

terrorist acts: any person who believes in humanity feels pain when people die, and especially when innocent children die. When we feel such pain, the heart simply explodes, and I had the opportunity to talk about these issues with you yesterday," Modi told Putin.The Ohmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv was hit after Russia unleashed a barrage of missiles on cities across Ukraine on July 8. At least 38 people, including

The Government made a prehospital in Kyiv. sentation before the Jal Shakti "Let's take war, any conflict or Ministry in which these find-

> According to the presentation, 2,23,86,760 rural families (84.19 per cent) have been provided with tap connections under the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme as of Monday. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide tap water connection

to all rural households in the country by this year.

Till now, about 77.55 per cent rural households have been provided with tap water connections, according to the official data.

All districts of Bundelkhand have over 90 per cent coverage, according to the State Government.

In the Bundelkhand region, In the Bundelkhand region, Mahoba district leads with 99.64 per cent coverage, followed by Lalitpur (99.4 per cent), Banda (99.01 per cent), Jhansi 98.92 (per cent), Chitrakoot (98.76 per cent), Hamirpur (98.75 per cent) and Jalaun (94.37 per cent). Union Minister of Jal Shakti CR Patil commended the Uttar CR Patil commended the Uttar

Pradesh Government for its outstanding work in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in the review meeting. During the review meeting, he

emphasised the need for awareness among villagers about the importance of water conservation, stressing that every drop of water is precious and must be saved. The Union minister encour-

aged the Uttar Pradesh Government to launch a separate campaign to promote water conservation. Patil praised the state's efforts in overcoming challenges to achieve significant progress especially in the Vindhya and Bundelkhand regions.

Principal Secretary to Namami Gange and Rural drinking water department, Anurag of Vindhya region.

In Vindhya region, Mirzapur

to Russia since its invasion of Ukraine.

#### said. "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow said the killing of innocent two in the hospital, were killed children is heart-wrenching Govt urges retailers to ensure pulse prices are affordable

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

Mart among others. During the meetin, the of Chana, Tur and Urad in major mandis had declined by up to 4 percent in past one month, but retails prices have



between wholesale mandi prices and retail prices, which seems to suggest that retailers are deriving higher profit margin.

She also pointed out that sowing progress for Kharif pulses are robust.

The Government has undertaken numerous efforts in facilitating enhanced production of Tur and Urad in major Kharif pulses producing States, including distribution of good quality seeds to farmers through NAFED and NCCF and the Department of Agriculture is in the State Agriculture Departments to provide all necessary support.

Considering the current price not seen similar decline. She scenario and Kharif outlook,

extend all possible support to the Government in its efforts to keep prices of dals affordable to the consumers.

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

#### has 97.43 per cent coverage and Sonbhadra has 77.11 per cent coverage.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

A bench of Justices Surva Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan on Tuesday agreed to list the matter for next Monday after senior additional advocate general Lokesh Sinhal, appearing for the state Government, said the issue requires urgent consideration. The appeal filed through advocate Akshay Amritanshu against the July 10 order of the high court said it is limited to

the impugned direction that the Haryana should open the Shambhu border within a week on an experimental basis so the general public is not inconvenienced.

The Haryana Government had set up the barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of various demands. including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops

"It is humbly submitted that though the petitioner is most concerned about any inconvenience of any kind caused to general public, the present SLP



has been filed on an urgent basis...," the plea said. The state Government said the high court while dealing with the issue did not pass any orders on its affidavit where it had specifically pleaded that the barricading can only be removed if the farmers shift their dharna from the National Highway.

It said the affidavit before the high court spoke of the likelihood of tension, annoyance, obstruction, sabotage of public or private property, injury to persons lawfully employed and risk to damage to human life and property, disturbance of public peace and public order within Haryana/Punjab by the agitators.

Despite the categorical submission regarding law and order issue that may arise, the threat to life and property and despite a plea to shift the agitators out of the National Highway, the high court has on an 'experimental basis' directed for opening of the Shambhu Border without passing any directions against the agitators," it said. The Haryana

Government said law and order is a state subject under the Constitution and it is entirely the state's responsibility to assess ground realities, threat perception, likelihood of breach of peace and violation

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

On July 12, while hearing a related matter, the top court asked

barricades and questioned its authority to block the highway. "How can a state block a high way? It has a duty to regulate traffic. We are saying open it but regulate," the bench had said on June 12 after the counsel informed the bench about the state's intention of filing an

appeal in the apex court. The top court had made the observations while hearing a plea of the Haryana Government challenging a March 7 Puniab and Harvana High Court decision to set up a committee headed by a for mer high court judge to probe the death of a farmer during a clash between the protesting farmers and Haryana security Haryana personnel in February..

### India's e-mobility R&D roadmap proposes Aadhaar for batteries

PNS NEW DELHI

rndia's e-mobility R&D roadmap has suggested an Aadhaar number for batteries to keep a digital record of its material composition, usage history and end of life management as part of efforts to streamline the recycling process. The suggestion is part of the eMobility R&D Roadmap for India, released by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government Prof A K Sood, that lists out 34 research projects to become self-reliant and emerge as a global leader in providing innovative mobil-

ity solutions.
"This roadmap aims to fill critical gaps in the current research and development framework. While many iden- "It is a completely thought out

tified projects are yet to achieve global success, some areas already demonstrate significant international accomplishments where India is yet to commence preparations," said Prof Karthick Athmanathan, a member of the Consultative Group of e-Mobility Advisory Committee. The roadmap has listed 34

projects for research and development across four broad areas - energy storage cells, EV aggregates, materials and recycling, charging and refueling. Among the projects listed for R&D is development of a battery Aadhaar system that would help adopt efficient recycling procedures for batteries that are more beneficial to the environment.



standardization of a 16-digit number, which will provide complete information about the battery pack. It will help us in the battery's second use, recyclability and everything during the life-cycle of that battery," said Abhijit Mulay, Deputy Director, Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).A similar project called

way in Germany with financial support from the federal Government in Berlin. In the Indian context, the roadmap suggested development of the battery Aadhaar standardized system or protocol to improve sustainability, efficiency and safety in manufacturing, usage and recycling by providing a detailed information about each battery's composition, usage history and end-of-life management. The proposed Aadhaar numer-

the battery passport is under-

ic barcode for each battery would contain the data and description about the battery manufacturing year, lithium import, electrode materials, cell localization, manufacturing history, battery chemistry, battery capacity, manufacturing

location and battery potting. 'This information will be more convenient to recyclers for streamlining the recycling process," Mulay said.

Addressing the gathering earlier, Sood said India has set itself a goal to achieve energy independence by 2047 and 30 per cent electric vehicle penetration by 2030 as part of efforts to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

The e-Mobility R&D Roadmap has assigned high priority to this project due to the significant need for digital data storage, transparency, traceability and localization of batteries. The roadmap stated that determination of these parameters will aid in second life applications as well as recycling and management of batteries.

#### NIA arrests four key accused in trafficking of Indian youths PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation ▲ Agency (NIA) has arrested four key accused involved in luring and trafficking Indian youth to foreign countries on the pretext of offering them jobs.

The accused arrested on Monday have been identified as Manjoor Alam alias Guddu of Delhi, Sahil and Ashish alias Akhil of Bahadurgarh (Haryana), and Pawan Yadav alias Afroze alias Afzal of Siwan (Bihar),according to a press statement issued by the

They were part of an organised trafficking syndicate involved in luring and traf-

eign countries on the pretext of offering them lucrative jobs, NIA's investigations have revealed."The trafficked youth were forced to work in fake call centres at Laos, Golden Triangle SEZ, among other places in the South East Asian region, as part of the massive network being operated by foreign nationals through operatives based in various parts of India, Laos, and other countries," said the statement issued by the federal probe

Through these call centres, the youth were coerced into carrying out illegal online activities such as investment scams, relationship scams, and cryp-

The NIA, which had taken over the case from Delhi Police on June 19 this year, is continuing with its investigations to dismantle all such human trafficking syndicates. In May, the agency conducted extensive searches in 15 locations across six states and two Union territories, in collaboration with the respective state/UT police. The searches led to the regis-

tration of eight new FIRs in human trafficking and cyber fraud cases.

Subsequently, in June, the NIA charge sheeted five accused, including foreign nationals, in a similar case in

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Cycle of terror**

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

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



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

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

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



A vendor sells Capsicum at Azadpur Mandi, in New Delhi

# Bypoll results indicate a shifting voter preference



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

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

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

On Wednesday, by-elections were held for 13 assembly seats in Punjab (1), Himachal Pradesh (3), Uttarakhand (2), West Bengal (4), Madhya Pradesh (1), Bihar (1), and Tamil Nadu (1). The Congress,



SHADOW

OVER THE

OF UNEASE AND

IN THE RULING

COALITION.

UNPREDICTABILITY

led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the first electoral battle after the Lok OF UNCERTAINTY Sabha Elections 2024. The regional chieftains in the Opposition performed **GOVERNMENT'S** Trinamool Congress, a key STABILITY. player in the INDIA bloc, secured all four seats in A SUBSTANTIAL Bengal, a significant victory. **BOOST TO THE** At the same time, the surging Congress won two seats OPPOSITION each in Himachal Pradesh CAN SHIFT THE and Uttarakhand, further strengthening its position **BALANCE OF** The DMK won one seat, and POWER AND AAP captured Jalandhar West. These diverse out-CREATE A SENSE

exceptionally

in these states.

comes hint at potential shifts

current political scenario.

Also, the BJP securing only

two seats and an indepen-

dent candidate winning in

Bihar add a layer of com-

plexity. Typically, the party in

power wins the bye-elec-

tion seat. The TMC, DMK,

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Examples of this lack of civic sense include vandalism, mishandling public property, disobeying laws, infringing traffic rules, evading taxes, prejudice, intolerance, indiscipline, sectarianism, and insensitivity towards the beliefs and practices of other social and reliapproach that prioritizes gious groups. These behaviors create law and order problems and are rooted in disregard for social norms and appropriate behavior. Despite significant improvements in literacy rates in our country over the past few decades, people often remain tial for addressing both casual regarding their societal responsibilities.

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

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

common interest over selfinterest.

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

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

#### **OPPOSITION GAINING GROUND**

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

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

Bishal kumar Saha | Murshdidabad

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

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

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

or we will perish together as fools".

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

#### **AP and Telangana resolve issues**

THE EDITO

There are speculations about

within the party.



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

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

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

Dr.Martin Luther King Jr had stated-"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that", "We seething in anger and were getting ready must learn to live together as brothers

ing and power distribution are not easy to sort out but it is heartening that Naidu and Reddy have made a start.

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

Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

#### **ALCARAZ TRIUMPHS AGAIN**

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

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

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

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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

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



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

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

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications; views are personal)

# Imam Husain dared fighting terrorism



HASAN KHURSHID

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



ohn Bradshaw once said," Rebellion tyrants is obedience to God. "Can man stand up to these conditions? "Man can but not necessarily with ease", Imam Busain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammad annunciated from the battlefield of Karbala (Iraq), on the fateful day of 10th Muharram, 61 A.H. (October 10, 680 A.D.).The pre-Islamic period in Arabia is known as the "age of ignorance". Scudding away from the noble attributes of human principles, the Arabs were treading the path of retrogression and abhorrence. Suffering from the worst evils and vices, these Arabs known as Bedouins (uncivilised rustics) were highly tentative of wrecking vengeance, group quarrels, and tribal animosities leading to bloody warfare that lasted for generations. In the pre-Islamic period, these Arabian Bedouins used to bury their newly born daughters alive out of ego.

They had no sense of equality, humanity, decency and brotherhood. In this crucial moment, the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad brought the message of peace, tolerance, humanity, forbearance, liberty, equality, and brotherhood, assisting to weak and securing justice for the persecuted. The Prophet gradually started transforming the heartless brutes to humanise and turn towards peaceful life.The most notorious among them were the Bedouin tribals of "Bani-Omayya" (Omayyads). Omayyads did not tolerate the sojourn of humanity and peace. They violently opposed the Prophet's teachings. Omayya's grandson, Abu Sufiyan, son of Herb, unfurled the flag of revolt against Islamic teachings.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Despite these challenges, the industry began to show signs of recovery in 2023. According McKinsey & Company pro-



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

jects that India will become the fourth-largest domestic travel market in terms of spending by 2030. Additionally, aviation analytics firm OAG indicates that India is now the thirdlargest domestic aviation market, after the U.S. and China. The WTTC reported that this sector contributed INR 19.13 trillion (\$230 billion) to the Indian GDP in 2023, marking a nearly 10% increase over 2019 levels. Employment in the industry also saw an 8% rise, reaching 43 million jobs. This highlights the sector's resilience and its vital role in the national economy. They projects that the Indian tourism industry will continue to grow, with contributions to the GDP expected to reach INR 21.15 trillion (\$253 billion) in 2024. Jobs in the

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

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

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

**Industry Perspectives** Jyoti Mayal, President, The Travel Agents Association of

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

Pradeep Shetty, President, Hotel and Restaurant Association Western India

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

Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI) says the outbound tourism sector is hoping for positive policy changes. "One key expectation is the reduction of GŜT rates on outbound tour packages, making international travel more affordable. Additionally, better Tax Collected at Source (TCS) policies are hoped for as compared to current TCS rates, which are causing financial and administrative problems,"

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

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

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

# Political slugfest erupts after terror attack

Apolitical slugfest has broken out in the aftermath of a series of attacks on the security forces by suspected foreign terrorists across the Jammu region.

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

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

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

Kashmiri civil society. Swain on Monday had even alleged that "so-called mainstream political parties" cultivated leaders of terror networks and sometimes directly to further their electoral



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

The current DGP is busy fixing things politically. His job is to break the PDP, harass people and journalists, and threaten people... Verification has been weaponized. They are finding ways to impose UAPA on maximum people... We don't need a fixer here, we need a DGP. We have had DGPs from other states before and they have worked very well. No one has worked on communal lines like things are being done now."

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

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

Nearly 3,000 of our colleagues

have died standing for this

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

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

Meanwhile, the Congress party leaders in Jammu staged a protest highlighting the failure of the government to prevent attacks on the security forces.

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

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

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

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

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

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

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

Incidentally Majumdar who had won the Balurghat par-



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

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

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

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

Much like Majumdar anoth-

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

The garbage was piled up over a period of time because of the handy for the education minauthorities, according to V D state secretary M V Govindan The Corporation boasts of the The mayor appeared from youngest mayor in the country who is the most ineffective and inefficient people's representative, said R S Sasikumar, a oneman army waging battles with the authorities on behalf of the common man.

A start up company in Thiruvananthapuram has been



clean manholes as well as mountain of solid waste and garbage to other States but authorities in Kerala pay scant respect to such innovations. The canal meandering across the city passes through a tunnel under the railway tracks in Thiruvananthapuram Central Station and this has come callousness of the Corporation ister V Sivankutty and CPI(M) Satheeshan, leader of the to defend Arya Rajendran, the

nowhere on Monday as rescue teams pulled out Joy's body from the canal and hogged limelight by sobbing and weeping in public. With the news channel crews withdrawing from the scene, the youngest mayor, who has made it known that her aim is to become an providing robot "Bandicoot" to IPS officer, too made a quick

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

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

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

Interestingly, there are many start up units in the capital city issue of garbage cleaning at cheap rates. "But the State government is not serious about utilizing their expertise for reasons best known to the ministers and the party leaders. The mayor is said to carry a small bottle of glycerin in her hand bag for photo-ops wher-ever she goes," said a senior government official.

#### BMW case: Key accused sent to judicial custody till July 30

T N RAGHUNATHA

A Mumbai court on Tuesday remanded key accused in the sensational BMW hit-and-run case Mihir R. Shah in judicial custody till July 30. At the end of her police remand,

24-year-old Mihir was produced before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Sewri S P Bhosale who sent him to judicial custody for 14 days. On their part, the police sought the extension of Mihir's custody. However, Mihir's Advocates Ayush Pasbola and Shudir Bhardwaj opposed the extension of the police custody, saving the police had gathered whatever evidence that was required from the accused and that they had recorded the statements of 27 witnesses.

After hearing both sides, the judicial custody till July 30. It may be recalled that on July 7 a high-end BMW car allegedly driven by the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's deputy leader Rajesh Shah's inebriated son Mihir Shah knocked down a two-wheeler, killing a fisher woman and injuring her husband at Worli in south-central Mumbai in the early hours of July 7.

### MoD marches on self-reliance Top babus... in manufacturing

PNS NEW DELHI

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

Giving details of the list, officials said here on Tuesday the items include strategically-important Line Replacement Units/Systems/

systems/Assemblies/Subassemblies/Spares and Components and materials, with import substitution value worth ₹1,048 crore. The items will only be procured from the dustry timelines of indigenisation as indicated in the list available on the Srijan portal. The Ministry of Defence had launched the Srijan portal in 2020. On this portal, DPSUs and Service Headquarters (SHQs) offer defence items to the industries, including MSMEs and start-ups, for indigenisation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's major push for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' has yielded remarkable results in the indigenisation of defence productions, with the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh driving the efforts to realise the vision of selfreliance production.

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

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), BEML Limited, India Optel Limited Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) are the DPSUs involved in production of the defence items of the fifth PIL. These have initiated process for

Expressions Interest/Requests Proposal on their respective websites with a link on the 'Srijan portal dashboard.

Earlier, four PILs comprising 4,666 items were notified by the DDP for DPSUs, of which 2,972, having import substitution value worth Rs 3,400 crore, have already been indigenised. These five lists for DPSUs are in addition to the five positive indigenisation lists of 509 items notified by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). These lists include highly-complex systems, sensors, weapons

Till June 2024, over 36,000 defence items were offered to the industry for indigenisation by the DPSUs and SHQs. Of them, more than 12,300 items have been indigenised in the last three years. As a result, the DPSUs have placed orders with budget announcements to be domestic vendors worth Rs

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An exercise should be undertaken to study the impact of 'Jal Jeevan Mission' on the lives of citizens. Suitable incentives to be

devised to encourage officers to take full advantage of capacity building courses and modules available on iGOT, the secretaries were told. Gauba said ministries and

departments should take steps to make their IT systems adequately resilient and to sensitise their officers to ensure scrupulous adherence to cyber security guidelines and protocols. This should be a continuing endeavour. "My Bharat, National Service

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

The cabinet secretary said ministries and departments should commence planning for post-Budget webinars immediately. All stakeholders to be involved in this exercise and implementation of ensured in a time bound

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

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

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

Leaders of the BJP, which had helped Sahni become a minister in 2020 by getting him elected to the legislative council, only to force his expulsion less than two years later, asserted that the guilty would be brought to book. "Spoke to Sahni and assured him that the government in Bihar has taken the incident very seriously and culprits will be brought to justice at the earliest", said Union Minister of State for Home Nitvanand Rai, a former state BJP president. Union ministers Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi also came out with condolence messages. Manjhi, a former chief minister who heads Hindustani Awam Morcha, hit back at the RJD-led opposition. According to Jitendra Singh Gangwar, Bihar Police ADG (Headquarters), two persons have been taken into custody for questioning, on the basis of CCTV footage obtained from cameras installed in the vicinity of the site of the crime. "They were found moving in a suspicious manner. However, the case is being investigated from all possible angles", said Gangwar, who did not divulge the identity of the detainees. The ADG said the body, which had deep wounds caused by a sharp-edged object on the chest and abdomen, has been

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

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

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

#### Government convenes all...

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

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

Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien wrote to Rijiju and informed him that his party will not be able to attend the meet. "For 30 years now, 21st July

has been observed as 'Martyrs' Day' in Bengal in honour of our 13 colleagues who were unlawfully killed in a police firing on the day in 1993. In this context, all MPs of the All India Trinamool including myself will be in our home State to mark the day along with other party

#### Police chargesheet Kejriwal's aide Bibhav

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he}$  Delhi Police on Tuesday filed its 500-odd page charge sheet against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the alleged assault of AAP MP Swati Maliwal. The charge sheet was filed before Metropolitan Magistrate Gaurav Goyal who also extended the judicial custody of Kumar till July 30.

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

the accused Bibhav Kumar, the chief minister's security staff and other individuals involved. Among the allegations, the chargesheet accuses Bibhav Kumar for destroying evidence. The final report has been filed under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including sections 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354 B (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to disrobe her), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 509 (insult caused to the modesty of a woman by the use of any words, gestures or object intending to the do the same). After the FIR was registered on May 16 at the Civil Lines Police Station, Kumar was arrested on May 18.

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

From Page 1 General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS and all ranks of the Indian Army also conveyed their deepest condolences to the bravehearts who laid down their lives in the line So far 48 soldiers including

counter-terrorist operation in Doda.

sent for post mortem.

This is the seventh major incident of terrorist violence in the Jammu region since the beginning of this year. According to a recent assessment of the various security agencies, around seven to eight groups of 3-4 foreign terrorists are active in the region and have taken shelter in the thickly forested belt inside natural cave-like structures to dodge the security forces.

of duty, while undertaking a elite para commandos and other ranks have been martyred in around one dozen operations since October 2021 in the Jammu region.

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

Basantgarh Udhampur on April 28. The anti-terror operations

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

next day. After the Kathua ambush, terrorists managed to escape after an encounter with security forces in the nearby Ghadi Bhagwah forest bordering Kishtwar district on July 9. Three foreign terrorists were killed in a day-long operation in the Gandoh area of the district on June 26. Jammu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

ily, including three of his chil- a campaign rally in Pennsylvania dren, but not his wife Melania. The former US president escaped an assassination bid when a bullet grazed his ear at

Supporters on the convention floor and standing in the stadi-um sang along to a live rendition

formally nominate Biden as its candidate at its convention in singer Lee Greenwood. Trump was accompanied by his newly-Chicago in August. announced running mate

Earlier in the day, Trump announced that Senator Vance, Trump, 78, wore a subdued 39, would be his running mate. look as the room around him erupted and chants of "USA" rang out. On Monday, delegates from across the country nomi-He was welcomed by the crowd with a thunderous applause. The choice reflects Trump's belief that Vance is an effective communicator who can sell Trump's populist agenda — particularly to working-class voters in states like nated him as the Republican presidential nominee for the November 5 general election against incumbent Democratic President Joe Biden. It was the Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, where presidential elections can third consecutive time that be decided by thousands of Trump has received the Republican Party's nomination.Trump will deliver his "He is consistent with Trump's

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

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

Milwaukee (PTI): Indian-American Sikh tised by over 25 million worldwide." Republican Party leader Harmeet Kaur Dhillon on Monday recited 'ardas' at the Republican National Convention here in the presence of the party's presidential nominee Donald Trump.

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

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

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

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

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

### Israeli strikes across Gaza kill more than 30

PTI DEIR-AL-BALAH

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

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

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

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

Four people were killed in a blast that struck a house in eastern Khan Younis while five other people were killed in a strike on a street in southernmost Rafah, accord-

ing to ambulance workers who transported the bodies to Nasser Hospital.

An AP journalist counted the bodies at the hospital before a funeral was held at its gates.

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

The war has sparked a humanitarian catastrophe in the coastal Palestinian territory, displaced most of its 2.3 million population and trig-gered widespread hunger. Hamas' surprise attack killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians,

and militants took roughly 250 people hostage. About 120 remain in captivity, with about a third of them

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

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

#### Oman mosque shooting kills 5, dozens injured

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

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

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

their faith.

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

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

Senator JD Vance.

acceptance speech on Thursday. The delegation from Florida

put him over the top, with Eric Trump, the second son of

Trump, awarding the state's del-

Several lawmakers and other

officials spoke, including

Representative Marjorie Taylor

Greene, Senator Tim Scott, and

Representative Byron Donalds.

The Democratic party would

egates to his father.

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

following the weekend assassination attempt on Trump. The president and his campaign let loose a flurry of criticism after the GOP nominee announced freshman Sen JD Vance of Ohio as his running mate. "He's a clone of Trump on the issues," Biden told reporters as he headed to Nevada for a

series of speeches and campaign events. "I don't see any difference." He expanded on that during the NBC interview, telling Lester Holt that Vance has the same policies as Trump when

same policies as Trump when it comes to abortion, taxes and climate change, adding, "He signed onto the Trump agenda, which he should, if he's running with Trump."

Once Vance was tapped as Trump's vice-presidential pick, the Biden campaign hit send on a fundraising solicitation signed by the president, and his team issued a blistering statement saying he picked the freshman senator because he would "bend over backwards" would "bend over backwards

pared to resume full-throttle to enable Trump and his had been part of Biden's broad-campaigning after a brief pause extreme MAGA agenda." For er strategy to prove his fitness her part, Vice President Kamala Harris phoned Vance to congratulate him and left him a voicemail message, according to a person familiar with the matter.
And to NBC's Holt, Biden

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

The NBC interview, scheduled before the attempt on Trump's life at a rally in Pennsylvania,

er strategy to prove his fitness for office after angst grew among Democrats because of his disastrous June 27 debate performance. Asked by Holt if he has weathered the worst of it from his own party, Biden responded that 14 million Democratic voters selected him through the primaries and added, "I listen to them."

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

command of all my faculties, that I don't need notes, I don't need teleprompters" — although Biden has used notes and teleprompters in recent appearances, which is not unusual.

As for a potential repeat of his rocky debate, Biden said, "I don't plan on having another performance on that level." The Biden campaign recalibrated some of its political plans in the immediate aftermath of the assassination attempt on Saturday, pulling advertising off the air and hitting pause on messaging. The White House also scrapped Biden's planned Monday visit to the Lyndon B. Johnson library, where he had been slated to deliver remarks on civil rights.

Biden also spoke privately to Trump after the assassination attempt, a call that the president described in the NBC interview as "very cordial." "I told him how concerned I

was and wanted to make sure

I knew how he was actually

### Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attack: 8 soldiers, 10 terrorists killed

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

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

The terrorists' failed attempt forced them to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, leading to the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaging the adjoining infrastruc-ture. Eight soldiers were killed in the ensuing operation and all the terrorists were "sent to hell", the statement added. "This timely and effective response by the security forces prevented major catastrophe, saving precious innocent lives,"

en by the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, which operates from Afghanistan and has used Afghan soil to orchestrate acts of terrorism inside Pakistan in the past as well.

Pakistan has consistently raised its concerns with the interim Afghan government, asking them to deny persistent use of Afghan soil by the terrorists and take effective action against such elements, the statement said, adding that the Pakistani side will take all necessary measures as deemed appropriate against these threats emanating from Afghanistan.

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

"Security forces' timely action saved Bannu Cantonment from a big catastrophe," he said.Pakistan has witnessed an increase in terrorist activities

the statement said, adding that over the past year, particular-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan following the cessation of a ceasefire between the govern-ment and the banned Tehreeke-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group in November 2022. Last week, Islamabad reiterated its stance against engaging in talks with the TTP and called for Kabul's action against terrorists operating from Afghan territory.
According to the Centre for

Research and Security Studies' annual security report, vio-lence and casualties in Pakistan saw a notable decline in the second quarter of 2024. The report said there was a 12 per cent reduction in overall vio-lence, with 380 fatalities reported compared to 432 in the preceding quarter. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and

Balochistan were identified as the epicentres of violence, accounting for over 90 per cent of fatalities and 84 per cent of all attacks involving both terrorist incidents and security force responses.

### Violent clashes over govt jobs injures many in Bangladesh

AP DHAKA

Police fired tear gas and charged with batons during violent clashes between a progovernment student body and student protesters overnight, leaving dozens injured at a public university outside Bangladesh's capital, authorities and students said on Tuesday. The violence spread early

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



supporting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Some Cabinet ministers criticized the protesters, saying they played on students' emotions.

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

Meanwhile, Protesters gathered in front of the university's official residence of the vicechancellor early Tuesday when violence broke out. Demonstrators accused the Bangladesh Chhatra League, a student wing of Hasina's ruling Awami League party, of attacking their "peaceful protests".

According to local media reports, police and the ruling party-backed student wing attacked the protesters.

### UK gurdwara attack being treated as religiously aggravated: Police

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

over the incident at Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend last Thursday and was "immediately detained by officers for a mental health assessment". "This is an isolated incident

and our initial enquiries suggest it is not terrorism-relat-Chief said Superintendent Angie Chapman, North Kent Divisional Commander for Kent Police.

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

said. He will next appear before Medway Youth Court on Thursday after a mental health assessment.

Earlier, investigators from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate charged the boy, who cannot be named as a minor, over what the local police referred to as a "disturbance" at the gurdwara in Gravesend on July 11 evening.

The Gurdwara, one of the largest outside India, held an "All Sangat Meeting" at its Lecture Theatre on Sunday to reassure the community after it stated that 'Guru Granth Sahib Ji' was not present in the Darbar Hall at the time of the attack. Two women suffered cuts and bruises in an assault outside the building shortly afterwards.

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

 $T^{\mbox{\scriptsize hailand's prime minister has}}_{\mbox{\scriptsize said that eligible businesses}}$ and individuals can register from August for digital cash handouts, a controversial programme that will cost billions of dollars and is meant to boost the lagging economy. The government announced in April the widely criticised ambitious plan, named the Digital Wallet, meant to give 10,000 baht (about \$275) to 50 million citizens in digital money to spend at local businesses. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin posted on the social platform X on Monday, saying the registration will begin Aug 1 and that he has given instructions to ensure the smooth implementation of the program. The "Digital Wallet" was a major campaign promise of the ruling Srettha's Pheu Thai party ahead of last year's gener-al election. The government says

that this scheme will cause an "economic tornado," and Srettha has said the stimulus and subsequent consumption are expected to boost gross domestic prod-uct growth by 1.2 to 1.6 percentage points.

However, economists have criticised the programme, calling it an ineffective way to contribute to sustainable economic growth compared to other measures. In addition, its financing has faced several hurdles, delaying its planned implementation. At first, the government said the state Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives would cover some of the funding needed. However, after warnings by financial experts, it was announced that the project's funding would come out of the 2024 and 2025 fiscal budgets. Deputy Minister of Finance Julapan Amornvivat said at a news conference on Monday

the budgetary funding became possible after the plan's estimated cost dropped from 500 billion baht (\$13.8 billion) to 450 billion baht (\$12.4 billion), asserting that all estimated 50 million people will still be part of the program as only up to 90% of those eligible utilised them in previous handouts. Julapan added that the Digital Wallet committee has agreed to exclude tens of thousands of shop owners and cash recipients who have a record of committing fraud in past pro-

grammes. The plan also has certain limitations, such as excluding certain goods that are yet to be decided, and earlier proposals suggested oil, services, and online purchases should be among them. Julapan said the Commerce Ministry would handle the exclusions set to be announced next week after the detailed plan is submitted to the Cabinet.



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



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

NEW DELHI: The Indian largest economy, we are startup ecosystem is mature, with multiple tailwinds that are poised to escalate India to become the third largest economy in the world, said AWS' Kumara Raghavan.

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

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

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

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty settled at record high levels in their third straight day of gains on Tuesday following buying in FMCG, telecom and select IT shares and FII inflows.

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

The NSE Nifty went up by 26.30 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,613. Intra-day, it rallied 74.55 points or 0.30 to hit a new record peak of 24,661.25.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

ended in positive territory on

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

Wednesday for Muharram.

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

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

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

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

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

In addition, silver prices also jumped by Rs 400 to Rs 94,400 per kg. It had ended at Rs 94,000 per kg in the previous session.
"Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp recovery

on the back of rate cut expectations.

"No major data points were

scheduled on Monday. however, comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell were in limelight," Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd Services Ltd

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

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

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

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

"...Decline in the treasury yields and US dollar index also supported the spot gold prices," Parmar added.

Additionally, silver was also quoted higher at USD 30.77 per ounce. In the previous session, it had finished at USD 30.68 per ounce.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The government had pegged

the fiscal deficit estimate at 5.1 per cent for the current fiscal year when it presented the interim Budget in February.
"The union government is

likely to set a fiscal deficit target at 4.9-5 per cent, lower than projected 5.1 per cent of GDP, without compromising the capital expenditure target of Rs 11.1 lakh crore," ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar told PTI. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the full Budget on July 23. This will be her seventh Budget in a row. This budget aims to set the foundation for India's iourney towards becoming a can be split to increase the developed nation (Viksit revenue spending Bharat) by 2047.

of the GDP during the could utilise it for spurring previous financial year.



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

The incremental revenue receipts of Rs 1.2 lakh crore The government achieved a consolidation, she said, fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent adding, the government

consumption by providing

some income tax sops. She further said that reducing the absolute size of the fiscal deficit will be quite difficult over the next 3-4 years, with the decline in the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio largely dependent on the increase in nominal GDP. If the government continues with capex at 3.4 per cent of GDP over the medium term (in line with the FY2025 Interim Budget), then

incremental consolidation would require a sustained compression in a sustained compression in the revenue deficit, she said. Notably, she said, the government has 'on-budgeted' a large portion of previously off-budget capex; this should be considered while determining the endpoint of the awaited fresh fiscal consolidation roadmap

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

Realtors' body NAREDCO Tuesday suggested that

the tax exemption on interest

on self-occupied property loans should be increased to

Rs 5 lakh in the upcoming budget from Rs 2 lakh

currently to boost housing

demand amid a rise in

housing prices and mortgage

Builders also sought some tax

incentives to boost demand

and supply of affordable

NAREDCO noted that under

Section 24 of the Income Tax

Act, the deduction allowed on

interest on loans for self-

occupied property is limited to Rs 2 lakh.

"Given the rising property prices and interest rates,

proposes

homes.

# Incuspaze takes on lease 1.15

Coworking firm Incuspaze has taken on lease a 1.15 lakh square feet area in Bengaluru to open a new centre as part of its strategy to expand business amid a rise in demand for flexible workspace.

said it has expanded its portfolio in Bengaluru with leasing of 1.15 lakh sq ft office space at Whitefield, a major hub for the tech

Industry.
"The new facility will accommodate 1,800 seats," Incuspaze said."

collaboration

inception in 2016, Incuspage has 44 centres across 18 cities



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

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

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

 $T^{\text{he rupee consolidated in a}}_{\text{narrow range and settled}}$  for the day 3 paise higher at 83.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, on firm domestic markets and sustained inflow of foreign capital.

Forex traders said a decline in crude oil prices favoured the rupee, while a strong US

dollar capped sharp gains.
At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.59, and touched an intraday high of 83.53 and a low of 83.60 against the dollar during the trading session.It finally settled at 83.58 (provisional) against the American against the American currency, registering a gain of 3 paise from its previous close.On Monday, the rupee depreciated 10 paise to 83.61 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index,

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

"The US dollar gained on In the domestic equity



elected as the President of the United States in the upcoming elections in November," said Anni said Anuj - Research Choudhary Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

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

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

positive US markets and a market, the 30-share BSE surge in US treasury yields on Sensex ended the day 51.69

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom ministry will work on actionable plan with defined timelines on issues that have been forward realising Prime discussed with telecom Minister's goal of creating operators and other players not only a Atmanirbhar (self in the sector, Union minister reliant) Bharat but a telecom Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday. The minister held meetings with three of the six our boundaries in days to committees set by his ministry.

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

India (COAI) Director General S P Kochhar was also part of the meeting. Scindia said there are varied schedule for the first presentation of these committees that will be over

the next couple of weeks. "Then we will be taking on each individual issue, delving into the details and devising an action plan, timelines and actionable items, so that we can take our sector forward," Scindia said.

He said the six committees among others.

are the backbone of the Indian communication

"By forging these committees we hope to take the sector superpower within India that we will hopefully transcend come," Scindia said.

The minister also met The meeting with the representatives of internet committee on telecom service providers and service providers and infrastructure committee as well as those of academia and R&D committee.

On Monday, Scindia held meetings with three advisory satellité, on groups communications electronics ecosystem and original equipment makers to prepare a roadmap for achieving self reliance and global leadership in the sector.

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

# lakh sq ft office space in B'luru to start coworking centre

In a statement, the company

Our new facility is designed to foster creativity and

among businesses," said Sanjay Choudhary, founder and CEO of Incuspaze. Incuspaze said it aims to expand its portfolio in southern India, with a focus on Bengaluru. Chennai Hvderabad.Since

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

The realtors' body mentioned

that currently the annual

value of property held as

stock-in-trade and not let out

is considered nil for up to two

years from the end of the

financial year in which the

construction completion

certificate is obtained. After

this period, the notional

It suggested that this

provision should not apply to

real estate developers holding stock due to weak market

conditions and recommended

increasing the time limit from

two to five years.G Hari Babu,

President of NAREDCO, said

these recommendations, if

implemented, will not only

provide much-needed relief

to developers but also

said in a statement.

income is taxed.



accounts for nearly half of the city's absorption, flex spaces account for 5.4 per cent of the total absorption in H1 2024," Vestian CEO Shriniyas Rao said. Flex spaces nearly account for 16 per cent of the total absorption in pan-India during the same period.

# stimulate demand in the

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

housing sector.

well as investors".

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

the deduction limit for interest payment on home loans from the existing Rs 2 lakh a year to Rs 5 lakh, which will add momentum to housing demand, he added. "The budget should offer a degree of personal tax relief, either by ways of lower tax rates or by readjusting tax slabs, which is the need of the

In his wishlist, Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.Com

hour," Sastri said.

PropTiger.Com, said the could further stimulate demand and supply for activity in this sector. It's affordable homes have shown noteworthy that substantial fluctuating trends over the last three years across major tier I and tier II cities.

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

partnership with private developers, offering land and

capital at concessional rates.

"Implementing tax incentives for developers engaging in these affordable projects

demand persists within the Rs 15-75 lakh price category, necessitating focused necessitating focused governmental action in the upcoming budget," he observed. Agarwala said this approach

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

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

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

The government should raise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NAREDCO

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

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

"As we look ahead, one of the major constraints the auto industry will face is the dearth of skilled electric vehicle capable manpower," Society Indian Automobile (SIAM) Manufacturers President Vinod Aggarwal

said while addressing a workshop on empowering EV-ready workforce in the Indian auto industry. Aggarwal, who is also MD &

Volvo

Commercial Vehicle Ltd,

pointed out the need for

Eicher

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

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

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

"The talent requirements will

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

According to the 'SIAM EV Skill Gap Study' report in order to achieve 100 per cent of EV localisation components, India needs to

per year till 2030, up from a current rate of 15,000 per The report pointed out that

add 30,000 EV-ready workers

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

existing talent. The estimated hiring cost would be Rs 7,671 crore, while the training cost would be around Rs 5,881 crore. The total talent investment is expected to be around Rs 13,552 crore," the report said.

#### Graphisads launches G Force

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

This initiative aims to cultivate and empower aspiring entrepreneurs within the Media sectors through collaboration of industry expertise and academic

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

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

the big teams in Paris.

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

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

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

Bopanna has reason to have that confidence in Balaii's ability to rise to the occasion. He had a chance to test Balaji at

the French Open where Bopanna was pushed along with Matthew Ebden by the Tamil Nadu player and his Mexican partner Miguel Reyes-Varela.

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

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

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

I felt Balaji, depending on the surface we're playing with, which is the clay, would have been the ideal partner. Currently, even if you look at

(Matthew) Ebden, who I'm playing with, he's somebody who's more agile, more

explosive on that surface. "And for clay, especially, I need better in terms of going by the surface. If it was a hard court or a grass court, maybe Yuki would have been the preferred

Bopanna though admitted that

it was not an obvious but a difficult choice since he has not played with either of them on

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

the clay court, he's definitely more athletic, given the two of us. Between me and Bala, I definitely need a partner who's more athletic, more agile.

"Bala has similar capabilities as

Messi loses fitness battle at Copa America,

Matthew. Bala would be fast, quick, swift like Ebden. But Ebden comes with a lot of experience and Bala hasn't played at that level much."

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

In Paris, it will Bopanna, who has to do the heavy lifting. But did he have any choice?
"There is nobody currently in

the country who has played that kind of experience as Matthew Ebden. So, no matter who I played with on the country, it would be the same scenario.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tennis events at Paris Olympics start on July 27.

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

**AP** ■ PARIS

 $T_{\text{doesn't change for most}}^{\text{he competition surface}}$ Olympic sports. A pool's a pool. A track's a track. A wrestling mat's a mat. And so on. Tennis? That's a whole other story, with tournaments contested on clay, hard or grass courts - and now there's a shift for the Paris Games.

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

The "terre battue" at Roland Garros used for the French turnaround Open hosts Olympic matches Olympics to prepare for the wrapped up with singles titles for Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic and Carlos Alcaraz of Spain - and the transition back to that site is more concerning to some athletes than others.

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

To her. maybe

The Olympics, "but we're changing surface and changing variables all the time."

Clay is softer and changing variables all the time." other places we play on clay.

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

One additional factor on

were in hand at the Bernabeu

to welcome the 25-year-old

France star during his official

presentation as the club's

newest player.



some players' minds: There be another brief after the starts in late August. That's less than a month after the medals are awarded in France. "It's awful for the schedule," said Taylor Fritz, Pegula's teammate for the United States and someone who just reached the quarterfinals at the All England Club. "It makes absolutely no sense. It screws everything up, for

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

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

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

bounces and generally will reward those who go for point-ending shots.
The biggest difference among

starting on July 27 - two move to the hard courts them might be the footwork. weeks after Wimbledon ahead of the U.S. Open, which Clay requires sliding. Grass is more about choppy steps, to avoid slipping. Hard courts generally do not cause as many falls as either of the "For a clay-court player, the

adjustment's not that hard," 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang said. "For (people) that have grown up playing on the surface, you iust know the surface so well. So someone like Iga Swiatek, who has won four of the past five French Opens, should comfortable and confident on clay, by far her best surface.

The same goes, of course, for Rafael Nadal, a 14-time champion at Roland Garros. Novak Djokovic has won at least three Grand Slam titles at each of the sport's biggest events, the only man to do so, and the adjustments required come rather naturally to him. Then again, Alcaraz, whose title at Roland Garros this year made him, at 21, the youngest man to win a major trophy on clay, hard and grass courts, had this to say about going from London to Paris:
"It's not easy to change surfaces in just a week.

On incredible day, Mbappé welcomed by

# puts goal of playing 6th World Cup on hold

ionel Messi cried uncontrollably Lafter he exited from a Copa America final before fulltime for the first time in

Beyond the severe pain in his right ankle on Sunday night in Miami Gardens, the tears on the face of Argentina's captain showed a deeper anguish.

Despite winning the title in one of his "last battles," as Messi described this Copa, the 37-year-old superstar did not pass the fitness test that could have opened the way for him to play his sixth World Cup in 2026.

Argentina successfully defended its South American title with a hardfought 1-0 extra-time win against Colombia. Messi left the pitch in Hard Rock Stadium in the 64th minute, breaking down without being touched. The Copa was Messi's first major tournament since leaving European soccer to play in the less competitive Major League Soccer in the US. Still, he has missed several games over the last vear for his Inter Miami club and Argentina due to muscle issues.

Messi felt muscular pains in his right leg in the second group match against Chile, which sidelined him from the



following game against Peru. He did not deliver an impressive performance shootout. In the semifinal victory over Messi's farewell to the national team is Canada, he scored his only goal in the tournament in the 2-0 win.

With a limp, Messi celebrated his second Copa title in modest fashion on the field. The injury still hurt the star on

Monday. "One more," he said on his social media

channels

Messi did not speak to the media after in the quarterfinals against Ecuador and missed his chance in the penalty details about the damage.

still on hold, but there's other players aged above 35 who are likely to have played their last major international tournament; winger Ángel Di María (36), defender Nicolás Otamendi (36), and substitute goalkeeper Franco

Argentina does have up-and-coming players and a squad averaging 28 years of age when the veterans are not counted. That is partly why it held strong against Colombia despite the absence of its star for 56 minutes of play. "I don't know whether we marked an era, but this team never ceases to surprise. It recovers from difficulties," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "When (Messi) leaves, the team

multiplies with the one that comes in and we play better in a different way." Young talents such as Alejandro Garnacho, Valentín Carboni, Thiago Almada, Claudio Echeverri and Valentín Barco are not to be compared with the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, but they can help Argentina remain competitive when it defends the World Cup in 2026.

Key squad members such as goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez, defender Cristian Romero, midfielder Rodrigo de Paul and striker Lautaro Martínez are likely to remain.

Argentina will September in World Cup qualifying against Chile and Colombia. The Argentines lead South America. That international window will give more hints about whether Messi's legend will go on or stop at Sunday's title.

### Nagal attains career-high ATP ranking of 68

Olympic-bound Sumit Nagal continued his ascent in the ATP singles chart, climbing to a career-high ranking of 68.

The 26-year-old rose five spots in the latest ATP ranking list released on Monday. His previous best was 71.

Nagal thus moves past former world No. 71 Sashi Menon to become the fourth highestranked Indian man since 1973. Vijay Amritraj (ranked 18th in 1980), Ramesh Krishnan (ranked 23rd in 1985) and Somdev Devvarman (ranked 62nd in 2011) are the only other Indian players who have



held a higher rank than Nagal. A string of impressive results in recent times has not only helped Nagal improve his ranking but also make the cut for singles event at the Paris Games. Nagal, who will be the sole

Indian in the men's singles

event at the Paris Olympics, has so far logged 779 ATP points.

The year began with a win against Alexander Bublik, the 31st seed from Kazkakhstan at the Australian Open. He also competed at the French Open and Wimbledon.

He had won the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany earlier this month and the Chennai Open in February.

Nagal, who is currently the

best-ranked Indian singles player, has won four ATP Challenger titles since 2023 and Heilbronn was his fourth title on clay.



### Gareth says he will step down as England manager

After eight years, four tournaments and two finals, Gareth Southgate announced he was stepping down as England manager on Tuesday, saying it was "time for

Change."
Sunday's 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final proved to be his last game in charge of the national team. "As a proud Englishman, it has been the honour of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all," he said. "But it's time for change, and for a new chapter.'

Southgate's contract was due to expire this year and his announcement comes after months of uncertainty surrounding his future.

Mikel Oyarzabal's 86th-minute winner in Berlin was a painful way to end his reign after he transformed the fortunes of England's underperforming

national team. Hired in 2016, he led England to back-to-back finals at the Euros and to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2018.

But, ultimately, he was unable to end the nation's decadeslong wait for a first major trophy since the World Cup in

"Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success. He is held in the highest regard by the players, the backroom team, by everyone at the FA and across the world of football," said Mark Bullingham, chief executive of the English Football Association.

Southgate said before the European Championship that it would likely be his last tournament if England did not

During it, he faced fierce criticism for the team's early performances and some fans throw plastic beer cups towards him at the end of the 0-0 draw with Slovenia in the group phase.

But he achieved what no other England manager has by leading his team to two finals, including the first final on

foreign soil.
"We look back at Gareth's tenure with huge pride - his contribution to the English game, including a significant role in player development, and in culture transformation has been unique. However, it is his record of winning tournament games which is most extraordinary," Bullingham said.

#### Real Madrid fans at packed Santiago Bernabeu **AP** MADRID cheers by the Madrid fans. Wearing the No. 9 jersey, Mbappé smiled broadly and Kylian Mbappé finally put on a Real Madrid jersey on waved to the fans who chanted Tuesday, fulfilling his childhood dream in front of a his name, then embraced Pérez and former Madrid player and packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Nearly 80,000 fans coach Zinedine Zidane, who invited Mbappé to visit the Spanish club for the first time

dreamed about playing for Madrid and today I'm here. It After signing his five-year contract with the Spanish powerhouse alongside club means a lot to me. president Florentino Pérez, Mbappé's relatives, club officials and several former Mbappé entered the stage set up at the Bernabeu to loud

when he was just a teenager.
"It's incredible day for me,'

Mbappé told the crowd, in Spanish. "Since being a kid I



officials and several former Bernabeu, which had its roof ceremony in the Spanish players were by the stage at the closed for the midday capital. Kids linked to

large video boards at the newly

revamped Bernabeu. Some of the club's most iconic moments were also shown while the song "Nessun Dorma" was played on the loudspeakers. Images of Mbappe's career were also displayed, as well as photos including Mbappé wearing Madrid's uniform as a kid and

Mbappé's foundation were also

The record-15 European Cups

won by Madrid were also on

the club. Today we welcome an exceptional player who today is fulfilling his childhood dream," Pérez said. "Today you are here because it's something that you wanted. Thank you for making a great effort to be able to wear this white jersey."

posing alongside former club star Cristiano Ronaldo.

presentation a "historic act" for

Pérez

called Mbappé's

Mbappé's presentation came after he played at the 2024 European Championship, where France lost to eventual champion Spain in the

# HARDIK PANDYA TO LEAD INDIA IN T20s AGAINST SRI LANKA

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is all set to lead India in the three-match T20 International series against Sri Lanka starting July 27.
However, one of the heroes of India's

T20 World Cup victory last month will take a break during the three-match ODI series, which is scheduled in August, due to "personal reasons".

"Hardik Pandya was India's T2O vice-captain under Rohit Sharma. He is completely fit and available for the three-match T20I series and will lead the side," a senior BCCI source told PTI

on conditions of anonymity. Rohit retired from T20 Internationals at the end of the World Cup. The T20Is against Sri Lanka will run

from July 27 to 30 in Pallekele, followed by the ODIs from August 2 to 7 in Colombo. The squad for the series is expected to be announced in the next

couple of days.
While there is still no clarity on who would be Pandya's deputy, the toss-up is between Shubman Gill, who recently captained India to a 4-1 series win over Zimbabwe, and Suryakumar Yadav, who led the side during the T20Is

against South Africa last year.
About the ODIs, the official confirmed that Pandya has asked for leave and has already communicated this to regular skipper Rohit Sharma, who is also taking a break from this series.



"The break from ODIs is for very personal reasons. Hardik doesn't have any fitness issue as is being floated in the media." the official said.

For the ODIs, KL Rahul, who led in the last ODI series in South Africa, and Gill are in contention for the leadership

THRUST ON DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY: BCCI secretary Jay

Shah has made it clear that even starcricketers must make themselves available for domestic engagements when they are free from national duty. But exceptions will be made for the likes of Rohit, Virat Kohli and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

The BCCI would, however, want all the other Test specialists to play at least one if not a couple of Duleep Trophy games in August as a precursor to the Tests against Bangladesh and New Zealand. "This time there is no zonal selection committee for Duleep Trophy. Only national selection committee will pick Duleep teams.

'All Test team contenders will be picked. For Rohit, Virat and Bumrah, it will be their choice if they want to play or not," the source added.



### Harmanpreet moves to 12th, Shafali 15th in ICC T20 rankings

PTI DUBAI

India opener Shafali Verma On Tuesday moved to 15th place while her skipper Harmanpreet Kaur climbed to Harmanpreet Kaur climbed to the 12th spot in the latest ICC T20 rankings, following their strong performances in the series against South Africa. Harmanpreet has moved up three places and now has 613

rating points while Shafali rose two rungs to share the 15th spot with New Zealand's Amelia Kerr and Danni Wyatt

from England. The swashbuckling Smriti Mandhana continues to be the

top-ranked Indian batter as she remained static on the fifth In the bowlers' list, the seasoned Deepti Sharma continued her stay at the third

Radha Yadav moved eight spots to 15th while Pooja

Vastrakar climbed up six places to 23rd and Shreyanka Patil rose nine rungs to 60th. England spinner Sarah Glenn

has claimed a new career-high rating of 768 points. She has claimed eight wickets through four matches of England's ongoing T20I series at home against New Zealand.

This has allowed the rightarmer to maintain her place as the No.2 ranked T201 bowler in the world. The only player in front of Glenn in the ratings is teammate and fellow spinner Sophie Ecclestone and she also has eight scalps from the first four matches of the five-game

### Lakshya underdog in reasonable Olympics draw, will play freely: Coach Vimal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he presence of some established}}_{\text{foes notwithstanding, Indian}}$ shuttler Lakshya Sen has got a "fair" draw in his debut Olympics, according to his coach Vimal Kumar, who expects the youngster to play freely in Paris thanks to his "underdog" status and some technical improvements in his

overall game.
World No. 19 Sen's path to an Olympic medal has multiple hurdles as he will need to get past familiar Indonesian nemesis Jonatan Christie, last Olympics' surprise semifinalist Kevin Cordon from Guatemala, and Julian Carraggi from Belgium in Group L. "I think it (the draw) is very fair, I feel it is a very reasonable draw for him," Vimal, a former India coach, told PTI from Marseille, France

where Sen is currently training ahead of the Paris Olympics.

'A couple of times, he has lost to Jonathan Christie in close matches. It's a 50-50 match. You have to convert (chances) if you have to get to the second stage. In my opinion, Lakshya has nothing to lose. He will be the underdog and he can play a lot more freely," he asserted.

Describing Sen as a big-match player, Vimal said he expects Sen to

trump former Asian Games champion Christie, who was also a part of Indonesia's Thomas Cupwinning team in 2022. Vimal said Sen has worked on his

front-court alertness and closing stage composure. The 22-year-old would be aiming to become the first Indian male shuttler to finish on the Olympic podium.

India's previous badminton medals at the Games have been clinched by Saina Nehwal (bronze in 2012, London) and P V Sindhu (silver in 2016, Rio de Janeiro and bronze in 2020, Tokyo)

Jonathan will be the last match of "Jonathan will be the last match of the group and Lakshya should pull through. So I see a lot of positives. Not going to the Canada Open was a dampener but he has overcome that. Being away here in similar conditions will help him," Vimal said referring to Sen being forced out of his title defence in Canada Open owing to visa issues Open owing to visa issues.

To prepare the player from Almora,

Korea's Yoo Yong-Sung, a two-time men's doubles Olympic silver-medallist, was brought back to polish his net game, improve his on-court pace and dial up the focus in crunch situations. Yong-Sung had worked with Sen in 2022

"We have brought in a lot of speed work into closing stages, we



introduced a lot of double drills in finishing, pushing the pace towards certain points. Last three weeks, Yoo Yong-Sung has been helping us with those drills," Vimal said. Vimal said Sen has also been doing a lot of service variations practice. "(The idea is) basically to bring in

some sort of intensity in the routines. Certain sets of routines that we follow are mostly singles-oriented. He (Sen) worked on those flat exchanges, retrieving and things like approaching the net and being a little more alert at the net," Vimal

For the last one week, Sen has been training at the Halles des Sports Parsemain in Fos-sur-Mer, which is Lakshya had struggled through much of 2023 and early part of 2024. He fell behind in the about 45 minutes from Marseille city centre.

Sen is also training with the Olympic-bound Popov brothers -- Christo and Toma Junior -- till July 21. Indian shuttlers Kiran George, Ayush Shetty have been roped in too for sparring.
"Next week we will be doing one set

of tournament practice because he needs that little bit of that match practice. It would have been good to see him in Canada. So next week I want to see how he is implementing what he learned.

"Against both the Popov brothers, it will be a good test. So I'll be able to assess him. Once he gets into the village in Paris, we won't get to play much. We will have limited time for practice in the main arena.

qualification race but turned things around in time with two semifinal finishes at the All England Championship and the French Open to seal his place in the Olympics. "From all that he has survived, he

got an opportunity to qualify. He has been practising and has worked on his game. Lakshya has acclimatised to the conditions, he plays well there in those conditions.
"We have also got some of that tournament shuttlecock (F-90) because the conditions are a little on the slower side in Paris. So we have been practising with those shuttles," said Vimal, who guided Saina Nehwal to world No. 1 in 2015. Sen, along with his coach, will be leaving for Paris on July 22.

### Moudgil overcomes mental demons to secure | Bawa assures India of place in shooting contingent for Paris Games



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Overcoming mental demons after being left out of the Indian team from last year's Asian Games and the World Championships was key to shooter Anjum Moudgil securing a Paris Olympic berth. Former world no.1 Moudgil, a world championships and Commonwealth Games medallist, competed in two events during the last edition in Tokyo. She finished 15th in the 50m rifle 3 position and 18th in the 10m air rifle, but in Paris, she will be featuring in only women's 50m 3 position.

By her own admission, the ouster from the Indian team for Worlds and Asian Games due to inconsistent form was an eye opener for her as the 30-year-old worked on bettering her mental toughness besides

focussing entirely on her training.
"Three years after Tokyo was a roller-coaster ride for me. I have seen tough times but I wanted to comeback stronger. The experiences of Tokyo will surely be of helpful (in Paris)," Moudgil said in a virtual media interaction.

virtual media interaction.
"I really took advantage of quotas and trials, the federation told me not to lose out hope. They understood the things I was going through. I was really confident of making through to the team after I didn't make the team for World Championships and the Asian Games because of just 2 points in the trials.

my best in the trials. I knew my strengths and how to work under pressure and it

paid off.
"One year after Tokyo, I won couple of medals in World Cups and became world no.1. I did mental training focus, it's been a positive step for me. I now speak up, which is a positive change heading to Paris. I used time to get better and find what works better for me," she added.

Understanding the importance of mental health issues, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has set up the Mentally Fit Helpline, a dedicated, independent and confidential mental health counselling service available to all athletes accredited for the Paris Games.

"It's (mental health) so important for all the federations and IOC to understand. It's important to understand the mental side, understand how it works for an athlete, understand mental toughness. So, it's positive step to see mental helpline being introduced in Paris Olympics," Moudgil

"Athletes have spoken in the past about mental health issues. It's a common issue which needs to be addressed not only for athletes, but in every profession.

"People should respect mental health, and not hide anything. The helpline is a positive step towards admiring mental health issues."

India have named a strong 21-member because of just 2 points in the trials.

"I was too focussed and positive in giving which includes many youngsters,

including 22-year-old Sift Kaur Samra who will be competing alongside Moudgil in 50m 3p event.

"There are so many strong, young shooters, it really helps me to push my limit. I would have been stuck if I was not pushed. There is high competition in my event, and it really helped me to push. The reason I am here because of the efforts I have put in over the last 3 years," Moudgil

"I am very positive going into Paris with this young contingent. All of them are confident, the team is doing very well. It is positive for each and every shooter, there is no pressure. My expectation is for everyone to give their best, everyone going with positive mindet."

with positive mindset." Moudgil is counting on her difficult Tokyo experience to shine in Paris.

"Competing in one rather than two events both have positive and negative sides, but I am happy. In Tokyo, the environment was different because of Covid. Everything was tentative, we had to appear for Covid test everyday and if you turn positive you are out of the competition. All of these things were disturbances.

"The competition is very high in India and the pressure situations we face during trials will definitely help in Olympics. I just wanted to be my best in trials, the fire to perform in trials and the experience of last 15 years really paid off. These things will surely help me in Paris, the experience of playing in the Olympics is there with me,"

"...We had a different experience in Tokyo because of Covid, we won quotas 3 years before and was waiting as the Games were postponed. But we really don't discuss too much baggage of Tokyo. It's just another big competition and that's what we

Shooting competitions of the Paris Olympics will be held at National Shooting Center in Châteauroux, the

Shooting Center in Châteauroux, the capital city of the French department of Indre, central France, which is approximately 270km from Paris.

"The preparation is going really well and according to plan. We are Luxembourg for the last phase of our training and preparation before we head to Châteauroux, France on 21st."

# medal in World Junior squash, Anahat bows out

India's Shaurya Bawa guaranteed himself of a medal as he moved to the semifinals with a hard fought 3-2 win over Malaysian Low Wa-Sern in the World Junior Squash Championships in

Houston. The 18-year-old from Delhi, thus, becomes only the second Indian male to reach the semifinals after Kush Kumar, who reached the last four stage in 2014.

In a thrilling clash that lasted 80 minutes, Bawa was down 6-

9 and 7-10 in the fifth game but remarkably saved three match balls to eke out a 2-11 11-4 10-12 11-8 12-10 victory in the boys' quarterfinals on Monday. With the win, Bawa set up a semifinal clash with Egyptian top-seed Mohamed Zakaria. top-seed Monamed Zакагіа.
Meanwhile, compatriot
Anahat Singh bowed out from
the girls' quarterfinals for a
third straight year.
The 16-year-old women's
national champion lost a close

Nadien five-setter to Elhammamy, with the Egyptian winning 11-8 11-9 5-11 10-12 13-11.

### Punjab FC retains five Indian players ahead of upcoming ISL season

Punjab FC on Tuesday announced retaining five Indian players, including mid-fielder Ashis Pradhan and goal-keeper Ravi Kumar, on multi-year deals for the upcoming Indian Super League season.

The other players retained are Ricky Shabong, Manglenthang Kipgen, and Suresh Meitei. While Ravi and Pradhan will remain at the club until May 2026, centre back Meitei and midfielder Ricky will be a part of the Punjab FC till May 2027. Kipgen, also a midfielder, will continue till May 2028.

"They were key players for the club in the previous season and the club has kept their faith in these players," the club said in a release. Ravi made 47 saves for the club

in 16 appearances last season while Meitei made 14 appearances while assisting once for the club.

"Pradhan, Shabong and Kipgen made 17, 10 and four appearances respectively adding steel and creativity in the middle of the park," the club added.

### Olympics-bound javelin thrower Jena says he was on verge of quitting last year

Asian Games silver medallist javelin Athrower Kishore Jena says he was on verge of quitting the sport in 2023 after a string of poor performances but he heeded to his father's advice, leading to a revival of

Jena admitted that Neeraj Chopra's Tokyo Olympics gold medal motivated him to achieve more in his sport but he found it difficult to get the big throws and thought of quitting the sport in July last year just before the World Championships.

"When Neeraj won at the Olympics, we celebrated and enjoyed his victory. But celebrated and enjoyed his victory. But honestly, the victory also left me dejected because I too was playing the same sport. I felt it was time for me to achieve something in sports," Jena said.
"I participated in Lebanon National Championships after a dip in my rankings and produced a throw of 78m. Despite giving it my all, I couldn't achieve much. I



started doubting if all the hard work was worth it. I called my father, who encouraged me to participate in next competition in Sri Lanka," he said in a IioCinema release.

Joc. Inema release.

Jena won in Lebanon (on July 21) with a throw of 78.96m, which by any standard was a modest performance. In fact, Jena could not breach the 80m mark till the end of 2022. His first 80m-plus throw came in March 2023 during the Indian Grand Prix in Thiruvananthapuram where he came up with 81.05m effort.
"I decided the event in Sri Lanka (July 30)

would be my last attempt, after which I would quit and go back to prioritizing work and family. With God's grace, I performed well, producing a throw of 84.38m which led to my qualification for the World Championships."

Jena qualified for the Budapest World Championships in August 2023 through world ranking quota. He could not breach the automatic qualification mark of 85.20m.

"I performed well in the World Championships as well, achieving a personal best of 84.77m," said Jena who finished fifth in the final while Chopra

won the gold with 88.17m. "I followed it up with another personal best of 87.54m at the Asian Games (in Hangzhou, China where he won a silver behind Chopra) securing my ticket to Paris 2024. I now want to give my best at Paris. I am quite confident. While I haven't set any particular targets, I am aiming to improve my personal best."

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