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Late City Vol.160 Issue 193 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY JULY 18, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the pione

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UP CM Yogi prepares for critical bypolls



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with BJP leader JP Nadda

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT

Uttar Pradesh Chiet Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday entrusted ministers with the responsibility of supervising the bypolls to 10 Assembly seats and to stay for two nights in a week in the respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister also asked the Ministers and leaders of party organisations to be active on social media to counter the negative campaign of the Opposition and the false narrative spread by INDIA bloc parties.

The Chief Minister has constituted a team of 30 Cabinet ministers and ministers of state to supervise

Deputy CM fends off Akhilesh Yadav

Amid the buzz over possible changes in the Yogi Adityanath Government, the Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and main Opposition Samajwadi Party's leader Akhiĺesh Yadav on Wednesday engaged in a verbal duel after which the latter said the people of UP are fed up with infighting within the BJP Government. In a sharp response, Maurya stressed that the BJP has strong Governments and organisation at the Centre

and in UP and the Samajwadi Party has no chance of a comeback.

"There is infighting in the Government. BJP leaders are fighting among themselves. The people know about the corruption and are fed up with the game of thrones," Yadav said at a party event. Responding to the SP chief, Maurya tweeted this that the BJP's Governments and organisation in the country and the State are strong. "The return of SP's reign of goons in UP is impossible. BJP will repeat 2017 in the 2027 state polls," he posted on X.

seats. The ministers are from the Bharatiya Janata Party and allies Rashtriya Lok Dal and NISHAD Party.

The Chief Minister presided over a meeting of the ministers and leaders of the party organisation. Three ministers each have been given the responsibility of supervising the elections in the 10 Assembly seats going to bypolls.

Yogi has specifically directed the ministers to focus the attention on the preparations at the polling booth level and be in constant touch with the cadre and grassroot party workers. He said the party worker was the top priority and asked the Ministers incharge of the poll bound 10 Assembly seats to meet the party workers, ascertain their problems and facilitate them in discharging their responsibility during the

elections. The CM said the party workers should feel assured that both the government and the party organisation was solidly behind them.

The meeting also discussed the measures to be taken for busting the false narrative of inflation, unemployment, abrogation of Constitution and caste-based reservation for the SC, ST and OBCs. He said the false narrative of amendment to Constitution for abrogating the reservations need to be particularly busted.



Iconic Gulati eatery gutted, Delhiites left heartbroken

SAUMYA SHUKLA I NEW DELHI

A fire in the iconic Gulati restaurant, a favourite haunt of foodies, in the wee hours of Wednesday in the heart of the national Capital left its patrons broken-hearted. Serving the gourmet since 1959, this famous eatery has had among its clients a number of dignitaries regularly visiting the eating joint to savour the delicacies on offer. As the disheartening news of the fire that gutted a good portion of the restaurant spread by word of mouth, many Delhiites got nostalgic reminiscing about their times at the eatery which is etched in their memories forever.

The restaurant that had a humble beginning as a small "dhaba" with simple wooden benches and tables, transformed into a fine dine restaurant in 2013, giving a perfect dining experience to the visitors. The restaurant was also known for its great ambience. The fire broke out at 2.48 am arly busted. in the sitting area of Veg Gulati Continued on Page 8 restaurant adjacent the main

restaurant, and is a vegetarian alternative to the same. The leaping flames soon spread to the first floor and caused extensive damage.

Sharing their sense of loss, many fans of the restaurant told *The Pioneer* that the place was part of many family gatherings. Twenty-six-year-old Aditya Ahuja, who works as a content writer at Prasar Bharti, reminisced how he visited the place with his father as a toddler.

According to an official of Delhi Fire Services (DFS), it took one hour for four fire tenders to bring the blaze under control. The cause of fire is suspected to be a short circuit. Police has said a probe is underway in the matter. Over the years, the restaurant has emerged as one of the best serving North Indian cuisine in the city. Long queues outside the place are a usual sight. However, this doesn't deter foodies from visiting the restaurant to savour their favourites dishes which include dal makhni, naan and dahi

Continued on Page 8

NCP's Ajit Pawar suffers setback



T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Still to recover from the Opposition MahaYuti's poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Ajit Pawarled ruling NCP suffered another jolt on Wednesday, as its Pimpri unit chief Ajit Gavahane and three other leaders quit the party, ahead of their joining the rival NCP (Sharad Pawar) on July 20.

Apart from Gavahane, three other leaders who quit the ruling NCP (AP) and announced their decision to join the rival Sharad Pawar-led NCP are NCP's Pimpri-Chinchwad Students' Wing chief Yash Sane, former corporators Rahul Bhosale and Pankaj Bhalekar.

Gavahane, Rahul and Pankaj submitted their resignations to NCP state President Sunil Tatkare. Sane had sent in his papers to the NCP Student Wing President Prashant Kadam earlier this week.

The resignations by four NCP (AP) leaders come a year after Ajit Pawar rebelled against Sharad Pawar, brought about a dramatic split in the parent party and joined the BJP-led MahaYuti Government in the State.

Continued on Page 8

Karnataka Government pushes pause button on job quota Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress-led Government Congress-led on Wednesday landed in approved a controversial Bill mandating first 100 per cent reservation in private firms then revising it to two slabs for Kannadigas and finally "put on hold" facing backlash for 48 hours.

The reservation in private firms for Group C and Group D posts was made public by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and later he deleted it, sharing another rectified post clarifying that the Cabinet approved the Bill to fix 50 per cent reservation for administrative posts and 75 per cent for nonadministrative posts for Kannadigas in private industries and other organisations in the State. The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting held on Monday.

gone down well with Government. Our priority is industry leaders and late to look after the welfare of evening sources said the Bill which said in a social media post was to be tabled in the and then deleted it and Karnataka Assembly on replaced with another Thursday has been put on message. hold now. Sources said the Congress high command that Kannadigas should be from New Delhi had to given an opportunity to lead



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with leaders

intervene intervene given the "sensitivity" of the matter in the Bill as the State including the silicon city Bengaluru has a population from north India and else part of the

"The Cabinet meeting held yesterday approved a Bill to make recruitment of 100 per cent Kannadigas mandatory for 'C and D' grade posts in all private industries in the The move, however, did not state. We are a pro-Kannada Government the Kannadigas," the CM

"It is our Government's wish

comfortable life in the motherland. We are a pro-Kannada Government. Our priority is to look after the welfare of Kannadigas," he

Karnataka's move is similar to a Bill introduced by the Government, Harvana mandating 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs to the residents of the State. It was, however, struck down the Punjab and Haryana High Court on November 17, 2023.

According to sources, the 'Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024 Other will be tabled on Thursday in the Assembly.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

 $T^{\text{he Ministry of Law and}}_{\text{Justice has pitched for the incorporation of a "sunset"}}$

clause or automatic repeal provision in certain type of

bills to de-clutter statute books and has put it in its 100-

The sunset clause applies

primarily to laws of temporary

day agenda.

Cowardly terrorists from Pakistan on the run in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Security forces have mobilised a large number of troops to pin down the foreign terrorists on the prowl Dessa forest Doda. Four Army personnel, including one Captain, were martyred in the fierce gunfight in the same zone late Monday night following which these searches were launched across the hilly areas. It is learnt the terrorists had fled the area after targeting the Army personnel. According to local reports, while the joint teams were combing the area a brief exchange of fire took place on two occasions within a span of three to four hours late

Tuesday night.
The alert Village Defence
Guards (VDGs) reportedly opened fire on observing suspicious movement outside their village, while two explosive shells were recovered

from the Gandoh area. The exchange of fire was first reported at Kalaan Bhata at 10.45 pm on Tuesday and then near Panchan Bhata at 2 am during the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in the Desa forest area.

Despite the challenging and terrain weather conditions, efforts are underway to track down and neutralise the terrorists who



Security personnel amid heavy security near the site of a recent encounter with terrorists at Desa village, in Doda district, on Wednesday

have links with the banned Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). Meanwhile, two explosive shells were recovered during a separate search operation in the Sinoo forest area of Gandoh in Doda district. Sinoo Forest witnessed a day-

long encounter on June 26, resulting in the killing of three foreign terrorists and the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a US-made M4 carbine.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Army said it had been conducting a series of joint and coordinated operations with the Jammu and Kashmir Police to eliminate foreign terrorists.

Continued on Page 8

Law Ministry advocates sunset clause in key Bills

Stampeding job seekers in Mumbai



A stampede-like situation prevailed near the Mumbai airport where thousands of job aspirants gathered to apply for a limited number of vacancies for the post of loader though the police on Wednesday claimed they had made adequate arrangements to avoid any untoward incident

Haryana Govt announces quota for Agniveers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Government I on Wednesday announced a ten per cent reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment of constables, forest guards and jail wardens along with quotas in other posts. This decision came ahead of the Assembly polls in the State. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini also said the

Government will provide interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh if any Agniveer wishes to set up their own business. "In direct recruitment to posts

of constable, mining guard,



forest guard, jail warden and special police officer made by the State Government, there will be a 10 per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers," he said at a press conference in Chandigarh. He said in Group C and D

posts, an age relaxation of three years will also be given. "However, for the first batch of Agniveers, this age relaxation will be five years," Saini added.

In direct recruitment for Group C civil posts, there will be a five per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers, the Chief Minister said.

He also announced sops for industrial units employing Agniveers. "If any industrial unit employs an Agniveer at a salary of more than ₹30,000 per month, then our government will give that unit an annual subsidy of ₹60,000," Saini said.

HC reserves order on **Kejriwal arrest pleas**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI Justice Neena Bansal Krishna,

 $T^{\text{he Delhi High Court on}}_{\text{Wednesday reserved its}}$ order on Delhi Chief Minister Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Kejriwal, referred the case of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during a hearing at the Delhi High Court.

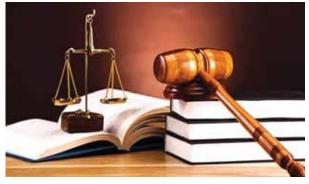
Singhvi pointed out that while Khan was released, he was rearrested in another case, arguing, "It can't happen in our country."

conducted proceedings on a holiday on account of Muharram, heard the arguments advanced by Arvind Kejriwal's pleas the lawyers of Kejriwal and challenging his arrest by the CBI in the excise policy case and seeking interim bail. listed his regular bail plea for further arguments on July 29. During the hearing, Singhvi criticised the trial court's decision to allow the CBI's application for production warrants despite Kejriwal being interrogated for nearly three hours on June 25. Kejriwal's senior counsel not only assailed his arrest by the

CBÍ but also sought his

release on bail in the case.

nature or those dealing with dynamic situations. Once their utility ends, they stand removed from the statute books. Sunset clauses have been widely used in the US, the UK and Germany for more than 20 years now. The legislative department in the Ministry has made "sunset clause" in new legislative



proposal a part of its 100-day agenda, saying steps will be taken in this regard in consultation with concerned ministries. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had directed all Union Ministries and departments to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next Government.

Former Union Law Secretary PK Malhotra explained that whenever the legislature — Parliament or State legislature — want to restrict the life of a

legislation being passed by it, it may as a matter of policy provide a sunset clause providing that after a lapse of a certain period — five or 10 years depending on the requirement — the law will come to an end. The legislature can pass a freeh law legislature can pass a fresh law giving the statute, which has become inoperative due to the sunset clause, a fresh lease of life, Malhotra said According to the legislative

department, it seeks to incorporate sunset clause or automatic repealing clause in new legislative proposal in consultation with administrative Ministries and

departments concerned. As and when the proposals in this behalf are received by it, necessary action will be taken

up, it noted.
"This is a long-pending demand. This practice is prevalent in some other countries also. I think there are many legislations where this kind of clause can be put so that Parliament or State legislature is also vigilant that with the passage of time, if a legislation needs to continue, then they will give it a fresh look. "And if they do not want to continue, then on the day provided in the law, it will automatically come to an end," Malhotra explained. In the

pressed or such a clause. A sunset clause is a legal element that establishes an expiration date or conditions

recent past, some commissions set up to look into legal reforms have also

This clause automatically removes legislative sections once a specific date is reached. It requires certain provisions or laws to stop functioning unless renewed.

for ending a law or agreement. It outlines that the law or

agreement will stop being

valid after a certain time,

unless renewed. In contracts, a

sunset clause permits termination if a particular

event doesn't occur by a set

Sunset clauses have been frequently used in India in fiscal and tax laws, such as tax holidays and exchange control regulations. The Constitution itself provides for a 10 year sunset for reservations to Parliament and Legislative Assembly seats (Article 334).



Complete repair works of Kanwar Yatra routes: CM

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday reviewed the preparations for the holy Kanwar Yatra, which begins on July 22, and provided necessary guidelines. The meeting was attended by min-isters of Water, Power, Urban Development, and Energy departments along with the PWD minister and state ministers.

Directing the PWD, Irrigation and Urban Development Department, he said that the remaining repairing works of roads across districts falling in the Kanwar Yatra route should be completed in the next 72

The chief minister said that the entire Kanwar Yatra route should be kept clean throughout the month of Sawan and there should be no dirt or waterlogging anywhere.

ment, as well as good lighting on the entire Kanwar Yatra route. For this, additional street lights should be installed and arrangements made for transformers," he said. He said that respecting the faith

of the devotees, it would be appropriate to set up assistance camps for the help of the general public along the Yatra route. Arrangements should also be made for distribution of cold drinking water, shikanji etc, he said and added, "Take help of social organisations in setting up of camps, but verify the credentials of those operating it. The Yatra route should be monitored using drones, and flowers should be showered on devotees on important occasions."

The chief minister said that DJ should be played by Kanwariyas as per the prescribed standards and the height of the DJ must not immediately.



exceed the set limit.

He said that a large number of devotees visit Shiva temples in urban areas of Ghaziabad, Meerut, Bareilly, Ayodhya, Basti, Prayagraj, Kashi, Barabanki etc and the local administration should manage the crowd in Shiva temples by communicating with the temple management.
The chief minister mentioned

receiving reports of dead animals flowing in the Ganga canal and instructed officials to ensure that it stops

CM urged to to appoint aided junior teachers

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajay Rai on Wednesday wrote a letter to Minister Chief Adityanath and requested him to immediately issue the appointment letters of the candidates declared successful in the aided junior teacher recruitment exam.

Rai said that the government was making unnecessary delay in appointing the successful candidates even after the result of the aided junior teacher recruitment exam was redeclared on September 6, 2022 after the intervention of the Allahabad High Court.

The request was made by the UPCC chief after a 5-member delegation of candidates of aided junior teacher recruitment exam 2021 met him on Wednesday.



Mourners taking part in Ashura procession in Lucknow on Wednesday. Ashura marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussain along with his 71 companions, including his

LMC springs into action after one diarrhoea death in Gajaria Kheda

Lucknow (PNS): On receiving information about the death of one person and spread of diarrhoea in Gajarian Kheda and Kalli Paschim village of the newly expanded area of Lucknow Municipal Corporation, senior LMC officials rushed to the site on

Wednesday. Mayor Sushma Kharakwal, Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh along with chief sanitation and food inspector and the team of Health and Water department reached the said spot and contacted the families of the patients and obtained information about the situation.

Additional director of Health department said three sick persons of Ganjarian Kheda village were admitted to the nearby hospital and they were being

properly treated.
The Health department team of the municipal corporation inspected the village and cleaned the streets and drains of the village, along with spraying anti-larvae in the drains. Fogging work was also done in the entire village.

the pioneer

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है। मदरसा इस्लामिया निस्वां स्कूल, मेलारायगंज, बाराबंकी सहायक अध्यापक फौकानिया—01 पद, आयु न्युनतम 20 वर्ष, शैक्षिक योग्यत कामिल अथवा न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशित अंकों सहित स्नातक तथा आलिम अथवा उर्दू सहित इण्टर का प्रमाण–पत्र आवश्यक है। पुनरीक्षित वेतन मैट्रिक्स लेवल 7 में वेतन 44900-142400 नोट:- उपरोक्त पद हेतु आवेदन पत्र विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन तिथि के 21 दिवस के अंदर प्रबन्धक इरम एजूकेशनल सोसाइटी, सी-ब्लाक इन्दिरों नगर लखनऊ-226016 को प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिए। अंतिम तिथि के बाद प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। साक्षात्कार की तिथि सूचित कर दी जाएगी। इस हेतु कोई यात्र भत्ता देय नहीं होगा।

काबलियत / अर्हता मदरसा बोर्ड एक्ट व नियमावली 22 जुलाई 2016 के मताबिक होगी।

NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that on behalf of my client SMFG Housing Finance Company Ltd. First Floor Shukla Tawar Plot No. B 77 Sector B LDA Colony Kanpur Road Lucknow U.P. it is being informed that Guru Charan son of Badli resident of Usru Pargana Haveli Avadh Tehsil Sadar District Ayodhya has made a will in favour of his granddaughter Deepika wife of Aditya Pratap resident of 262 Ramnagar Chauraha Khajurhat District Ayodhya on dated 5-7-2016 ledger No. 3 Volume No. 472 at page 147 to 162 at serial number 343 in Sub Registrar I hereby declare that my mother Faizabad and on the basis of her will Smt. Maya Devi W/O Yogendra Nath Deepika wife of Aditva has made a deed in favour of her husband Aditya Pratap son Yadav suddenly died on Chhabilal in plot no. 252 area 1224 sq. ft. 16.04.2022.A plot registered on situated Usru Pargana Haveli Avadh Tehsil my mother's name is situated at

Sadar District Ayodhya on 25-5-2021 same deed has been made. 1 number 4656 and Aditya Pratap son Chhabilal has applied to the said finance company to mortgage the same deed. If any person or bank institution has any objection in keeping the property in question mortgaged, then submit your objection to the undersigned within 7 days of this publication, otherwise it will be assumed person, bank or institution has any objection in keeping the property in question mortgaged.Sachin Shankar Faizabad-Avodhva.Mob- 8299765176

Check overloaded vehicles, unfit buses in state: Dayashankar Lucknow (PNS): Minister of number plates, hiding the num-State for Transport (Independent ber plate and illegally increasing through any district, then action

State for Transport (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Singh held a review meeting on overloading, illegal operation of buses and road safety with the district level officers of administration, police, mining and transport departments through video-conferencing.
He said that there were clear

instructions from the chief minister that overloaded commercial and passenger vehicles and unfit buses should not be found running under any circumstances. He gave directions to take strict action against such vehicles and also register a case against those who operate them illegally.

The transport minister said that all departments would have to take strict action against overloaded, unfit and uninsured vehicles. He said that it had often been found that vehicles were operated without HSRP number plates or by installing wrong

the body height of the vehicles. "This causes loss of revenue and the challan notice does not reach the right person but reaches the address of some other vehicle owner. Apart from enforcing the rules of the transport department, action should be taken against such people by filing a case of fraud," he said. He directed the officials of the Mining department to ensure action to stop overloading at the zero point (mining site gate)

The minister directed the officials of the Transport depart-ment to take strict action against those who violate the rules. "Take action against arbitrary transporters as per the govern-ment's intention," he said.

He warned that if the enforcement team does not take any action against overloaded vehi-cles and unfit buses passing

murdering him. Additional Commissioner of

will also be taken against the enforcement officers working in all such districts.

He said that police should also ensure strict action to stop over-

"The police will have to play an important role in stopping over-loading. The in-charge of the police stations on the route should check the overloaded vehicles and inform the officials of the Transport department about overloading. This will also fulfill the intention of the government," he said. The transport minister said that

the enforcement team should issue notices to unfit school vehicles that under no circumstances should an unfit vehicle be allowed to run. "If an unfit vehicle is found, immediately seize it and take action against the vehicle owner," adding safetv of children was the top priority of the state government.

LU to admit students to 4th year of UG programme under NEP programme.

PNS LUCKNOW

Lucknow University will become the first university in the country to admit stu-dents to the fourth year of the four-year undergraduate pro-gramme as envisioned by National Education Policy

It is worth mentioning that LU was the first in the country to adopt NEP 2020 in its UG and PG programmes.

"Following UGC guidelines, the students taking admission in fourth year of UG programme will be given a degree of UG Honours with Research. As envisioned by NEP 2020, students leaving after one year will get awarded a certificate, after two years with a diploma, after three years with a graduation degree," LU spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said.

As per the UG ordinance of Lucknow University, students securing a CGPA (cumulative grade point average) of 7.5 or above after completion of semester VI will be eligible for admission to Semester VII of fourth year.

"All eligible students will be given the option of choosing to continue into semester VII and the transition will not be essential or compulsory. It is completely up to the free will of the student. Students will also be able to pursue their fourth year only in their principal major, which they had chosen in semester V," he said. He said that the Lucknow University had also previously notified that only colleges that had approved post-graduate programmes in the principal major of the students would be allowed to run the fourth-year

Students who want to pursue fourth year but are in colleges that do not offer fourth year

sion in university and in other colleges offering fourth year. Admissions will be based on seat availability and merit. These processes have been finalised," he said. He said that the students of LU in their seventh semester would be studying three core courses, two optional courses, research methodology and will dedicate the entire eighth semester to

will not be left in the lurch.

Such students can seek admis-

"The fourth year will be primarily dedicated to specialising and super specialising in the chosen majors. The departments have been encouraged to offer greater

research which would be sub-

mitted in the form of disserta-

variety of options in each of the optional, so that the freedom and flexibility envisioned by NEP 2020 is achieved in letter and spirit. Students successfully completing their fourth year are eligible for appearing for NET examination and also for pursuing doctoral studies without a post-graduate degree," he added.

This innovative programme is designed to provide students with a fast-tracked, intensive learning experience, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to excel in their respective fields in a shorter timeframe. Each programme is meticulously curated to ensure a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum, blending theoretical knowledge with practical applications," said LU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar

Foster sister accused of killing makeup trainee

PNS LUCKNOW

In connection with the death of makeup trainee Shiva Srivastava in Hasanganj, his father Santosh Srivastava

Police (Mahanagar) Neha Tripathi said a murder case had lodged a report with the been registered on the basis of Hasangani police on Tuesday. the complaint of the family accusing Shiva's foster sister members. Sources in the police said that

मेरे भूखण्ड सं. MP/9 MIG योजना

सं. 40 दबौली कानपुर के मूल आवंटन पत्र

व कब्जा प्रमाण पत्र वास्तव में खो गये हैं

जिनका प्रयोग अवैध होगा। जय नरेश

पाठक पु० स्व. सिया चरन पाठक नि० 293,

मिनी MIG हेमन्त विहार वर्रा–2 कानपुर।

NOTICE

I Had change my name Priyanka devi to Priyanka Kumari my

army document no. 1581740H

L/NKDMT record in Priyanka

devi above two name is one

female person, Priyanka Devi

W/o Sanjeev Kumar Singh vill

Basahi, district Chhapra, Chak

CHANGE OF NAME

Keshav Green City on the part

land of plot no.48 whose gata

number is 257/2258 whose loan

was from Piramal Housing

Finance Limited Bank which

was paid with interest.I am

giving information to collect the

original documents of the plot

from the registry bank. Vikas

Yadav S/O Late Yogendra Nath

Yadav R/O Gram-Gaddipur,

Post-Daranagar, Police Station-

Ramkot, Tehseel and District-

Hafij Saran, Bihar- 841206

after interrogation in the case, one accused had been taken into custody as his role in the makeup trainee's death was under suspicion.

However, the police are not ready to disclose anything in this case right now.

The inspector said that many stories were surfacing in the investigation of Shiva's murder and it was difficult to say anything conclusively.

Santosh Srivastava's son Shiva Srivastava (16) of Barauna Mallawan Hardoi lived in a rented house near a sweets shop in Daliganj with Mahi alias Shilpi (35). Shiva was undergoinf training at studio

Mahi, alias Shilpi and her friends Anupam and Shivam of in Ashiyana for about two months. He was allegedly strangled to

death last Friday night. The killers threw his body on the roof of the third floor of the house.

The far and her friend Anupam of killing their son after a fight.

MYSTERY SHROUDS DEATH MINOR GIRL IN PGI AREA

A minor girl died under mysterious circumstances in the PGI area of Lucknow.

The 14-year-old girl had come to work at a government school teacher's house six months ago.

She died on July 15 following sudden deterioration in her

The minor from Unnao had studied up to class 5 and due to poverty she was working as a caretaker for the last six months at the house of the government teacher living in a colony in the PGI police station area. While pleading innocent, the

teacher told newsmen that the minor was already unwell. "She had

She was undergoing treat-ment at Lok Bandhu Hospital," the teacher said. On July 15, the girl suddenly started having seizures and was taken to Lok Bandhu Hospital where the doctor pronounced her dead. After this, the minor's family was informed about her death. The mother of the minor girl, however, alleged that there were many injury marks on her daughter's body and

she was killed after being raped. The PGI police said that no complaint had been received from the family of the victim

as yest. However, the police are investigating the case.

Abusive language led to killing

In the Indira Nagar's double murder case, late in night on Tuesday, the police said Rajendra's alleged abusive language towards his sister triggered the accused killer, who is

According to police, Rajendra started arguing with family members as soon as he entered the house. His wife Saroj and his brother Jagatpal's wife Tara came to enquire of the reason behind the argument. Both of them started dragging Rajendra into his room to end the brawl. When Rajendra was being pushed inside his room, his hand hit his sister Pushpa's cooler which shuddered badly and this annoyed Pushpa.

Pushpa expressed her anger on Rajendra for creating a scene every now and then in night and this irked Rajendra who allegedly used abusive language towards

Pushpa's son (the accused) who had returned just before lost cool

INDIRA NAGAR DOUBLE MURDER

hearing his mother being showered with abusive language and he fired a shot from a countrymaternal uncle Rajendra's chest and he slumped down. After this, the accused fired the next shot, hitting his maternal aunt Saroj, also in her chest. Both of them fell on the ground.

Seeing bullet firing one after one and Rajendra and Saroj slumping down one after one, the remaining members in the family ducked themselves. Rajendra's elder son Shawan came forward to overpower the killer and he suffered firearm injuries in his hand. The accused

took to his heels after executing the crime. The accused also shot at his maternal uncle Rajveer who came forward to overpower

him. Both Shrawan and Rajveer were injured after being shot in

the hand. People from the vicinity gathered on hearing the firing and the police were informed about the incidnet. The police reached the spot and

took everyone to the hospital in an ambulance. The doctors pronounced Rajendra and Saroj dead, however, Raiveer an Shravan are being treated at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. Jagatpal's wife Tara said,

Raiendra often took his nephew Anil (Rajendra's younger brother's son) with him to drink alcohol.

"Saroj and I stopped him many times but he did not listen to us. Like every day, on Tuesday also he was quarreling after returning home in a drunken state. Then an argument started with Pushpa who is opposed to his drinking habit. We tried to pacify her a lot, but Abhishek suddenly fired a shot," Tara said. Preliminary investigation revealed that Pushpa left her inlaws' house and lives with her brother Rajveer in her parents'

Traffic police survey snarls near Samta **Mulak crossing**

I Deepak Trivedi Residing at H.No. 22/306, Sector-22, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016, Uttar police on Wednesday carried out a survey of the traffic Pradesh. I have Changed My snarls at Samta Mulak crossing. Daughter Name from DEEPANSA TRIVEDI to Giving details, the Deputy DEEPANSHA TRIVEDI Vide Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Kamlesh Dixit said affidavit Dt: 15/07/2024 Sworn that they carried out a survey before Notary Ambrish Kumar, from Kalyanpur Apartments to Akabar Nagar cut. He said that the traffic snarls were a com-Information

mon sight here.

'There is a lot of traffic snarl on this cut and the traffic constables have to deal with this problem on a daily basis. The problem here is of road engineering and it may not have been taken into consideration when this path was being built and gets traffic from both sides," he said.

Dixit said that the survey was carried out to see what improvements could be made here, "The major work which has to be carried out here is not under the purview of the Traffic police. The traffic police are however focusing on how the traffic here can be stream-

Lucknow (PNS): The Traffic lined. It is possible to introduce some diversions at this point since there is a huge load of traffic at this point in the morning," he added. Meanwhile, an awareness pro-

gramme was organised at Study Hall to make the teachers working in the school and the students studying there aware of the traffic rules. Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Traffic) Kamlesh Dixit was present along with Subhash Chandra Dubey, the Inspector General of Police, Traffic Directorate, Uttar Pradesh. Dixit made the teachers and students aware of the traffic

rules, and topics related to the necessity of helmet for twowheelers, importance of driving licence, traffic signals, road signs, registration certificate, fitness of vehicles, punishment for violating traffic rules, etc. Students below the age of 18 years were made aware that they should not drive motor

Mastermind of Rs 150-cr fake investment racket arrested

PNS LUCKNOW

The mastermind of the Rs 150-crore racket in investment in share market through fake demat accounts and along with his three aides was nabbed by a joint team of Special Task Force and Lucknow police. Those arrested were identi-

fied as Nasir Ali, his wife Salma, his brother Zakir Ali, all of Chillawan in Sarojini Nagar, and Suresh Babu of Krishna Nagar. The team recovered five CPUs, four laptops, eight hard disks and other gadgets. The prime accused, Nasir, was committing fraud since 2018. He along with his wife and his brother used to lure innocent persons to invest in his company which he named as Fan Capital Services. He used captivating slogans as his USP to lure people to invest, promising that their principal amount would always remain secured and refundable on three days' prior notice to his company. This way he connected with several innocent people who wanted to make a fortune

through the share market.

Nasir made an app in the

while keeping the admin right in his control. He showed fake profits to the investors and asked them to log in to the aap on which he had uploaded fake demat accounts in the

name of investors. The police said Nasir managed the demat accounts in his selfcontrolled app to give an impression that the investors were getting profits against their investment. In case some investors bullied them, the gang deactivated their account. In other cases they used to threaten investors of getting an income tax case registered for tax evasion and this way usurped their money.

CLASH OVER PETTY ROW

Two neighbours clashed over a vehicle parking dispute in Talkatora on Wednesday. A video of the fight between the two sides went viral, after which the police took cognisance of the matter.

The police took both the neighbours in custody and brought them to the police station. Both leveled allegations and

name of Fan Capital Services counter-allegations on one another.

> As per reports, some guests visited the house of Ajay Pathak of Talkatora area and parked their vehicles. This was opposed by his neighbour. Pathak reportedly had an argument with his neighbour Neeraj and his father Tribhuvan over vehicle parking. The argument heated up and Pathak started beating Neeraj and his father. His rivals also attacked

> in retaliation. A video of this fight was made by a resident of the area and it went viral.

IIFL गोल्ड FINANCE लोन **PUBLIC NOTICE** The branch of IIFL Finance Ltd. located

at Ground Floor, Indian Bank Complex

home in Indira Nagar.

Shaukat Ali Road, Rampur - 244901, has shifted to below mentioned address with effect from 16th July, 2024. New Address: IIFL Finance Ltd., Ground Floor, Near Prime Ultrasound, Shauka Ali Road, Rampur - 244 901. Contact No. 95575 41512

All existing services can be availed a

सार्वजनिक सूचना

ग्राउंड फ्लोर, इंडियन बैंक कॉम्प्लेक्स, शौकत अली रोड, रामपुर - 244901 पर स्थित आईआईएफएल फाइनेंस लिमिटेड की शाखा 16 जुलाई, 2024 से नीचे लिखे पते पर स्थानांतरित हो गयी हैं।

नया पताः आईआईएफएल फाइनेंस लिमिटेड, ग्राउंड फ्लोर, प्राइम अल्ट्रासाउंड के पास, शौकत संपर्क: 95575 41512

सभी मौजूदा सेवाएँ इस नई शाखा से हासिल की जा सकती हैं।

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813

(Contact No. 96461-17604, 96461-17659) Tender Enquiry No. 1685/EMC/O&M/PC-2563 Dated: 16-07-2024 Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Lighting Spares (Year 2024-2025). Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 16-07-2024 from 17:00 Hrs.

Note: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-57/24

76155/12/3123/2023/35762 Dated CHD :- 7/17/2024

New law for installation of lifts, escalators passed by UP cabinet

PNS LUCKNOW

 $T^{\text{he Uttar Pradesh cabinet on}}_{\text{Wednesday cleared a new}}$ law for installation of lifts and escalators in the state.

Urban Development and Energy Minister AK Sharma informed that in view of the safety of citizens during accidents in lifts and escalators installed in multi-storey buildings and establishments in urban areas, the Council of Ministers on Tuesday approved the Lift and Escalator Rules,

Earlier, the Uttar Pradesh Lift the director, electrical safety by and Escalator Act, 2024 was passed by the state legislature on February 26, 2024 regarding the manufacturing, construction, quality, inherent safety manufacturer. If any change is features, installation, opera-

tion and maintenance of lifts and escalators.

Under Section 19 of this Act, rules were promulgated for the operation of lifts and escalators, maintenance of machinery, equipment etc.

The urban development minister said that now lifts and escalators could not be installed in any premises without registration. For this, one has to apply online and get registered first. After completion of installation and commissioning of lift or escalator, online registration has to be done with depositing the prescribed fee. The period of such registration will be valid for the period assured by the lift or escalator

to be made in the lift or esca-

lator installed in the building, then new registration has to be done compulsorily for the

same. It will now be necessary to get online registration done of the already installed lift or escalator in any premises in the state within six months. AK Sharma said that similar-

ly, there was a provision in the rules that all the agencies involved for the annual maintenance of lifts and escalators would also have to get online registration done with the director, electrical safety. Under the provisions of the rules, it will be mandatory to install an automatic rescue device in the lift for the safety of people trapped inside the lift in case of power supply disrup-tion or any fault, so that people can be saved at the time of accident.

It will be mandatory for the owner to appoint an operator to operate the lift or escalator in public premises. Also, it will be mandatory to appoint an adequate number of competent, qualified and trained technical staff for annual maintenance. The urban development minister said that due to increasing urbanisation, industrial development, construction of multi-storey buildings in the state, the use of lifts and escalators was increasing in commercial establishments, buildings etc. along with public premises. "People have started using it in large numbers. Rules have been made for the safety of citizens and to prevent accidents," he said.

Bundelkhand Expressway to have UP's longest solar park

Industrial corridor being developed in Jalaun and Banda

PNS LUCKNOW

In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision for planned and sustainable development of Bundelkhand, which has faced decades of neglect, the Uttar Pradesh government is developing the longest solar park on both sides of the Bundelkhand Expressway.

This solar park will cover approximately 1,700 hectares and will be developed under the 'Build, Own and Operate' (BOO) model, under the supervision of the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).

In August of last year, UPEIDA had invited Expressions of Interest for a pre-feasibility study, during which nine organisations made presentations. Among them, M/s Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet submitted a comprehensive report to UPEI-DA officials in February this vear and the report was recently presented to the chief minister. According to the report, UPEIDA has allocated 1,700 hectares of land for the solar park, located between the main carriageway and the service

Yogi govt pushes lychee cultivation in Purvanchal

PNS LUCKNOW

In the coming years, Uttar Pradesh is set to join Bihar as a major player in the lychee market.

The agricultural climate zones in Bihar's lychee-growing districts, such as Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and Champaran, are strikingly similar to those in UP's Purvanchal region. This similarity positions Purvanchal as a natural leader in lychee cultivation.

Chief Minister Adityanath's home district, Gorakhpur, is part of Purvanchal. This has led to a heightened focus on lychee cultivation by the government and its agricultural institutions. With this strategic push UP aims to enhance its presence and competitiveness in the lychee market, benefiting both local farmers and the state's

agricultural economy. When planting lychee trees, it is essential to use soil from under an old lychee tree in the planting pit. This soil contains mycorrhiza, which is crucial for the growth of new lychee plants and reduces the chances of the plants dying. Dr SP Singh, senior scientist at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Belipar, Gorakhpur, under Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumaraganj, Ayodhya, recommends the Rose Scented, Shahi, China, Early Bedana, Late Bedana, Gandaki Sampada and Gandaki Lalima lychee varieties for Purvanchal's agricultural climate zone.

The Centre of Excellence aims to provide farmers with saplings of each of the highyielding, quality varieties and distribute nursery-grown plants to the farmers. The Sustainable Development Human Association, with support from Tata Trust, the National Lychee Research Centre, Muzaffarpur, and the Agricultural Science Centre, Kushinagar, has been working on lychee cultivation for the past few years.

According to VM Tripathi, the association's head, they receive planting materials, technical support, and other assistance as needed from these institutions. With their help, around 40 to 50 acres of 'Shahi' and 'China' lychee orchards have been developed. Farmers also grow intercrops according to the season. Dr SP Singh suggests that farmers can grow intercrops in the empty spaces between the rows and plants in newly planted orchards. In the first few years, they can grow cauliflower, cabbage, radish, carrot, fenugreek, spinach and vine vegetables. When the plants provide more shade, they can grow turmeric, ginger and elephant foot yam in shaded areas. This practice increases the income of orchard owners and improves orchard management through constant care, ultimately resulting in better yield and quality of fruits.

road along the 296-kilometre on both sides of the Bundelkhand Expressway will Bundelkhand Expressway from Etawah to Chitrakoot. The be able to produce 450 land's average width is between megawatts of energy, sufficient to meet the needs of approxi-15 metres to 20 metres. The solar radiation in this area mately one lakh consumers. Along the extensive Bundelkhand Expressway spanning from Etawah to

ranges from 5 to 5.5 kWh per square metre per day. Developing the solar park is estimated to cost over Rs 2,500 Chitrakoot, efforts are also crore. There will be provisions underway to establish an indusin place to allot land to compatrial corridor in Banda and nies on a 25-year lease basis. Jalaun. In a significant move The solar park being developed towards environmental conser-

vation, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the planting of over 25,000 saplings of Peepal, Pakad, Banyan, Gular and Neem trees along this expressway.

Simultaneously, the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority is advancing swiftly in its initiative to develop a new city akin to Noida across approximately 36,000 acres, with a targeted completion by 2028.

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to part PCHFL, within 50 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 0600000610 of Lucknow Branch) Surendra Singh (Borrower)	25-06-2024 /Rs.836545 /-(Rs.Eight lakh Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty Five Only) NPA (08-01-2021)	Flat No 9/11, On first Floor Block No- B, Ashraya -2 Sector 6, Sulabh Awas ,gomti Nagar Exten Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226010
LC No. 0600000929 of Lucknow Branch) Manoj Kumar (Borrower) Anjali Kanaujia (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.886251 /-(Rs.Eight lakh Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Plat No 202, Ist Floor, Maa Shanjhi Chat Apatt, Pre No 128/39 A Block-k, Kidwai Nagar Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208001
LC No. 09600000928 of New Delhi-west Branch) Rohit Khanna (Borrower) Ruchi Khanna (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.5847848 /-(Rs.Fifty Eight lakh Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Eight Only) NPA (10-05-2024)	Flat No Ff- 2, First Floor Rear Side, Plot No 929, Niti Khand-1 Indirapuram Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201014
LC No. 06000002243 of Lucknow Branch) Ram Prasad (Borrower) Seema Rani (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.49008.04 /-(Rs.Forty Nine Thousand Eight and Four Paise Only)	Plot On Khasra No 190 Ward- Ibrahimpur Nilmatha Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :-
ohan Lal (Co Borrower 2) LC No. 06000006411 of Lucknow Branch) Ram	NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.253741 /-(Rs.Two lakh Fifty Three	226020 Plot On Khasra No 190 Ward- Ibrahimpur
Prasad (Borrower) Sohan Lal (Co Borrower L) Seema Rani (Co Borrower 2) LC No. 06000003106 of Lucknow Branch)	Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One Only) NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.1221140 /-(Rs.Twelve lakh Twenty	Nilmatha Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020 House On Portion Of Nagar Mahapalika Portio
Sanjay Mishra (Borrower) Harshita Mishra Co Borrower 1)	One Thousand One Hundred Forty Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Of Plot No 09, Police Line, Khairabad Sitapur Sitapur Uttar Pradesh :- 261001
LC No. 23400000878 of Agra Branch) Deepak (umar (Borrower) Kalpna Bharti (Co Borrower L) Maheepat Singh (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1582558 /-(Rs.Fifteen lakh Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Plot No.14 Khasra No.1 Mohalla Triloki Raksha Vihar Colony Phase I Mauza Nagla Kali Agra Agr Uttar Pradesh :- 282001
LC No. 19300041606 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Shamshad Ahmad (Borrower) Shahina	25-06-2024 /Rs.2284424 /-(Rs.Twenty Two lakh Eighty Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty	Plot No 3 4 5 6 7 Part Of Plot No 8 Khasra No 756 & 759 Min Vill Narauna Pargana Kakori Teh
Ansari (Co Borrower 1) LC No. 23400001365 of Agra Branch) Chandra Bahadur (Borrower) Laxmi Devi	Four Only) NPA (09-04-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.517887 /-(Rs.Five lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven Only)	& Distt Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 22602 Part Of Khet No-1503 & 1504 Pds Public Inter College Chandaniya Aligarh Aligarh Aligarh Uttar
Co Borrower 1) LC No. 12000002769 of Varanasi Branch) Pushpa Devi (Borrower) Avadh Bihari	NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.669894 /-(Rs.Six lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four Only)	Pradesh: - 202001 Arazi No. 433 Mauza Hinauli Pargana Mawai Teh. Mugalsarai Chandauli Chandauli Uttar Pradesh: -
Co Borrower 1) LC No. 06000005265 of Lucknow Branch)	NPA (10-05-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.317248 /-(Rs.Three lakh Seventeen	232104 Plot No B 362 B/1 Khasra No 73 Village Laulai
Mahendra Kumar Dixit (Borrower) Sushil Kumar Dixit (Co Borrower 1)	Thousand Two Hundred Forty Eight Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Pargana Teh Madhav Greens Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020
LC No. 25700001081 of Gorakhpur Branch) (amalkant Maurya (Borrower) Shashikla Maurya (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1045321 /-(Rs.Ten lakh Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One Only) NPA (10-05-2024)	Plot Situated At Part Of Gata No.1184, Mohalla- Gauhana, Pargana & Tehsile- Akbarpur Ambedkar Nagar Ambedkarnagar Uttar Pradesh:- 224190
LC No. 29400000121 of Allahabad Branch) onu Kesarwani (Borrower) Jaya Kesharwani	25-06-2024 /Rs.1594707 /-(Rs.Fifteen lakh Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seven Only)	House No. E W S 51, Mauza- Kasari Masari Awas Yojana Allahabad Allahabad Uttar Pradesh :- 211011
Co Borrower 1) LC No. 29400000210 of Allahabad Branch) ionu Kesarwani (Borrower) Jaya Kesharwani	NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.310567 /-(Rs.Three lakh Ten Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Seven Only)	House No. E W S 51, Mauza- Kasari Masari Aawas Yojna Allahabad Allahabad Uttar Pradesh
Co Borrower 1) LC No. 25700001501 of Gorakhpur Branch)	NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.1105631.62 /-(Rs.Eleven lakh Five	:- 211011 Plot On Part Of Gata No.1 Chha, Mauza-Tarapur
Harvans Prasad (Borrower) Sunayna Devi Co Borrower 1) Sachin Kumar (Co Borrower 2) LC No. 29100000187 of Bareilly Branch)	Thousand Six Hundred Thirty One and Sixty Two Palse Only) NPA (10-05-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.1563745 /-(Rs.Fifteen lakh Sixty	Razauli, Ward- Retiya (a.n.p), Pargana- Haweli Awadh Faizabad Faizabad Uttar Pradesh :- 22400: House On Part Of Kh. No. 255 Rehpura Chaudhan
Mohammad Jahid Raza Khan (Borrower) Amna Jegum (Co Borrower 1)	Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five Only) NPA (10-05-2024)	Bareilly Bareilly Uttar Pradesh :- 243001
LC No. 07700002068 of Ghaziabad Branch) Dev Kumar Taneja (Borrower) Reena Taneja Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1391819 /-(Rs.Thirteen lakh Ninety One Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Plot No-b-1,first Floor Rear Lhs Khasra No 117 & 118 Village Raispur Parg Dana Ghaz Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201001
LC No. 12000004993 of Varanasi Branch) Gopi (umar Jha (Borrower) Maithill Jha	25-06-2024 /Rs.1053033.6 /-(Rs.Ten lakh Fifty Three Thousand Thirty Three and Sixty	Arazi No- 317 Mauza - Pahadi Pargana - Dehat Amanat Varanasi Varanasi Uttar Pradesh :- 22110
Co Borrower 1) LC No. 19000002133 of Raj Nagar Branch) Deepak Sharma (Borrower) Nisha Sharma	Paise Only) NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.1264851 /-(Rs.Twelve lakh Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One Only)	D-410 Plot No-78&79, Khasra No-57 Aditya Apartment Unione Residency, Akbarpur Behrampu
Co Borrower 1) LC No. 24000003953 of Kanpur Branch) Mukesh Rathaur (Borrower) Laxmi Devi	NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.129636 /-(Rs.One lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Six Only)	Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201001 Plot No 12/290, Arazi No 230, Nagar Palika, Parisad Gangaghat, Kanpur Unnao Uttar Pradesh
Rathaur (Co Borrower 1) LC No. 19300045075 of Lucknow - Lalbagh	Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Six Only) NPA (09-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.746970 /-{Rs.Seven lakh Forty Six	:- 209801 Plot No A-3 Part Of Plot No 20&21 Khasra No 164
Branch) Dhara Sinha (Borrower) Raja Upadhyay (Co Borrower 1)	Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Minj Vill Laulai Pergana And Tehsil Lucknow Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226010
LC No. 193LUK00824 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Naseem Ahmad Siddiqui (Borrower) Shazia Siddiqui (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1618641 /-(Rs.Sixteen lakh Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Forty One Only) NPA (09-07-2015)	PLOT NO 79 KALYANPUR LUCKNOW Uttar Pradesh :- 226024
LC No. 19300041409 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Manish Kumar Mishra (Borrower) Buchi Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1718348 /-(Rs.Seventeen lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	PLOT NO. PART OF PLOT NO 15 AND PLOT NO 16 , NIRMAL HOMES , SECTOR. TAKROHI, WARD- SAHEED BHAGAT SING H,INDIRA NAGAR LUCKNOV
LC No. 193LUK32113 of Lucknow - Lalbagh branch) Manish Kumar Mishra (Borrower) buchi Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1559980 /-(Rs.Fifteen lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226016 PLOT NO. PART OF PLOT NO 15 AND PLOT NO 16, NIRMAL HOMES, SECTOR. TAKROHI, WARD- SAHEED BHAGAT SING H,INDIRA NAGAR LUCKNOV
LC No. M0204239 of Haridwar Branch) Suraj Kumar (Borrower) Alka (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1311527.02 /-{Rs.Thirteen lakh Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven and Two Paise Only) NPA (04-01-2024)	Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226016 Plot No.61, Khasra No.1617, Village Mahadev Green, Aaneki Hatempur Mahadev Green Khasra No.1617, Pargana Jwalapur,Haridwar, Uttar
(LC No. M0204239TU of Haridwar Branch) Suraj Kumar (Borrower) Alka (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.98926 /-(Rs.Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Six Only)	Pradesh-249403 Plot No.61, Khasra No.1617, Village Mahadev Green, Aaneki Hatempur Mahadev Green Khasra
LC No. M0193762 of Meerut Branch) Amit	NPA (04-01-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.772311 /-(Rs.Seven lakh Seventy	No.1617, Pargana Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttar Pradesh-249403 Plot No.54, Daurala Tehsil, Sardhana 1326, Kasba
Kumar (Borrower) Asha Rani (Co Borrower 1)	Two Thousand Three Hundred Eleven Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Daurala, Toll Plaza, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-250221.
LC No. M0202523 of Haldwani Branch) Sanjeev Gupta (Borrower) Pooja Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.1806619.9 /-(Rs.Eighteen lakh Six Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen and Ninety Paise Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khasra No.155 Mi, Khata Khatoni No.00040 (1425-1430), Vill Fulsunga, Teen Pani Dam Road, Tehsil Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-263153
LC No. M0202523TU of Haldwani Branch) Banjeev Gupta (Borrower) Pooja Gupta Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.550569 /-(Rs.Five lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Nine Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khasra No.155 Mi, Khata Khatoni No.00040 (1425-1430), Vill Fulsunga, Teen Pani Dam Road, Tehsil Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-263153
LC No. M0198336 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Dev Tiwari (Borrower) Anshu Tiwari Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.2129373.81 /-(Rs.Twenty One lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Three and Eighty One Paise Only)	Khata No.00097, Khasra No.158, Old Abadi, Village- Mamura Pargana & Tehsil Dadri Dist- Gautam Buddha Nagar , Uttar Pradesh-201301.
LC No. M0198336TU of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Dev Tiwari (Borrower) Anshu Tiwari Co Borrower 1)	NPA (04-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.688473 /-{Rs.Six lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khata No.00097, Khasra No.158, Old Abadi, Village- Mamura Pargana & Tehsil Dadri Dist- Gautam Buddha Nagar , Uttar Pradesh-201301.
LC No. M0206741 of Aligarh Branch) Salman (han (Borrower) Raziya (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.542243 /-(Rs.Five lakh Forty Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty Three Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Part Of Khet No.353, Nagla, Near Police chowkl Patwari, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh-202001
LC No. HLSA000033SF of Varanasi Branch) Pratima Devi (Borrower) Pramod Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.812437.82 /-(Rs.Eight lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven and Eighty	Plot No 45/1 Chandauli Near Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir Mughalsarai Chandauli Uttar Prades
LC Borrower 1) LC No. M0232655 of Agra Branch) Veena Borrower) Kailashi Prasad (Co Borrower 1)	Two Paise Only) NPA (04-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.942164 /-{Rs.Nine lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Plot No.81 82, Part Of Khasra No.75, Bholebhaba Dham Colony, Shamshabad Road, Agra, Part Of Khasra No.75, Mauja Bagda Teh And District- Agra,
LC No. HLSA00006857 of Bulandsahar Branch) Akhtar Ali (Borrower) Mohammad Mubeen Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024 /Rs.880145.38 /-(Rs.Eight lakh Eighty Thousand One Hundred Forty Five and Thisty, Eight Pages Only MBA (Ma.6.2024)	Near Bholebaba Dairy, Uttar Pradesh-283125 Part Of Land NO.1352MI & 1353 , Buland shahar, Khurja Bahar Chungi, Near Eidgah, Bulandshahar, Uttar Pandesh 203131
LC No. BLSA00002669 of Aligarh Branch) Satish (Borrower) Manju (Co Borrower 1)	Thirty Eight Paise Only) NPA (04-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.764061 /-(Rs.Seven lakh Sixty Four Thousand Sixty One Only) NPA	Uttar Pradesh, 203131. Gata No.360, Mauja Baraula Jafrabad Shankar Market District Alighar Uttar Pradesh 202001
(LC No. BLSA00003E39 of Lucknow - Gomti Nagar Branch) Manoj Singh (Borrower)	(04-06-2024) 25-06-2024 /Rs.2830443 /-(Rs.Twenty Eight lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Forty Three	House on Part of Plot No 1, 2, 3, 647B/F - 40 (P-1,2,3), Part of Khasra No 982, Near Sahara State
Mandavi Singh (Co Borrower 1)	Only) NPA (04-06-2024)	Lucknow MMM Marg Lucknow UP 226021

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise thiotut the prior written consent of PCHFL any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

25-06-2024 /Rs.6260756.5 /-(Rs.Sixty Two lakh

Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six and Fifty Paise Only) NPA (05-03-2024)

25-06-2024 /Rs.516230 /-(Rs.Five lakh Sixteen

25-06-2024 /Rs.1513409.08 /-{Rs.Fifteen lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Nine and Eight Paise Only) NPA (04-06-2024)

housand Two Hundred Thirty Only)

NPA (04-06-2024)

(LC No. BLSA00004195 of Sitapur Branch) Abhishek Gupta (Borrower) Gaurav Gupta

(LC No. HLSA00043921 of Hardoi - Luckno

Road Branch) Devendra (Borrower) Nitu

(LC No. HLSA00042CCC of Meerut Branch) Riyaz . (Borrower) Ruksar (Co Borrower 1)

(Co Borrower 1) Lucky Gupta (Co Borrower 2)

BJP govt in UP unstable: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav addressing the workers' meeting at the party office in Lucknow on Wednesday

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state was unstable and its leaders were fighting among themselves. Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday took a swipe at the Bharatiya Janata Party over reports of alleged infighting in Uttar Pradesh following the debacle in recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

"There is infighting in the Uttar Pradesh government. The Bharatiya Janata Party government is unstable and the public is troubled in the fight for power. The Bharatiya Janata Party government is harassing teachers. The decision to demolish houses in the state capital Lucknow has been pos poned. This clearly shows that the government has become weak," the former Party's performance in the chief minister of Uttar bypolls in Uttar Pradesh

Maurya, Rajeshwar hit out at SP chief

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh's Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Keshav Prasad Maurya on Wednesday hit out at Akhilesh over his remarks. "SP Bahadur Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji, BJP has a strong organisation and government both in the country and the state, SP's PDA is a fraud. The return of SP's hooliganism in UP is impossible, BJP will repeat the 2017 in the 2027 assembly elections," Keshav Prasad Maurya posted on X. Earlier in the day, Maurya's office created a flutter in the political circles with a social post. "The organisation is bigger than the government, the

Pradesh said. Akhilesh Yadav said the Samajwadi

pain of the workers is my pain.

No one is bigger than the ed to the Lok Sabha. organisation, the workers are the pride," the office of the deputy chief minister said in an X post. The social post was put up after Maurya met Union minister and BJP president JP Nadda. The BJP chief also held a separate meeting with UP BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary in the national capital. It is speculated that there is a possibility of Maurya being given an organisational position given his discomfort with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The reports of alleged infighting have come at a time when the BJP is gearing up for bypolls to 10 assembly constituencies. Nine of ten seats have fallen vacant after the respective MLAs resigned on being elect-

would be better than that of the Lok Sabha elections. "We will have a better outcome in the upcoming by-

Meanwhile, Rajeshwar Singh the BJP MLA from Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow, also hit out at the SP president. "Akhilesh Yadayii, those who live in glass houses do not hurl stones at others. I want to remind you that after becoming the chief minister of UP, you failed to keep your family together," the BJP MLA said. He also referred to the commu-

nal riots in Muzaffarnagar during the Akhilesh Yadav govern-ment, forcing the flight of people from villages and forcing them to take refuge in tents during the biting cold. He said the people of UP would never vote a party to power known for "mafia raj and goondaraj".

elections than the Lok Sabha polls," Yadav said while talking to reporters at the party's headquarters here.

In a surprise move, UP govt removes SP, ASP of Hapur

In a surprise move, the Uttar Pradesh government late on Tuesday night shunted out Hapur's Superintendent of Police Abhishek Verma and attached him to the police headquarters. Minutes later, the Additional

Superintendent of Police Raj Kumar Agarwal was also removed. He too was attached to the police headquarters. The action created a controversy as the decision has been against these officials to a very

taken when the Kanwar Yatra is going to begin on Monday. Kumar Gyananjay Singh, posted as Deputy Commissioner of Police in Ghaziabad, has been made Superintendent of Police of Hapur. Sources said that not had been held hostage. On this,

DvSP and some junior officers would also face the music soon. Besides, Rajesh Kumar (II), posted in the Anti-Corruption Organisation in Lucknow, has been shifted as Deputy Commissioner of Police in Ghaziabad.

Though the officials claimed the transfer of SP and ASP of Hapur to be routine, sources confirmed that the action was taken after the principal of the private medical college in Hapur made a complaint senior leader of the ruling party. The sources said that on Tuesday, a person called on Dial-112 and alleged that his patient admitted in Rama Medical College and Hospital

a police team reached there. There was a scuffle with the inspector and the management of the hospital over the issue. It is alleged that the officials and doctors of Rama Medical College and Hospital misbehaved and pushed a subinspector. After this information, SP Abhishek Verma sent ASP Rajkumar Agarwal to the spot. He met the Rama Medical College and Hospital management and got the issue settled by making the policeman sit with them. At the same time, no complaint was given in this matter by the person who called on Dial-112. Hence, no case was registered.

Sources said that as the police allegedly put undue pressure and even threatened to take the hospital officials to the police station, they immediately got in touch with a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and made a complaint.
The sources further said that

ADG Meerut Zone was asked to submit a report in the matter immediately on Tuesday night and after receiving his findings, the government shunted out both SP and ASP of Hapur. The sources said that now preparations were also underway to take action against the circle officer and inspector. Some senior officials, who faced action, claimed that the CCTV footage should be retrieved to find out the truth behind the incident. They denied any misbehavior with the hospital authorities.

Govt gears up for makeover of Khanta picnic spot in Sonbhadra

PNS LUCKNOW/SONBHADRA

 $T^{he\ Yogi\ Adityanath\ government\ is\ placing\ special}$ emphasis on tourism development across the state. In this sequence, the proposed development of the Khanta picnic spot in the Myorpur block of Sonbhadra district assumes

special significance. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to develop this area as a prime picnic destination a few months ago. Subsequently, in alignment with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, a comprehensive action plan was

development of Khanta picnic spot. The implementation of this plan is now underway, aiming to transform the area into a major tourist attraction. The Yogi government's initiative has already led to a significant increase in footfall at various major pilgrimage sites across the state with the development of comprehensive tourism facilities. Simultaneously, destinations endowed with natural beauty of the state are also being enhanced. The Yogi government has entrusted the Uttar Pradesh Project Corporation with the task of developing the prehensive action plan was meticulously prepared for the meticulously prepared for the ing the main building and var-

ious other facilities. Moving forward with this process, UP Project Corporation Limited has invited applications through a short-term tender. Through this process, a contractor agency will be selected to complete the construction and development works within 27 months, excluding the rainy season, with an expenditure of Rs 3.65 crore. This agency will develop the necessary infrastructure to make the designated area a tourist attraction center. During this time, 283 types of work, including building construction, will be completed. According to the action plan, the Khanta picnic spot area will be equipped with

various facilities. This includes civic amenities like a modern gym and a children's play area. Tourists visiting here will find gym equipment such as a fun walker, shoulder press, chest press, pendulum cum twister. fun cycle, ski trainer, step trainer, and tai-chi double, allowing them to participate in both physical training and fun activities. In the children's play area, there will be swings like a double see-saw, playground slide, wheelchair swing, and arc rub-ber belt swing. A selfie point will also be developed, and benches will be installed for people to sit and enjoy the area's natural beauty.

Date: 18-07-2024 Place: Uttar Pradesh

ouse No.2947, Mohalla- Kuwar Jung, Tihar strict- Shahajanpur, Uma Takeej Wali Gali,

art of Gata No.611, Pargana And Tehsil- Sandila,

Near Mahakaleshwar Temple Sandila, Situated at Village- SOM , District- Hardoi, Hardoi, Uttar

Pradesh-241204 Part Of Plot No.A 86, H Block Khasra No.3156 Eidgha Colony, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-25000

Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh-242307

Ganga continues to rise in Kashi | Constitution is supreme: Meghwal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $T^{
m he}$ water level of Ganga river continued to rise in this holy city for the fifth consecutive day here on Wednesday. However, as the rising trend in upstream right from Phaphamau and Prayagraj to Mirzapur has been checked, it is expected that the river water level may turn steady by Thursday.

The water level continued to risie at a speed of two centimetres per hour in Varanasi and since the beginning of this month, the water level of Ganga increased by nearly five metres from 57.66 metres on July 1 to 62.64 metres at 8 am on Wednesday but it was still far below the danger mark of 70.262 metres as per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Committee (CWC). The water level of the river was steady not only in upstream of this holy city but also at downstream Ballia but rising at Ghazipur by one cm per hour. Meanwhile, on the auspicious day of Devshayani Ekadashi, thousands of people took a holy dip in the sacred water of Ganga at dif-ferent ghats. The activists of Namami Gange performed the 'aarti' of Lord Adikeshav seeking his blessings for pub-



lic welfare. They raised awareness about environmental protection by distributing Tulsi most part of the city. They plants. They also conducted a offered fruits and sweets to

cleanliness drive at Adikeshav Ghat, located at northern

Lord Adikeshav, praying for happiness and prosperity in the country and Ganga purifi-cation. As per the Hindu 'shastras' (scriptures) and tra-dition, on this auspicious day, Lord Vishnu goes into Yog Nidra and it marks the beginning of Chaturmas. On the occasion Lord Hari and Goddess Lakshmi were worshipped amidst the chanting

the lines of 'Om Namo Bhagwate Vasudevay Namah...', 'Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki...', 'Om Jai Jagdish Hare...' etc. The Namami Gange team members cleaned the Adikeshav Tirtha, which is called the 'Gateway of Kashi' and appealed to people to maintain cleanliness.

Regional coordinator Rajesh

Shukla said worshiping Lord Hari and Goddess Lakshmi on Devshayani Ekadashi brings happiness and prosperity in life and removes all sorrows. He said it is the responsibility of all of us to maintain the cleanliness of the holy Adikeshav Tirtha. "We should adopt cleanliness in our behavior as diseases run away with cleanliness", he said. City cocoordinator Sarika Gupta, Adi Keshav temple priest Vinay Tripathi, Diwakar Mishra, Sakshi Tripathi and many devotees were also present.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Union Minister of Law and Justice (Independent Charge (I/C), Arjun Ram Meghwal on Tuesday recalled the Emergency as the biggest blow to the Constitution. He said that this Sangam city has protected the Constitution and also made the country realise its power. The safe and dignified journey of 75 years of the world's largest democracy is a gift of the concept of respect and justice of this Constitution. He launched the 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' portal by pressing the remote. In the third regional level conference of the country organ-ised under the 'Hamara

Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign at the Convention Centre of Allahabad Medical Association, the minister praised the confluence of the bar and the bench. He did not forget to remember the martyr Chandrashekhar Azad and the great poet Nirala. Meghwal said that the country

parts of the Constitution — legislature, executive and judiciarv. None of these is supreme, only the Constitution is supreme. There should be mutual harmony. Chief Justice of Allahabad High

will progress only when there is a confluence of the three

Court Justice Arun Bhasali, Justice MK Gupta and others Kumar Goyal were present on the occasion.

Before this, he met the advocates. He said that the government is discussing the implementation of Advocate Protection Act. For this, changes will be made in the Advocate Act. This should be implemented. Consideration is going on to link advocates with insurance policy. Insurance companies are not coming forward due to the fear of being dragged to court by lawyers. Lawyers have been kept out of the Ayushman scheme. The government is concerned about their health. MP fund or other means will be used to provide digital library facilities for advocates. For a detailed discussion on all

these issues, he gave time to the office-bearers of the Bar Association till 4 pm on August 9th and told them to come to Delhi. Meghwal mentioned the book 'Ek Safar Hum Safar Ke Saath' penned by him by cherishing life experiences with his wife and said that marriage is not for material pleasures, it is a spiritual attachment. He also referred to another book based on the research of a team in the direction of family enlightenment. Meghwal was speaking among the advocates in the welcome and felicitation ceremony organised in his honour by the High Court Bar Association (HCBA) in the historical library hall.

Atiq's property worth ₹50 crore transferred to govt

Clain gangster-turned-politi-Scian Atiq Ahmed's proper-ty worth about ₹50 crore, allegedly brought using money earned from criminal activities, has been transferred to the government.

District Government Advocate (Criminal) Gulab Chandra Agrahari said Atiq had bought 2.377 hectares of land in the name of a mason Hoobalal

from the earnings of crime. While registering the land in the name of Hoobalal, Atiq had said that if needed, he would get the land registered in his name. Agrahari said this property was attached by the Police Commissioner Court under Section 14 (1) of the Gangsters Act and three months were given to file a reply. But no evidence was presented by the party concerned as proof of ownership of the land. He said

file in this case to the Gangster Court Prayagraj. On Tuesday, Judge Vinod Kumar Chaurasia ruled the police commissioner's action "fair and just" and vested the property acquired in favour of the government.

According to the police, during the investigation of the case registered against Atiq under the Gangsters Act, it was found

that after this, the Police that he has property in the Commissioner Court sent the name of Hooblal under the Airport police station area. During interrogation, Hooblal said that Atiq had got this land registered in his name by threatening him in 2015. The police had attached this land in November 2023. Atiq and his brother Ashraf, named in more than 100 criminal cases including the Umesh Pal murder case, were shot dead in police custody on April 15 last year.

New water spinach, hybrid tomato varieties developed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the occasion of the 96th Foundation and Technology Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), developed a new water spinach (pani wali palak) variety called 'Kashi Manu', which is the first of its kind in the country apart from a new hybrid tomato variety 'Kashi Tapas. Kashi Manu, a new vegetable variety, was dedicated to the farmers of the country as climate resilient and nutritionally rich leafy vegetables by the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan. This new variety was developed

by the institute's principal scientist Dr Rakesh K Dubey and is considered beneficial for both farmers and consumers. Kashi Manu leafy biomass is particularly important for its nutritional qualities. It provides high amounts of vitamins



New varieties of tomato (left) and water spinach right) developed by IIVR, Varanasi.

This variety can be grown in a short time (20-25 days) and thrives well in various types of soil and climatic conditions, offering greater benefits to farmers. Kashi Manu can be grown in pots, on rooftops, balconies etc, ensuring year-round availability of leafy vegetables and is available in all seasons. This variety can be grown in plains, even in adverse climatic conditions and yields even at temperatures above 45°C. The yield capacity of leafy biomass is over 90 tons per hectare. It also tastes good and is used in various dishes such as soups, salads, vegetables, fritters etc. The institute provides its seeds and minerals, which are extremely beneficial for health.

Additionally, the institute's principal scientist Dr Nagendra

Rai (Acting Director), developed a hybrid tomato variety Kashi Tapas, which is also tolerant to high temperatures (34-36°C) and was dedicated to the farmers of the country by the union agriculture minister. The availability of fruits of this variety lasts until the first fortnight of June with an average yield of about 400 quintals per hectare. The efforts of the ICAR-IIVR have not only given new direction to Indian agriculture but also played a significant role in increasing farmers' income and providing healthy food to consumers. This innovation is yet another example of taking the country's agricul tural technology to new heights.

NCR GM inspects Prayagraj-Manikpur rail section

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

General Manager (GM) of North Central Railway Upendra Chandra Joshi along with Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Prayagraj Himanshu Badoni inspected the Prayagraj-Manikpur rail section here on Wednesday. The GM started his inspec-

tion between Prayagraj and Manikpur through window trailing during which he inspected the railway track and all the installations near it like signals, OHE, cleanliness on the platform etc from the rear window of the inspection vehicle attached to the moving train. Along with other safety related works, he inspected the riding quality, especially the track geometry index improvement at points and crossings, OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) details, condition of OHE, of level crossing gates on the route, of scrap around the track, cleanliness, wiring or loose installation, minor and major bridges on the route as well as the infrastructure work going on in the said section the back window and directed the concerned officials to complete the work expedi-



tiously by following full efficiency and safety standards. Joshi reviewed the development work going on at Manikpur Jn selected for redevelopment under Amrit Bharat Station Yojana. The DRM informed the GM about the planning of the sequential development of Manikpur station. The GM conducted an intensive inspection of the station and observed the ongoing works and available passenger facilities. Joshi inspected the loco pilot/guard running room and directed to keep the available facilities and maintenance of the running room excellent. During the inspection, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) SC Jain, Additional Divisional Railway Manager/Infra Navin Prakash, Senior Divisional Operations Manager Krishna Shukla, Senior Divisional

Engineer/First Amit Kumar along with officers, inspectors, supervisors from other departments were present from the

old woman died under mysterious circumstances in the Lookarganj area here. Her inlaws have fled from the house while the police have taken her husband into custody and are questioning him. The brother of the deceased alleged that her inlaws had murdered her. Injury marks were also found on her hands, legs and head. The police said that the cause of death will be clear only after the post-mortem report comes. Meanwhile the body of a 45vear-old woman which was found in a sack on Sunday in Ihunsi police station area was identified by her family members

KDA reviews city development plan

The Kanpur Development

Authority (KDA) organised a review meeting to study progress of the city develop-ment plan at its office on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by the BJP MP Ramesh Awasthi. Representatives of the consultant M/s Tractable appointed under the city development plan/vision plan threw light on the likely pressure in the fields of housing, medical, population increase and transportation etc. after implementation of the proposed changes/necessities by 2051. These were worked out keeping in view the changes and allround development of the city from 1951 to 2021.

MP Ramesh Awasthi directed to pay special attention on the systematic development of city's drainage system. Consultant M/s Tractable apprised him about the inclusion of suggestions in Vision Ramesh Awasthi stressed on including the development of religious place,

Bank of India branch

shifts to new premises



BJP MP Ramesh Awasthi chairing the review meeting organised by KDA on

Bithoor, renovation of the green park and the future geographical expansion in the city development plan. In a bid to promote eco tourism, he stressed on developing the available vacant land of the British India Corporation for uplifting the standard of living of people residing in that area. He also directed to identify the works under the vision plan which may directly benefit the

Air warriors urged to stay abreast of latest advancements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Air Marshal Vijay Kumar Garg, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Maintenance Command, dur-ing his three-day visit to Kanpur Air Base, emphasised on the importance of continuous learning and adaptation in the face of evolving military technologies and cyber warfare threats.

Addressing the Base staff, he urged the air warriors to stay abreast of the latest advancements and maintain peak operational readiness. He stressed on 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and the need to indigenise at local level. The Air Marshal along with his wife Ritu Garg, President, Air Force Family Welfare Association (Regional) Welfare Association (Regional) was in Kanpur from July 2014 to 2016. Air Commodore MK Praveen VM Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Kanpur and his wife Megha Praveen, President, Air Force Family Welfare Association (Local) welcomed them. During his visit Air Association (Local) welcomed them. During his visit, Air Marshal Garg received detailed briefings on the upcoming modernisation projects, cutting-edge facilities and advanced machinery being incorporated in the Air Force Station. He interacted with the Station. He interacted with the air warriors, commending their dedication and underlying the critical role they play in safe-guarding Indian airspace. The high-level visit served to bolster Air Force Station

Kanpur's significance and underscored the Indian Air Force's unwavering resolve in maintaining a robust and future-proof defence apparatus. The visit culminated in heart-



warming interactions at stations' welfare ventures. Air Marshal and his wife Ritu Garg spent valuable time with the children, further solidifying the Air Force's commitment to the well-being of its personnel and their families.

SUICIDE: A middle-aged farmer committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in Mujammanpur, Jahangirpur, under Satti police station area of Kanpur dehat on Tuesday night. Police probed the issue and sent the body for an autopsy. Azad of Mujamnanpur was a farmer. Due to his addiction to drugs, he often quarrelled with family members. After dispute in the house on Tuesday evening, he went to the field where he hanged himself from a tree late at night. On coming to know about the incident, wife Sudha fell unconscious with other family members, including mother Ramjanki, daughter Anjali etc were upset. SO Satti Shiv Shanker Singh rushed to the village who, apart from quizzing the kin, carried out a probe. Forensic team collected evidence and sent the body for

GM launches plantation drive in BLW

General Manager (GM)
Abhay Bakre launched
'Plant a tree in the name of
mother' campaign by planting
a sapling in the premises of
West Health Centre on
Tuesday. On the occasion, a
massive tree plantation programme was successfully completed with the active cooperation of St John's Ambulance
Brigade. The principal chiefs of
the departments, senior officers
and joint secretary and other and joint secretary and other members of the Staff's Council also planted saplings.
The GM linked this campaign

with the environment and health saying that just as moth-er, who has an important con-tribution in the life of every person, we can also show our love towards the environment by planting trees with a dedicated spirit. Along with this, in another programme, a compreanother programme, a compre-hensive public awareness cam-paign was also launched for the prevention from dengue and chikungunya, which will be run on a large scale in the entire BLW campus with the active cooperation and participation of the general public. In view of the effects and spread of dengue and chikungunya in the past years, Bakre directed the Central Hospital, Civil, Public Relations and other related departments along with the dis-trict Health department and district malaria officer to formulate a strategy for prevention, anti-larva spraying, fogging, water logging, cleanliness, civil work, public awareness etc.

On the occasion Principal Chief

Medical Officer (PCMO) of

BLW Dr Devesh Kumar high-

lighted the important points



related to the spread, symptoms and prevention of dengue and and prevention of dengue and chikungunya. Thereafter, the GM unveiled handbills, pam-phlets and posters related to dengue and chikungunya and presented them to nine ambu-lance officers of St John's Ambulance Brigade and expressed confidence that the members of the brigade will run a wide public awareness campaign through this medium among the general public and will alert them to prevent them-selves from this disease. With the active cooperation of Principal Chief Engineer VK Shukla, Civil Engineering and Horticulture Department, Medical, Public Relations, BLW St John's Ambulance Brigade, Van Mahotsav was inaugurated and a pledge was taken to plant trees in the entire BLW campus. The programme was conducted by PRO Rajesh Kumar.

TALK: Recognising the need of what is expected and what is provided is the key to delivering performance, said the distinguished guest and Chairman and CEO of Stag International Rakesh Kohli while delivering a motivational talk on 'Building Career Through Passion, on the second-day of its induction programme for the newly-admitted MBA students of the 2024-26 batch at IM-BHU on Tuesday.



Areview meeting of the Varanasi division was held under the chairmanship of Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (UPSCPCR) chief Dr Devendra Sharma here on Tuesday. The UPSCPCR chair-Tuesday. The UPSCPCR chairman expected everyone to be sensitive to the issue of children. He said that there is a need to work continuously on issues like drug addiction, child marriage, child labour, child begging and child sexual abuse prevalent in the society. Sharma said that as per the previously issued guidelines, there should be no shops of pagn.

should be no shops of paan, bidi, cigarette, gutkha etc within 100 metres of the schools.

in this direction. To keep the schools free from addiction, Prahari Clubs should be established immediately and they should ensure that they will work as per the guidelines issued earlier for this", he said, adding that awareness should be created through the intellectuals of the society to stop the evil practice of child marriage. "As per the previously issued guidelines, child marriage should be eliminated from the society at any cost by making meaningful efforts. Child marriage the society at any cost by making meaningful efforts. Child marriage riage has to be eliminated by 2025", he said, directing the officers concerned to hold regular meetings of Child Protection Committees at district, block and village level.

¬he Bank of India, TP Nagar

Branch shifted to new premises at 127/W-2/5, Block W, Plot 5 Scheme-l, Juhi Kalan, Kanpur, on Monday. This move marks a significant milestone in bank's journey towards providing better services to its customers. Zonal Manager, Bank of India,

Ranveer Singh, was the chief guest on the occasion who inaugurated the new premises and planted a Harshringar sapling along with customers of deposits and advances Santosh Gupta, Rishab Jain, Ashok Kumar Singh, Ajay Kapoor and all retired and current staff members of TP Nagar branch invited by Chief Manager SK Trivedi.

Kanpur Metro starts plantation to develop green belt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Kanpur Metro is not only progressing with the construction of the 5 km-long Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section under Corridor-1 (IIT section under Corridor-I (III to Naubasta) but has also initiated plantation of trees for a green belt along this section. Initially, saplings are being planted along the median starting from the under-construction. tion Baradevi station. This elevated section will feature greenvated section will feature greenery spanning approximately 1,200 square metres between the pillars. With the Metro viaduct above and the planned green cover below, Hamirpur Road's appearance is set to undergo a transformative change soon.

Kanpur Metro with zero carbon emissions is playing an

bon emissions is playing an important role in reducing the level of carbon emissions by offering green mobility solu-tions to the city residents. In



line with the green belt developed along the priority corridor (IIT-Motijheel), saplings are now being planted on the approximately 5 km-long Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section. This initiative aims not only to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the city's roads but also to combat air pollution effectively. The UPMRC will ensure regular maintenance of this green belt. Moreover, rainwater conservation has been meticulously planned for this

elevated section, with provisions made to channel water from every second span of the viaduct into the pit built in the median.

Environmental protection is a critical consideration in the development of metro projects as evidenced by Kanpur Metro's proactive measures. To mitigate dust emissions at con-struction sites, the metro employs techniques such as water sprinkling from tankers, anti-smog guns, mechanical

sweeping, wheel washing at RMC plants and systematic barricading. Additionally, a 1 MW solar plant was installed at the Kanpur Metro depot last year to harness solar energy. Metro trains and lifts utilise regenerative braking systems to generate and conserve energy, resulting in savings of up to 45 per cent.

Further enhancing sustainability efforts, the metro premises are fully illuminated with 100 per cent LED lighting and translucent sheets on platform roofs optimise natural sunlight. These initiatives have contributed to all nine stations along the Priority Corridor (IIT-Motijheel) achieving a Platinum Rating from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and obtaining ISO 14001 certification for environmental management underscoring Kanpur Metro's commitment to environmental

RPF rescues 84,119 kids at risk of falling into wrong hands

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he RPF has during last}}_{\text{seven years rescued }84,119}$ children, who were at risk in stations and trains, preventing them from falling into wrong hands, a press statement from the Railway Ministry said.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has over the past seven vears been at the forefront of an operation named "Nanhe Faristey" – a mission dedicated to rescuing children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway Zones, according to the Ministry. "During last seven years (2018-May 2024), the RPF has rescued 84,119 children who were at risk in stations and trains. preventing them from falling into harm's way," the Ministry

"Nanhe Farishtey is more than just an operation; it is a lifeline for thousands of children who find themselves in precarious

The data from 2018 to 2024 illustrates a story of unwavering dedication, adaptability,

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of a rapid increase in childhood obesi-

ty both in India and globally,

researchers from University

College London have issued a

stark warning: individuals who

gain excessive weight from

their 20s onwards may face

weakened hearts by the time

The study, published in the

European Heart Journal,

underscores that early weight

gain has lasting implications on

heart health, separate from the

effects of later-life obesity. Alun

Hughes, Professor of

Cardiovascular Physiology and

Pharmacology at UCL, empha-

sised that while the adverse

effects of being overweight on

heart health are known, the

long-term impact of weight

gain across adulthood remains

He said that while it is known

that "being overweight is asso-

ciated with poorer heart health,

we know little about the long-

being overweight over the adult

life course and subsequent

The study holds importance for

countries across the globe

including in India, given that

obesity is one of the major

symptoms of diseases like type

2 diabetes, kidney problems, hypertension (high blood pres-

sure), gut issues and even liver

diseases. A person is consid-

ered obese when their body

mass index (BMI, a measure of

body fat based on an individ-

ual's weight and height) is

more than 30. Statistics reveal

a concerning trend, with over

1.25 crore children aged 5 to 19

in India now classified as over-

weight, a significant rise from

less understood.

heart health".

they reach their 60s.

Childhood obesity may

lead to weakened heart,

says UCL research

the RPF's commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable members of society," it added. Giving year wise data, the Ministry said the year 2018 marked a significant start for "Operation Nanhe Farishtey" and in this year, the RPF rescued a total of 17,112 children, including both boys and girls. Out of 17,112 children rescued, 13,187 were identified as runaway children, an alarming number of 2105 were found to be missing, 1091 children as left behind, 400 as destitute, 87 as kidnapped, 78 as mentally challenged and 131 as street chil-This year 2018 set a strong

foundation for the operation, highlighting the urgent need for such an initiative," the Ministry said. "During 2019, the RPF's efforts continued to bear fruit, with a total of 15,932 children, including both boys and girls were rescued.

Out of 15,932 children rescued, 12,708 as runaway children, 1454 as missing, 1036 children as left behind, 350 as destitute, 56 as kidnapped, 123 as mentally challenged and 171 as



street children. The consistent numbers showcased the per-sistent issue of children running away and needing protection," it added.

According to the Ministry, the year 2020 was challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted normal life and significantly impacted the

Despite these challenges, the RPF managed to rescue 5,011 children, it added.

est in the recorded period. It said, "This year saw a significant number of runaways and missing children being found and given the necessary care and protection.

14,603 children were identified as runaways, 1156 as missing, 1035 as left behind, 384 as destitute, 161 as kidnapped, 86 as mentally challenged and 212 as street children. The efforts were bolstered by increased awareness and more coordinated operations across the railway zones."

"During the year 2023, RPF managed to rescue 11,794 chil-

With 8916 children rescued as runaways, 986 as missing, 1055 as left behind, 236 as destitute, 156 as kidnapped, 112 as mentally challenged and 237 children as street children, the RPF continued to play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children," it added.

Highlighting the persistent issues of child runaways and the dedicated efforts of the RPF to address them, the Ministry

already rescued 4,607 children. "With 3430 children rescued as runaways, the early trends suggest a continued commitment to the operation "Nanhe Farishtey", the Ministry said. It added, "Through their efforts, the RPF has not only rescued children but also raised awareness about the plight of runaway and missing children, prompting further action and support from various stake-holders.

The operation continues to evolve, adapting to new challenges and striving to create a safer environment for children across India's vast railway net-

Informing the initiatives of the

Indian Railways, the Ministry said, "Track Child Portal contains comprehensive details about aggrieved children.Indian Railway has established child helpdesks at over 135 railway stations. When a child is rescued by the Railway Protection Force (RPF), they are handed over to the District Child Welfare

breeding and training school located on Taralu near Ten specially-trained Indian CAPF and special com-Bengaluru, Karnataka, the second officer said. The Belgian Malinois breed is mando force dogs are in France to provide a counter-terrorist considered to be the most preand anti-sabotage security cover

Indian CAPF, special

commando dogs to

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wednesday.

Olympics slated to open next

Indian and the French govern-ment, a security officer told

The teams along with their han-

dlers are drawn from the central armed police forces (CAPFs) like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF),

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police

(ITBP) force apart from the fed-

eral contingency commando

force National Security Guard

(NSG) and the Assam Rifles.

The dogs are from the fero-

cious-looking Belgian Malinois

breed which undertake infantry

patrol and anti-sabotage sniffer

tasks to detect bombs, impro-

vised explosive devices (IÊDs)

and trouble makers in various

internal security theatres of

the country like anti-Naxal

operations and counter-terror-

ist operations, he said. A second

officer said the handlers of

these ten canine teams have

undertaken refresher physical

training apart from a special capsule of basics of the French

language for the Olympics

task.The squad includes five-year-old CRPF canine Vast and

three-year-old Denby.

secure Paris Olympics

ferred combat dog by security to various venues of the Paris forces across the globe," he said. The Malinois, a litter of an week, official sources said on Israeli male Malinois crossed with an American bitch, shot to fame when it was reported that the dogs assisted US Special Forces in sniffing out Osama Bin Laden's hideout in Abbottabad in Pakistan in 2011. The dog, which has a heavy snout and a big head, can detect suspicious human prescanine squads between the ence and IEDs with precision and it is intelligent enough to communicate these signals through a nod of its head and not by barking which could lead

to alerting of the target. The Indian dog teams will be deployed as per the requirements of the French Police and security agencies and this deployment is part of the security cooperation between the two countries, the first officer said. The handlers are donning their regular combat uniform with a special patch of the Indian flag on their chest and another on the shoulder provided to the security agencies deployed for the mega games

event, he said. According to international media reports, France is deploying around 30,000 police officers each day for the Olympics, which will be held between July 26 and August 11, with a peak of 45,000 for the opening ceremony on the Seine river.

About 18,000 members of the military are also helping ensure security, including thousands housed in a huge, special camp erected on the edge of Paris, the reports said. India will be represented by 117 athletes at the

The ten Índian K9 (canine) Committee which hands over RPF's unwavering commit-"During 2021, the RPF saw ment was evident as they resmaintained that in the first five teams will undertake sniffing and patrolling duties at various venues that will hold events for Compensation for IAF soldier infected the Paris Olympics. They have been given special 10-week training for this firstever kind of collaboration of with HIV after blood transfusion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



ing associations with poorer heart health irrespective of people's weight in later life". The study included 1,690 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in 1946. The participants were examined based on their body mass index (BMI), waist-to-hip ratio, and ECGs.

Researchers found that elevated BMI from age 20 onwards led to higher left ventricular mass in individuals in their 60s, indicating poor heart health and increased mortality risk. A five-unit higher BMI at age 43 correlated with a 15 per cent or tricular mass

They added that the study included mostly white European people, so it may not apply to the global population, although Professor Hughes said there is a close link.

With alarm bells ringing, particularly for the young, these findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address the obesity epidemic in India, aiming to safeguard future generations from serious cardiovascular health

World over too, the picture is not very encouraging. A recent World Health Organisation (WHO) study reported that over one billion people have been struggling with obesity across the globe. Hughes noted that the research

An Indian Air Force (IAF) soldier, who contracted AIDS due to transfusion of contaminated blood at a military hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba in 2002, has received Rs 18 lakh and the residual amount from over Rs 1.41 crore awarded to him as compensation has been deposited with the apex court registry, the IAF has informed the Supreme Court.

The apex court, in a judgement delivered on September 26 last year on a plea by the veteran, had directed the ÍAF to pay him around Rs 1.5 crore as compensation. The former soldier had taken ill during "Operation Parakram", launched in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, and was admitted to the hospital where he had to be administered one unit of blood.

The top court had in April this year dismissed a plea seeking review of its September 2023 judgement in the matter. The



tempt of the directions issued by the top court in its 2023 verdict came up for hearing before the bench on Tuesday.

ations, saving 11,907 children. This year saw a notable increase

in the number of children

found and protected, with 9601

children identified as run-

aways, 961 as missing, 648 as

left behind, 370 as destitute, 78

as kidnapped, 82 as mentally challenged and 123 as street

children," the Ministry said.

Lauding the RPF, the Ministry

stated that during 2022, the

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Vikramjit Banerjee said they have filed a compliance affidavit in the matter.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and K V Viswanathan, observed that the amount deposited in the court registry be released to the veteran. An advocate, who is assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in the matter, spoke about the soldier's regular medical check-up and said the bench can consider referring him to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, for it. The bench said since the man

resides in Ajmer, a good medical facility can be found in Jaipur to ensure he is not incon-It asked the amicus to discuss

the issue with the ASG so that it can be sorted out and posted the matter for hearing after two weeks.

On March 5, the apex court had directed that an amount of Rs 18 lakh towards attendant expenses be paid to the man and the remainder be deposited in the court's registry within two weeks.

The bench had also directed that his disability be considered as 100 per cent

the disability pension. In its 2023 verdict, the apex court had said, "It is held that the appellant is entitled to compensation, calculated at Rs 1,54,73,000 towards compensation on account of medical negligence of the respondents, who are held liable for the injury suffered by the appellant."

It had said since individual liability cannot be assigned, the respondent organisations (IAF and Indian Army) are held vicariously liable, jointly and

"The amount shall be paid to the appellant within six weeks by the IAF, his employer; it is open to the IAF to seek reimbursement, to the extent of half the sum, from the Indian Army. All arrears related to disability pension too shall be disbursed to the appellant within the said six weeks period," the apex court had said. The top court had passed the verdict on an appeal by the IAF veteran who challenged an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) rejecting his claim

> the story. Since at least 2016, and PLIs can't compensate for multinational companies across a freer society, polity, and economy one that is free from

They have been chosen for Olympics apart from 140 supthis task after stringent tests

Country needs new liberalised approach to political economy: Ramesh

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday L claimed that India has been locked into a cycle of low investment since 2014 due to a combination of "erratic policy, rampant cronyism, and the ED/ÎT/CBI raid raj", and asserted that the country needs a new liberalised approach to political

Ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget next week, Congress General Secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said the single

most important statistic that explains India's inability to grow faster since 2014 is the sluggish investment rate".

"India has been locked into a cycle of low investment since 2014, due to a combination of erratic policy, rampant cronyism, and the ED/IT/CBI raid raj," Ramesh said in a statement. Low investment drags down the medium and long-term GDP growth rates, which in turn drags down wages and consumption growth, he said. "The biggest component of

investment - private domestic

investment - has been in the doldrums since 2014. It was

solidly in the 25-30% of GDP range during Dr Manmohan Singh's tenure. Under the selfdeclared divinity, it has been

squarely in the 20-25% of GDP range," Ramesh said. He said gross FDI as a percentage of GDP has also more or less stayed constant since 2014. "This is, however, only part of the world have been looking to divest from China and invest in other developing countries. "India, with a large and growing labour pool, was at the right place at the right time - but this generational opportunity to garner FDI and become a manufacturing and export-oriented economy has been squandered," Ramesh said. Countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam have walked away with the benefits, he said. "Sops like corporate tax cuts

economy," the Congress leader Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget for 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on

demonetization-like master-

strokes, cronyism, and Raid

Raj," Ramesh said, hitting out at

the Modi government. What

India needs is not marginal pol-

icy tinkering, but a new, liber-

alised approach to political

JP Nadda for global regulatory standards

PNS NEW DELHI

40 lakh in 1990.

Amid recent scrutiny of several drug companies over product issues such as cough syrup, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Wednesday stressed the critical need for the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to draw a roadmap with timelines of adopting global standards in its regulatory functions.

His directives came while reviewing the regulation of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices here where he underscored India's aspiration to reaffirm its status as the 'pharmacy of the world' by aligning its drug regulatory framework with international norms.

Nadda emphasised the necessity for a robust regulatory structure that matches India's extensive pharmaceutical industry and meets global expectations effectively.

He stated that the upscaling needs to be systems-based, focusing on the highest standards of uniformity, technical upgrade and futuristic

approach. For export of drugs and pharbody and the industry should



maceuticals, the system should be designed for proper intervention to maintain the quality of drugs being exported, he emphasised amid the backdrop of a few Indian-made drugs in regions as far afield as North America, Africa and Central Asia were found to be toxic and causing deaths.

Nadda also underscored the importance of transparency in the working of CDSCO. "In order to achieve global standards, our focus needs to be on transparency of procedures at CDSCO and within the drugs and medical devices industry,"

"Both the drugs regulatory

work on highest principles of transparency to ensure that the products manufactured and sold by India meet the highest indices of global quality standards," he said.

The Health Minister stated that it is important for CDSCO to be in continuous dialogue with the drugs' and medical devices' industry to understand their issues and support them to fulfill the quality expectations and standards of CDSCO. "Our focus should be on developing mechanisms that ensure easy of doing business for the drugs industry within the regulatory requirements. For this, CDSCO needs to be a user-friendly organization with state-of-the-art facilities matching global standards," he said.

On the topic of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in drugs manufacturing and the issues faced by the small scale industries to meet quality standards, Nadda said, "Let us understand the issues faced by MSME sector and support them to strengthen their capacity and quality of products on the one hand, and encourage them to meet the regulatory requirements on the

Nadda was briefed about the mandated activities of CDSCO, its achievements, future plans and various issues and challenges faced by CDSCO, according to a statement issued here. He was also updated on the progress of the scheme for strengthening the state drug regulatory system with a budget of Rs 850 crore which was launched in 2016 during his earlier tenure.

Nadda was also apprised of the roles and responsibilities of the central and state drugs regulatory bodies, and some of the challenges faced in alignment between them.

Indian Embassy, **OMSC** working to rescue cargo vessel crew

PNS NEW DELHI

A Comoros-flagged cargo vessel that capsized off the Oman coast has 13 Indians seafarers and the Indian embassy in the Gulf nation is in contact with the concerned authorities, official sources said on Wednesday. The vessel, MT Falcon Prestige, transmitted a distress call around 2200 hours on July 14 off the coast of Oman, they said. The merchant vessel has a crew of 16, of which 13 are Indian seafarers, the sources said, adding the vessel seems to have capsized.

"Our embassy in Oman is in constant touch with the Omani authorities. A search and rescue operation for the seafarers, coordinated by the Oman Maritime Security Center (OMSC), is on," one of the sources said. "The Indian Navy has also joined the search and rescue operations," the source

90 per cent drop in water-borne diseases in Andaman Nicobar

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that after installation of Kavaratti plant in Andaman Nicobar has cut down the incidence of water borne diseases by 90 per cent highlighting the health benefits and impact of provision of potable water.

Administrator Lakshadweep, Daman Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli Praful Patel who had called on Dr Singh to express gratification for initiatives such as installing world's first of its

"Desalination Plant" for drinking water by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, said that it has brought huge relief by providing clean drinking water to people of the Union Territory.3

'Total nine desalination plants are approved of which seven are operational and one more will be opera-



tionalized in the coming

weeks. The capacity of each of these LTTD units is around 1 Lakh litre of potable water per day which will be increased to 1.5 lakh litres per day in the coming time," he said.
The LTTD technology uses the naturally available temperature difference in oceans, evaporating the surface water at low pressure and condensing the resultant vapour with deep sea cold water at

400 m depth.

The technology is indigenous, environmentally friendly and easy to operate. Dr. Singh also informed Patel that two re-mineralization plants are being made operational which will add the essential salts evaporated during the desalination process

Other desalination units/plants will also be provided with similar re-mineralization facilities in course 12oC, obtained from about of time, he added.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A new lease of life

The Govt reconstitutes NITI Aayog, inducts union ministers and NDA allies to enhance strategic planning

n a significant move to bolster its policy-making prowess, the Indian Government has reconstituted the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. This reconstitution includes 15 Union Ministers and notable allies from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), marking a strategic shift in the country's planning and development framework. This underscores the Government's commitment to integrating diverse ministerial insights into the policy-making process. These ministers come from various portfolios, ensuring that a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives is brought to the table. This comprehensive approach aims to address multifaceted national challenges more effectively. The reconstitution also sees the induction of key NDA allies, signalling a collaborative effort to drive the nation's development agenda. By involving NDA allies, the Government aims to foster a more inclusive and cooperative environment within the Aayog. Among the notable ministers included are Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Home



Minister Amit Shah, and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. Their presence is anticipated to significantly influence the economic, internal security, and defence policies of the country. The inclusion of ministers from portfolios such as Health, Education, and Rural Development indicates a holistic approach to addressing India's development needs.

This reconstitution is seen as a strategic shift from the traditional Planning Commission model to a more dynamic and inclusive NITI Aayog framework. It reflects the government's intention to leverage the collective wisdom of its senior ministers and allies to drive forward its vision of a 'New India'. The Aayog's recon-

stitution aims to facilitate better coordination between the central and state governments, ensuring that policies are effectively implemented at the grassroots level. One of the primary goals of this reconstitution is to enhance the implementation of policies. The government hopes to streamline the execution of key initiatives and programs. This is expected to result in more efficient policy delivery and improved outcomes on the ground. NITI Aayog was established on January 1, 2015, as a replacement for the Planning Commission. Its primary purpose is to promote cooperative federalism by involving state governments in the policymaking process. However gradually it lost its importance. The Indian government has increasingly favoured a centralised approach, leading to reduced involvement of states in planning and decision-making processes, undermining NITI Aayog's role. It lacks financial powers and direct allocation of funds, limiting its influence on actual policy implementation. Besides, there has been a tendency to prioritize immediate economic and political goals over long-term strategic planning, diminishing NITI Aayog's relevance in sustainable development. As the NITI Aayog embarks on this new phase, there is a sense of optimism about its potential to drive substantial progress. It is anticipated that the Government's latest move will lead to more robust policy frameworks.

PICTALK



Shia mourners participate in the 9th Muharram procession, on boats, at Dal Lake, in Srinaga

Parliament: Duty over disruption



The opposition can leverage parliament debates to engage with their constituencies but they often waste this opportunity by walkouts and protests

t is difficult to understand, especially since parliamentarians, appeared to overlook an essential of their vocation. That is, that the legislature usually does not take much time. The rest of the session is the opportunity for the opposition to demonstrate their talent and commitment through television. The ruling party or parties do not need the legislature except to have bills passed and enacted into law. If there are no laws that need to be passed urgently, the government and ruling party can do without the legislature virtually for an entire year. Of course, there remains the presenting and passing of the Budget, which can be legitimized only by the legislature, particularly the Lok Sabha.

What has been stated hitherto has been well demonstrated by the state assemblies in India. They pass the odd bill once in a while, and the annual budget is the other essential item of business during the year. Most state legislative assemblies meet for three or four days at a time. Otherwise, for the few times they have to statutorily meet, each session is seldom for more than three or four days. However, the members of the legislative assemblies (MLAs) draw their pay and perks for the entire term of the legislative

This applies to Parliament too, although it has the budget, monsoon and winter sessions, which are long enough. In short, to restate, most of the time the legislatures can work for the benefit of the opposition members, who can display their skills, knowledge, familiarity and touch with their constituencies. With the advent of full-time coverage by television channels—Sansad TV being a prominent one—a great advantage has fallen into the hands of turns shouting slogans in the Opposition. This is a boon an attempt to drown the for them: it is a free and constant medium to, as it were, communicate with their con-This institution was introduced

around the time I was in Parliament. Back then, most Members who spoke made full



use of the television channels by speaking for as long as possible. During the question hour between 11 am and 12 pm, only five or six questions and their answers could be completed, instead of all twenty. The reason was that those who had asked the questions spent as long a time as possible over asking their supplementary question, which was a privilege to the Member(s).

The ruling party/parties have a better opportunity of exposure than opposition parties generally get. Yet, the opposition mindlessly throws away a lot of the session time by walking out, protesting otherwise, compelling the Speaker to adjourn the House for several hours or even the rest of the day. July 2 was another example when the Prime Minister rose to thank the President for her inaugural speech. For well over two hours, groups of opposition members took Prime Minister's address to Parliament, or perhaps even to prevent him from speaking. Little do they realize that most television channels were telecasting his speech live, duly cutting out the



THE OPPOSITION **MINDLESSLY THROWS** AWAY A LOT OF THE SESSION TIME BY WALKING OUT, **PROTESTING** OTHERWISE, COMPELLING THE SPEAKER TO ADJOURN THE HOUSE FOR SEVERAL OR EVEN THE REST OF THE DAY

disturbed by slogans were the Members of the Lok Sabha. All that the sloganshouting Members gained was a reputation of being wasters, as members who cost the taxpayer a lot, merely to put in negative effort to try and prevent the Prime Minister from being heard.Each session and day of Parliament cost several crores of rupees. Each Member of Parliament costs several lakh rupees a year to serve the country and its people, and not to prevent Parliament from functioning. There are many better ways of protesting, such as, such as wearing black bends on one's sleeves, sometimes wearing black caps, or sometimes, dressed fully in black. Members can also refuse to take their seats for the entire day, instead, occupying the adjacent aisles for the duration of the session, as a mark of protest, but let the work go people, including their constituents that they are spending money on the functioning of Parliament with its thousands of employees constructively and in the interests of the nation. They should realize that the

British departed from India long ago, and such negative activities have no place in our country anymore. Let it be borne in mind that being elected to Parliament (or the state legislative assemblies) is a national duty more than the privilege it has come to be mistakenly understood. What we have witnessed over the two days of July 2 and 3 portends ill for the institution of democracy, which everyone, from the opposition parties to the media and academia, not to forget their cheerleaders overseas, keeps shouting is "under threat in India". But where is the real threat to democracy coming from? This needs to be clearly understood.No democracy can be threatened because its electorate gives a clear mandate for stable governance for a developed economy and a better future. It is the cavalier fashion in which certain parties—and political families living in a sense of ention. This would assure all the tlement—treat Parliament and its protocols and rules that are emerging as the real threat to democracy.

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

Defying the Western pressure, India prioritises national interests



Prime Minister Modi's visit to Moscow highlights significant gains for India on strategic, economic, and diplomatic fronts, despite Western reservations

espite a concerted campaign by the US and Western countries to isolate Russia following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, several nations, including India, have prioritized their national interests. This has allowed President Putin to bolster Russia's economy, with India's \$65 billion worth of crude oil imports playing a crucial role in mitigating the impact of US-imposed sanctions. India maintains close strate-

gic ties with the United States, yet it has become the second-largest importer of Russian crude oil after China. This alignment with Russia serves as a counterbalance to US influence. In recognition of this support, President Putin awarded Prime Minister Modi the Order of St. Andrew.

The US, as expected, reacted by urging India to ensure that any resolution to the Ukraine conflict respects the UN charter and Ukraine's territorial integrity. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller emphasised the importance of these principles in international engagements with

In this context, experts view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow through multiple lenses, highlighting significant gains for India on strategic, economic, and diplomatic

India's geopolitical strategy significantly revolves around balancing China's rising influence. Strengthening ties with Russia serves as a counterbalance to China's aggressive posturing in the region. The visit underscored mutual interests in ensuring a multipolar world order, acting as a strategic buffer against unilateral actions by any major power, including **Strategic Gains:**

A key highlight of Modi's visit was the reinforcement of India-Russia defense ties. Historically, Russia has been one of India's most reliable partners. defense Discussions around the S-400 missile defense system and potential future collaborations in defense technology were central to the visit, enhancing India's military capabilities and contributing to regional stability.

Western sanctions against Russia have led it to seek stronger ties with non-Western countries, including India. Both India and Russia advocate for a multipolar world order, balancing US influence. Modi's visit reflects India's independent foreign policy, maintaining strong ties with both the US

and Russia Energy security is a cornerstone of India's economic policy, and Russia plays a critical role with its vast oil and natural gas reserves. Modi's visit focused on longterm supply agreements, investments in energy infrastructure, and collaboration in nuclear energy projects, ensuring a stable and diver-

sified energy supply for India. Boosting bilateral trade and investment was another focal point. Despite historical ties, trade volumes between India and Russia have not reached their full potential. The visit aimed to address this by exploring new trade avenues in sectors like pharmaceuticals, information technology, and agriculture, promising long-term benefits for both economies. Modi's visit signifies a reaffirmation of traditional alliances. Reinforcing ties with Russia offers India a more balanced foreign policy amidst the US's increasingly transactional approach. The visit likely included discussions on expanding cooperation in space exploration and nuclear technology, fostering innovations that bennations. both Cybersecurity is crucial in the digital age. Modi's visit likely explored collaboration in these fields, ensuring both nations can safeguard their digital infrastructures and harness economic ben-

(Writer is a political analyst; views expressed are personal)

RBI'S NEW GUIDELINES FOR BANKS

sloganeering.

Madam — According to a report, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that banks cannot label borrowers as frauds without giving them a hearing. Banks must now issue a 21-day show-cause notice before classifying an account as fraudulent. This decision follows a Supreme Court order. The RBI has instructed banks to develop a fraud risk management policy, approved by at least three board members, including one full-time director and two independent or non-executive directors, to ensure compliance with the principles of natural justice. Additionally, banks are required to update their Early Warning Signal (EWS) systems within six months, integrating data analytics to detect unusual patterns. The RBI has set a threshold of Rs. 1 crore for reporting frauds to the state police, with private banks also reporting to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, while public sector banks report frauds above Rs. 6 crore to the CBI, as usual.

In consortium lending, if separate offenses are committed, each member may file separate complaints; otherwise, one member can file a complaint with support from the others.In summary, the new RBI rule mandating a 21-day notice before classifying borrowers as frauds enhances borrowers' rights by allowing them to present their cases and defend against allegations, ensuring fair treatment. This rule will improve transparency, foster trust between borrowers and financial institutions, strengthen governance through boardapproved risk management policies, and regulate and streamline the processes of borrowing and lending. **Bhagwan Thadani** Mumbai

THE PLIGHT OF GIG WORKERS Madam — This letter addresses the plight of gig workers in our country. Gig workers are a pitiable lot. Regardless of the weather, they must fulfill their cus-

Defeating global warming

EEDIT



well-defined quadrilateral encompassing solar, wind, green hydrogen, and nuclear clean energies as its four vertices is essential to effectively combat global warming and related weather catastrophes, which lead to loss of lives, assets, and properties."Well-defined" means urgently establishing both global and national annual

tomers' demands.

I used to wonder how much they earn by zipping and zapping on their bikes, risking their lives in India's urban jungle. My curiosity was answered when I saw a delivery boy working on a rainy day. The bags on his bike were covered with a plastic sheet, but he was drenched to the bone. Since then, I have made it a point to order via the "Cash on Delivery" mode, so that I can tip gig workers generously. Surprisingly, most of the time my tip is politely declined ("Arre sir, yeh to humara kaam hai") or accepted with reluctant embarrass-

Avinash Godboley | Dewas

STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

Madam — In the neighboring country of Nepal, which borders India to the east, west, and south, KP Sharma Oli's appointment as Prime Minister was met with congratulations from PM Modi. India and Nepal have shared a deep bilateral relationship since early days, but the abolition of the monarchy in

targets for each of the four clean energy sources. What percentage should be allocated to solar energy? What percentage should be allocated to nuclear energy? And similarly, for wind and green hydrogen?

Currently, the world lacks direction, resulting in slow progress towards achieving 100% clean energy and 0% carbon emissions. The "greater capacity" and "economic power" of nuclear energy, compared to the other three clean energies, cannot be ignored. Increasing the capacity of existing nuclear reactors is more economical than constructing new ones.It would be much better and safer if all nations signed a pact to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, such as gener ating clean energy and electricity, rather than for making bombs, weapons, and war para-

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secunderabad

2008 introduced challenges.

Enhancing trade, investment, and infrastructure development can provide mutual economic benefits. Joint ventures in hydropower projects and tourism can foster economic interdependence. Promoting cultural and educational exchanges can strengthen people-to-people connections, building a stronger foundation for bilateral ties. Short-sighted and selfish politicians sought to please China, which exploit-

ed the situation. The Modi government must provide aid to Nepal and invigorate the relationship more than ever before, ensuring that Nepal does not feel the need to turn towards China, which would harm India's interests. India must infuse new energy into its relationship with Nepal, ensuring that both nations work together for mutual growth and regional sta-

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME

Accepting events as they happen brings a great sense of calmness



RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago in ancient China lived an old farmer who worked on his land for several years. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, a group of neighbours came to commiserate with him. "Such misfortune," the agitated group of villagers reacted. "Maybe," the farmer replied nonchalantly. A few days later the horse returned, accompanied by three wild horses. Another group of villagers approached the house of the agriculturist to sympathise. "Maybe," replied the aged farmer.

The following day, the farmer's son tried to mount one of the untamed horses and was thrown off. The strapping youngster broke his leg. The overwrought neighbours once again queued up to offer their sympathies at this misadventure. "Maybe," was the desultory answer yet again.A few days later some military personnel swooped on the village to draft young men. Looking at the incapacitated stripling, he was disgualified from being recruited. The exuberant neighbours congratulated the old grazier on the turn of events. "Maybe," was the laconic reply yet again. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has succinctly elucidated the significance of the aphorism, 'to accept people and situations as they are' in his teachings. The 4 Ds of Abnormal Behaviour

Abnormal behaviour can be construed as behaviour that is disturbing (socially unacceptable), distressing, maladaptive (or self-defeating) and often the result of distorted thoughts (cognitions) as per Wikipedia. There are four strains in this abnormal behaviour. These are deviance, dysfunction, distress, and danger. Deviant behaviour is usually different, extreme, and unusual and could even include bizarre behavioural patterns. The second in the series is distressing behaviour.

People who are related to such individuals feel unpleasant and unsettled in their presence. Dysfunctional behaviour discommodes the patient to such an extent that it acts as a deterrent in his day-to-day functioning and behaviour and interferes with his range of activities. Five specific patterns of anxiety disorders fall into this category. The first is termed General Anxiety Disorder. This is a prolonged, vague, quite inexplicable fear having no objective basis, accompanied by hypervigilance, and attached motor tension of the brain. Next is what in quotidian parlance



is called panic disorder. These are none other than perpetual and frequent anxiety attacks which are accompanied by psychological symptoms such as breathlessness, palpitations, a trembling feeling, dizziness and even a sense of total loss of control over the self.

Next in the line of mental disorders are phobias. Humans have irrational phobias such as Acrophobia (fear of heights), Glossophobia (fear of addressing an audience), Claustrophobia (fear of enclosed spaces), and Aviophobia (fear of flying). In such situations, a human being is preoccupied with a wide range of thoughts, which are normally irrational. Last, but no less distressing - on this ill-fated checklist is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These individuals suffer repeated and recurrent nightmares, flashbacks, impaired concentration, and emotional numbing which invariably follows traumatic or stressful events. Our country

is plagued by three major issues namely, addictions, women's issues, and psychological disorders. Generally, citizens approach tantriks, babas, and quacks hoping for a miraculous cure. It is paramount to meet a qualified medical practitioner. The first step to recovery is medication under the expert guidance of a doctor. Next, after a period of treatment, it would be prudent to contact self-help groups, which sustain the treatment. For instance, undergoing the Happiness Course of the Art of Living, where one learns the Sudarshan Kriya breathing technique which harmonises the body and thought. "No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again," said Gautama Buddha.

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

Focus on employment, innovation and skill

The Union Budget 2024 must factor in rising unemployment and need for innovation for boosting the economy and sustaining economic growth



he upcoming Union Budget on July 23 will shed light on initiatives that may reshape economic priorities under the Modi3.0 government. Amid various expectations and commitments, the government's focus on skills, employment, and innovation emerges as a key strategy in addressing current chal-lenges and shaping future opportunities. The decision to rename the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development to include livelihood emphasizes a shift to provide employable skills to the most vulnerable 67 per cent of the country's underprivileged popu-

Placing skill development ahead of employment underscores a proactive approach to addressing the issue of a shortage of skilled workforce, especially in the health & wellness, manufacturing, and technology sectors. This not only recognizes the immediate need for a trained workforce but also positions skill development as a key driver for sustainable employment generation.

As the Budget approaches, stakeholders across sectors eagerly await concrete measures that go beyond mere promises and lead to tangible outcomes. The effectiveness of these initiatives in translating into job creation, technological innovation, and sustainable economic growth will be carefully scrutinized.

The government's steadfast commitment to enhancing skills holds the promise of unleashing India's potential as a global economic powerhouse in the

The rebranding and revitalization of the 15-year-old National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) as the Skill India Mission under PM Narendra Modi has sparked concerns about the effectiveness of the ambitious Skill India program. This program has received support from two governments over 15 years — first the UPA and then the NDA. India is in the midst of an urgent unemployment crisis due to an employment



SKILL INDIA WAS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT AND EQUIP THEM FOR THE JOB MARKET, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES REMAIN

deficit. Issues such as the delayed implementation of PMKVY 3.0 and lack of placement support are exacerbating this problem. The latest data underlines the severity of India's unemployment crisis, making it crucial to prioritize employment generation to con-front the challenges facing the Indian economy, especially with a significant number of young people entering the working age

each month.
In July 2015, PM Modi stated that "Skill India aims to build self-confidence among the underprivileged, rather than just providing jobs". However, nearly a decade later, the youth's interest in the UNSKILLED program seems to be waning. The Ministry of Skill Development YOUNG PEOPLE and Entrepreneurship has implemented strict attendance monitoring and centralized student information. Unfortunately, this has led to a decline in student retention, with many dropping out due to the rigid attendance requirements. Skill India was designed to attract unskilled young people and equip them for the job market, but unemployment rates remain high. Data from the International Labour Organization reveals that the proportion of educated unemployed individuals has risen sharply from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2023.Established in 2014, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship absorbed the NSDC and other programs to train 300 million people by 2024. Despite partnering with various organizations and raising awareness, the programs have not been as effective as envisioned. Experts argue that even tradition-

al degrees do not guarantee employment, and the education system is outdated and not jobfocused. Only a small percentage

of candidates certified by the PMKVY program have found jobs, indicating a fundamental challenge with the current skilling initiatives. Boosting skilling programs and industry partnerships is an urgent necessity to create ongoing skilling avenues and improve employability for school dropouts, and unskilled, or semiskilled workers who need to secure a livelihood.

Although the announcement of setting up 75 skilling e-labs for simulated learning in the 2022-23 Union Budget is a positive move, we must recognize that our prob-lem is far-reaching. API-based trusted skill credentials and dis-covery layers to find relevant jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities won't suffice beyond a certain point, necessitating an urgent need to skill the masses and empower the country's youths. We must acknowledge that over 40% of Indians aged 15 to 24 are neither in education, employment, or training, which is significantly higher than the South Asian (30%) and global (24%) averages. Indian firms report substantial skill shortages compared to other countries, and they assess only about 46% of graduates as employable.

The majority of students lack the necessary skills, and the skills they do possess are not aligned with the needs of their employers. Every year, more than 12 million young people in India become employable, yet we are unable to absorb them into the workforce. Many of these individuals hold higher education degrees, but they lack the necessary employable skills.

The India Skills Report (ISR) 2024 highlights that only 50.3% of graduates from higher educational institutions are deemed employable. A skill gap study conducted

by the NSDC during 2010-14 indicates that by 2025, India will need nearly 109.7 million additional skilled workers across various sectors. While the government's interventions in promoting skill development are commendable, more needs to be done to bridge the skill gaps. Wish List: In the 2024-25 Union Budget, it is crucial to prioritize upskilling initiatives for gig workers, due to the eight-fold increase in young people's participation in the gig economy from 2019 to 2023, the majority of these youth come from Tier-I and Tier-II cities and

rural areas. While the government is working to make employable skills more accessible through public-private partnerships, there is a need to cilitate and incentivize the estab lishment of more skill development universities to steer the youth, especially undergraduates towards skills. This will help align the skill courses with global standards and significantly enhance the youth's skills, contributing to the nation's workforce development.I strongly urge a significant budget allocation to provide employable skills, particularly to school dropouts on a priority basis. This will not only empower them but also significantly contribute to the growth of the Indian economy, aiming to reach \$7 trillion by 2030 and position India as the world's third-largest economy.

(The writer is Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres,; Views expressed are

Kerala: Beyond the well-crafted image of a tidy, literate State

Behind its progressive facades lies a struggle with industrial stagnation, healthcare shortcomings, and a surprising reliance on superstition

the assumption among the people outside Kerala is that it is the most literate, intelligent and hygienic State in the country. The ruling CPI(M) leaves no stone unturned to portray it as the land of people with a scientific temper and is the numero uno in all spheres of life. There are no countries in the world where you will not find expatriate Malayalees. S K Pottekkadu, the best travel writer the State has produced in the last 150 years has written articulately about the Keralites whom he met in South Africa and Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) even in the days when there were no diplomatic ties between India and these countries. The modern-day reality of Kerala is



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN what is projected by the CPI(M). Malayalees are leaving en masse from Kerala to Europe, Australia, the USA, Canada, Latin America, Africa and of course the West Asian countries in search of livelihood and for higher studies. There are no major industries worth their names in the State other than some public sector companies like FACT, Cochin Refineries and Cochin Shipyard. Industrialists and entirely different and far from entrepreneurs have translo-

cated their enterprises to neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The claim by Kerala Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his minister of health Veena George that the State is a role model in health care and wellbeing for the rest of the country and the world is a great oke. The chief minister boards the first available flight to the USA whenever he is afflicted with the common cold. Recently, a four-year-old girl was admitted to Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode for the removal of her sixth finger.

However, the doctor who performed the surgery operated on her tongue while leaving the finger untouched. Though her parents alerted the hospital authorities, the initial reaction was denial of the faux pas by the latter.

Remember, the Kozhikode Medical College and Hospital is a most sought-after institution by prospective medical students!This is not an isolated incident as such things happen quite regularly in the State's government hospitals. The doctors have their justification for such mistakes. Most of them say they are overworked and underpaid. When they work under pressure, such errors are bound to happen, claim the doctors! The aim of this column is not

to embarrass the doctors or their minister of health who was a mere news reader in one of the many TV news channels that have mushroomed in the State over the last two decades.

The recent controversy about sorcerers digging out (or mining?) copper plates, miniature artefacts and bones of some birds like hens or ducks from the residence and office of K Sudhakaran MP who is president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee is an issue that shows the large scale obscurantism prevailing among the descendants of Jawaharlal Nehru, the wholesale dealer of scientific temper. According to sources close to Sudhakaran, the sorcery was the handiwork of people in the party itself who wanted to see the KPCC chief remain in bed for the rest of his life.

There are black magicians across Kerala who have the "expertise" to neutralize one's enemies or help you to become a minister or even chief min-

ister! This is not an exaggerated statement as this writer himself has spoken to a sorcerer who was into this kind of business for decades. When Oommen Chandi was the chief minister (2011-2016),

there was this Congress leader who felt left out during the formation of the UDF Government. When his efforts to become a minister failed, he approached a sorcerer from Malabar who offered the former to make him a minister and that too with a plum portfolio by performing puja. The sorcerer said that witchcraft had to be done and it would cost the politician Rs 12 lakh and the latter accepted the proposal with glee.

The magician rang up this writer and said that the puja would begin the next morning

and the politician would become the minister in three months. Presto, in three months, the politician was sworn in as a minister with a coveted portfolio!The story did not end there. The sorcerer was not paid the promised money and he had to warn the politician that he had the know-how to get the minister dismissed from the government.

Last heard, the politician (nay, minister) hushed up the issue by paying half the amount he had agreed to pay earlier. Politicians cheating the electorate is quite common but hoodwinking even wizards and warlocks is new information.Sorcery and black magic are not confined to Kerala. They are a global phenomenon with even our Dravidian politi-

seeking guidance from astrologers, wizards and sorcerers for survival.

Some of the countries that played in the World Cup football championship in the 1970s and 1980s used to have an official sorcerer for the team. His mission is to perform witchcraft near the rival team's goalposts to ensure that the ball enters the post without failure! If you feel that sorcery is restricted to politics, business and sports, you are mistaken, Sir. There are many instances of it being used by scientific researchers in the US and Russia. Wait for another occa-

(The writer is special correspondent with the Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

LUCKNOW | THIURSDAY | JULY 18, 2024

Cauvery issue: TN to recite Varuna Japa for rain | Fadnavis, Ajit have narrow escape as

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

R ationalist Tamil Nadu will echo with the recitation of Varuna Japa, a ritual to propitiate the rain God so that farmers in the State's Rice Bowl get copious rainfall for their agricultural operations. All Vinayakar Temples along the banks of River Kaveri will see yagnas and pujas by the farmers seeking divine intervention to save them from draught so that they could resume rice cultivation according to V Rajaram of Mahadanapuram

Tiruchirappalli district. The farmers along the Kaveri River basin in Tamil Nadu are dependent on Karnataka's magnanimity to release water from Krishna Raja Sagar Dam in that State. Since Karnataka is facing severe water shortage because of weak South West Monsoon, we cannot depend on her mercy," Rajaram, the 86-year old president of Kaveri Delta Farmers Welfare Association told The Pioneer. Karnatak has refused to release one TMCFT (thousand million cubic feet) water every day from July 12 till July



Kaveri Water Regulation Committee. The Mettur Dam in Tail Nadu starts releasing water for cultivation on June 12. But this year, the dam is yet to be opened as the wtare level remains precariously low," said A Sathyanarayana, president, Consortium of Kaveri Delta Farmers based at Thiruvarur.

Kuruvai (short term crop) is cultivated during 12th June to 12th August every year, Since Tamil Nadu does not get South West Monsoon, the farmers are dependent on Kaveri River which originates in Karnataka and flows into Bay of Bengal through the Delta districts in the former

According to the Supreme Court verdict and Kaveri Water Dispute Tribunal

award, Karnataka has to release 192 TMCFT water every water year to Tamil Nadu. A water year is the 12-month period that begins in

But if Karnataka does not get copious rainfall during the South West Monsoon, water level in its reservoirs get depleted making it impossible for the former to discharge the water specified by the KWDT. Whenever there is shortage of rainfall, the Governments in both the State launch water battle and takes up the matter to Supreme Court.

Karnataka knows it well that even if it does not release water neither the Supreme Court nor the Central Government would do any harm. So the Karnataka Government has bluntly refused the directive of Kaveri Water Regulation Committee asking the State to release one TMCFT water from 12 July to 31 July to the lower riparian

The short term Kuruvai is cultivated in four lakh acres of paddy fields in the four Delta districts of Tamil Nadu which are also known as the Rice Bowl of the State. Though Tamil Nadu politi-

cians are fully aware of the uncertainty associated with the availability of Kaveri River Water, the only thing they have done till date is to pass resolutions in the legislative assembly and send the same to the Centre.

Tamil Nadu has one of the longest coasts in India and it could set up modern desalination plants with which the State can produce its entire water requirements of the State. But neither the DMK nor the AIADMK have done anything to make use of the desalination technology available with Chennai based National Institute of Ocean Technology or the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research Centre Kalpakkam.

helicopter loses way in bad weather

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar and Industry Minister Uday Samant had a narrow escape on Wednesday, as the pilot of a helicopter in which they were flying from Nagpur to Gadchiroli in eastern Maharashtra lost the route because of bad weather conditions and poor visibility, but managed to land the chopper

Fadnavis, Pawar and Samant heaved sigh of relief as they sur-vived what would have been a major mishap, after a circum-spect pilot skilfully navigated the chopper through the monsoon clouds and hazy weather conditions and landed safely. The three VIPs were on their way to lay a foundation stone for a Rs 10,000 crore Surjagad Ispat integrated steel project in Aĥeri taluka of Gadcĥiróli district, when they had an unforgettable experience in the air. More than Fadnavis and Samant, it was Pawar who was most worried when the heli-



copter lost its route in the clouds, a fact he did not hide at all. He also went on record saying that Fadnavis assured him that they will tide over the problem caused by the inclement weather.

Speaking at the Surjagad Ispat integrated steel project's foundation laying function, Ajitdada – as Ajit Pawar is known as in the state political circles - recalled the scary experience he had while in the air: "Helicopter took off properly from Nagpur for Gadchiroli. I was quite comfortable after the take-off. I was watching the clouds. I also told Fadnavis to see them. However, I became anxious during the journey when the helicopter lost its route due to monsoon clouds".

On his part, Fadnavis was quite calm and chatted with me. I was getting restless and worried. However, Fadnavis told me not to worry, saying that he had escaped safely six such accidents earlier. He told me not to worry: we will survive this as well," Ajitdada said. "Even Uday Samant told me to look out at the landing site found by the pilot. After seeing the site from the window I heaved a sigh of relief," the NCP (AP) chief said.

"Today being Ashadhi Ekadashi, I kept praying to Lord Panduranga. Despite my fears, Fadnavis continued to advise me to stay calm. When Uday Samant told me to look for the landing site. After looking at it from the window I heaved a sigh of relief," the NCP (AP) chief said.

The blessings of their ancestors played a crucial role in their safé landing," Ajitdada said, as heaped praise on the pilot for navigating the chopper skil-

Leave politics to politicians, Omar tells J&K DGP

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

 $F^{
m ormer}$ Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah Wednesday gave a sound piece of advice to the Director General of Jammu Kashmir Police RR Swain by requesting him to leave politics to politicians and do his job of improving the situation and combat the militancy. "We, politicians, cannot look after law and order, we cannot fight militancy even though our party has given maximum sacrifices.

"We can raise our voice against militancy, we can help the government efforts but it is the job of the DGP to fight militancy. Let him do his work, we will do ours," Omar said while reacting to the statement of DGP as it drew sharp reactions from various political parties in the region. Swain on Monday had blamed the regional parties of Jammu and Kashmir for Pakistan's 'successful' infiltration into the Kashmiri civil society.

Beacon of hope for present, future generations

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI**

Once an expanse of wilderness on the Delhi ridge covered with dense forest, a 200-acre patch of land on the rugged red sandstone hill has undergone a remarkable transformation with the Jamia Hamdard campus coming up

The sprawling lush green campus now pulsates with the energy and enthusiasm of students coming from every corner of India, and beyond.

In 2023 alone, 72 students from the Northeast joined various courses the institution runs. The university's appeal extends beyond the national borders, attracting scholars from around the world.

Currently, students from 27 different countries are pursuing their studies at Hamdard. Under the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Professor (Dr) Mohammad Afsar Alam, the university has become a melting pot of regional, linguistic, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity, embodying a truly global character.

Established in 1989, Jamia to the vision of Hakeem Abdul Hameed, a revered figure whose life and work were dedicated to the promotion of education, health, and social remarkable journey of the uniservices. "Ever since I joined Hamdard on June 19, 2021, my sole endeavour has been to turn Jamia into a world-class institution of Hakeem's dream. a center of excellence for study



Jamia Hamdard Vice Chancellor Professor (Dr) Mohammad Afsar Alam (I) with Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan

matching international standards, to our students, promotion of good research, innovation, skills and entrepreneurship development are part of the mission we are pursuing at Hamdard. We may count it among our achievements that during the three years I have been at the helm here, the placement of our students has increased manifold. And, for the first time in its history, Hamdard has received NAC A+ rating, and boasts inclusion among top 50 universities in NRF ranking and among top 100 in all categories," said Dr

Seated in his elegantly designed plush Vice Chancellor's office in Hamdard Nagar, Dr Alam shared with The Pioneer the versity's evolution into a worldclass centre of learning and research. Over the years, the university has blossomed into Providing quality education, and research in Unani system grammes. Graduate pro-

of medicine, alongside its programmes in science, pharmacy, management, computer science, and legal education, among others.

"Our programmes enjoy high credibility both within the country and internationally," Dr Alam remarked with a sense of pride. "This is evidenced by the fact that many of our alumni are now esteemed faculty members at prestigious institutions in the US, UK, and around the globe. Their success stories are a testament to the quality education and training they received at

Over a period of last ten years, Hamdard, earlier conceived as a seat of higher learning in Unani Medicine, Islamic Studies, Biosciences, Pharmacy, Nursing and other subjects, has emerged as a known institution of higher learning with distinct and focused academic programme in Information Technology and Computer Applications and Post-gradu-

ate programmes in Information Technology, Computer Applications, Business Management, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy have been started in the last few years. Hamdard offers post-

graduate and doctoral programmes in several disciplines for which advanced facilities are available. Though Hamdard is a minor-

ity institution, its admission policy makes for diversity and inclusiveness, and gender equality is an article of faith with the university. "Fifty-six per cent of our faculty members are women, and female students outnumber their male counterparts in our undergraduate programmes," the VC said proudly. The university offers voca-

tional courses specifically designed to empower aspirants from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, providing them with valuable professional training. "Muslim girls make up 60 per cent of the enrollments in the nursing tion's commitment to fostering inclusivity and empowering women through education and skill development," he said. "Hamdard's admission policy follows Central Government norms. We admit only those who have cleared NIT, JEE and CUET," he said, adding pointedly that "this rules out any kind of favouritism."

Adhikari's new slogan: Jo Mere Saath Hum Unke Saath

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■

Apparently under pressure from the top BJP leadership as well as the workers down below after his party's not-so-impressive show in the recently concluded Parliamentary elections, BengalOpposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari has suggested a more fogeyish slogan for the party ahead of the 2026

Assembly elections. Adhikari wants not only to dissolve the BJP's minority morcha but also replace the widely held slogan of "Sabka Saath, Śabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas" (Togetherness and inclusive development)with Jo Hamare Saath, Hum Unke Saath; (Those who are with us we will be with them)."

Incidentally, the slogan is credited to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Adhikari placed the proposal in a recent party meeting, insidtheparty leadership would accept this "radical right turn" at the risk of losing "a good percentage of Left votes that have been backing us since 2019." Underscoring his strategic line at a party meeting the Opposition Leader reportedly said, "I had said that I have no problem with nationalist Muslims ... they too had

saidSabka Saath, Sabka Vikas... But I will not say this anymore. Instead, we will now say Jo Hamare Saath, Hum Unke Saath," he said suggesting the disbanding of the BJP Minority Morcha. "Let us shut down this Minority Morcha which is not needed anymore ... you be for me ... then only I will be for you," he said.

However as eye-brows were raised in Delhi, Adhikari backtracked saying he was being "quoted out of context."

"My statement is being taken out of context. I am clear that those who are nationalists stand for this Nation and Bengal, and we should be with them. Those who don't stand with us, work against the interest of nation and Bengal, we need to expose them. Also, like Mamata Banerjee, we shouldn't divide people in majority and minority and see them as Indians," he posted on X adding how he followed "in letter and spirit, Prime Minister's call for Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas." Adhikari's advice came days after Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar asked the party workers not to rely too much on the central agencies to overthrow the Trinamool Congress Government and concentrate on building a strong organizational network

Mamata to move SC over HC order on Guv libel suit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee may move the Supreme Court after getting an adverse order in Calcutta High Court which earlier restrained her from making any defamatory statements against State Governor CV Ananda Bose. 'The High Court has given and order but my client has every right to go to the Supreme Court," Banerjee's advocate Sanjay Basu said adding the Court had not given any finding on whether some statements made by the CM earlier were defamatory in nature. In an unprecedented step the Governor had earlier filed a libel suit against the Chief Minister for making defamatory remarks against him. Banerjee had earlier told a meeting that she had been told by some women MLAs that they were afraid of going to the Raj Bhavan. Apparently remarks v to a complain raised by a casual staff at the Governor's House. The case was heard on Tuesday when the HCrestrained the Chief Minister from making defamatory remarks against the Governor after his counsels pleaded that If at this stage, an interim order is not granted it would give a free hand to defendants.

with passengers of Vande Bharat

GM NFR interacts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

hetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N. F. Railway, conducted a thorough onboard inspection of the Guwahati - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express recently on 17th July.

While travelling onboard the Guwahati - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, GM/NFR interacted with the passengers and took their valuable feedback regarding passenger convenience and other related services.

He also noted their suggestions to further improve the available services.The GM discussed with the passengers about the problems normally faced by them duringthe train journey and also took feedback about the cleanliness inside the coaches, toilets, regarding the behavior of the service providers.

Several passengers mentioned that there has been a visible change in the experience of travelling in trains over the years. Passenger amenities have significantly including cleanliness inside trains, toilets, AC etc.

Shrivastava further added that he would like every passenger to have a good experience during their travel. General Manager specially enquired from the passengers about the quality and quantity of on board catering services of the Vande Bharat Express.

Hunt for foreign terrorists on run in Doda forest area

From Page 1

The had infiltrated from across the border and were Wani said Jammu was moving in the upper reaches of Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts in the government but the BJP has Jammu region and thereafter completely failed to provide to Kashmir.

Northern Command are the revival of terrorism. committed to eliminating the relentless operations will continue," the Army had said. In Jammu, the Congress

Wednesday announced that it will launch an agitation against the alleged failure of the BJP-led government to check growing terror activities and its decision to give unbridled powers to the Lt Governor ahead of the assembly polls in the Union Territory.

Addressing media persons in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani said, "The agitation will start at the state level and be taken to the district and block levels in the coming days." "We will also press for the

restoration of statehood before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for the holding of Assembly elections," Wani told reporters here.

Criticising the BJP for their actions in the Kashmir the security situation.

security to the people who "All formations of the are gripped by fear due to

"When they (BJP) were out the scourge of terrorism in of power before 2014, they Jammu and Kashmir for were asking Congress that have an army, paramilitary and police and why you are not able to wipe out terrorism. Today, I am asking the same question as terrorism is back in Jammu region," he said.

While campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls that concluded recently, the BJP made tall claims about ending terrorism to mislead the people and get their votes, he said, adding that 'nearly a dozen terror attacks have taken place in the Jammu region this year." Congress wants terrorism to end so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can live in peace, he added.

Another senior Congress leader Dr. Karan Singh said it is a matter of grave concern that the terrorists have now started to focus on Jammu. "There is no doubt that it is a matter of grave concern.

For years, terrorists executed

"destroying the historic valley. With great difficulty state" over the last 10 years of its rule at the Centre, brought under control...It seems that now they have started focusing on Jammu," he said.

Singh further suggested the reattachment of the Jammu Division of the Army with the Northern Command located in Nagrota from the Western Command to make one single unit."We have lost several of our jawans and people in the last 6 months... This is a very serious matter...This means that the administration doesn't have full control over the situation.

Senior AICC leader and incharge of Jammu and Kashmir Bharat Singh Solanki said,"11 terror attacks in the past 78 days and the killing of over 50 soldiers since October 2021 across the Jammu region have created a fear psychosis among the people".

'We are concerned about the prevailing security situation. The prime minister, home minister and defence minister have no words to express grief over the loss of lives including that of civilians and pilgrims," he said.

He said all the claims of wiping out terrorism by the BJP after coming to power in 2014 have fallen flat as it has completely failed to tackle

Setback to Ajit

From Page 1

Confirming his resignation from the Ajit Pawar-led

party, Gavahane said: "I have quit the NCP. I have submitted my resignation to state party president Sunil

Declining to spell out as to which he was heading to, Gavahane said: "You will know which party I am joining... I won't reveal anything today". However, his close aides

confirmed that he and other leaders would join the Sharad Pawar-led NCP on July 20.

The resignations by four NCP (Ajit Pawar) leaders should be seen in the light of the fact that the Pimpri-Chinchwad, a twin satellite city of Pune, has been the bastion of Ajit Pawar for the past three décades.

Gavahane's decision to quit the NCP (AP) stems from the fact that party president Ajit Pawar bluntly refused to field him as a party candidate Bhosari the from in constituency the impending Assembly polls on the ground that the Bhosari had been won twice by BJP's Mahesh Landge. Informed NCP (AP) sources

Gavahane had recently met Ajit Pawar who asked him: "Why should our party contest Bhosari seat? Because it is a BIP from where its candidate had won twice"

Gavahane and Landge have several years. They have national chief Sharad Pawar.

fought elections against each other in the party. The reason for Gavahane's

move to join the NCP (SP) is that Sharad Pawar has reportedly assured him that he would field him as party candidate from Bhosari. Gavahane and three other

NCP (AP) leaders are expected to join the NCP (SP) at a function to be held at Pimpri-Chinchwad on July been arch political rivals for 20 in the presence of party's

Yogi readies for crucial UP bypolls | Fire at iconic eatery...

The chief minister asked the ministers to apprise the voters the 10 assembly constituencies about the effective measures taken by the present BJP government for toning up the law and order, elimination of mafia and organised gang of criminals. He also emphasised that the electorate be made aware of the jungle law that prevailed in UP during the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party government when the life and property of the common citizen was not safe and the women were particularly vulnerable.

Yogi Adityanath said besides ascertaining the problems faced by the party cadre, the ministers should meet the common people in their respective constituencies and redress their grievances.

The upcoming assembly byelections in 10 crucial

assembly constituencies in and was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh will be both a challenge and an opportunity assembly. for the BJP that is trying hard to overcome the unexpected setback it suffered in the

These bypolls are also being seen as a litmus test to the BJP's standing in the state ahead of the crucial 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. Their results will indicate whether the party has successfully energised its cadre and resolved internal issues, as it aimed to do during its oneday state executive meeting

recent Lok Sabha elections in

Nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh fell vacant after their MLAs, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, were elected to the Lok Sabha last month. Besides, SP MLA from Sisamau (Kanpur) Irfan Solanki was convicted in a criminal case and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment

here on Sunday.

membership of the state

The assembly seats for which bypolls will be conducted are: Karhal (Mainpuri), Khair (Aligarh), Kundarki (Moradabad), (Ambedkar Nagar), Phulpur (Prayagraj), Ghaziabad (Ghaziabad), Majhawan (Mirzapur), Meerapur (Bijnor), Milkipur (Ayodhya) Meerapur and Sisamau (Kanpur).

Five of these seats - Karhal, Kundarki, Katehari, Milkipur and Sisamau - were held by the SP, while the BJP held three – Khair, Phulpur, and Ghaziabad – and its ally, the NISHAD Party, and the Rashtriya Lok Dal had won Majhawan and Meerapur seats respectively.

Though these are only bypolls, the BJP has a lot at stake in these elections and is thus leaving no stone unturned in its quest to secure a decisive

From Page 1

28- year- old Sameeksha Thakur, who is an account lead, shared that she has visited the place for more than 100 times since she was a kid."Gulati has always been an integral part of our family gatherings and celebrations.

Along with great flavours, the restaurant has been impeccable with their hospitality. Their signature dal makhni and naan has been a personal favourite since I was a kid. Seeing the space and decor evolve over time, it's really disheartening to see the firebreak out at the restaurant," said the resident of

Another stated how the news came as a shock and that the authorities need to check restaurants for any negligence in complying to fire standards.

A 23-year-old Arnav Khanna, who is a journalist, said, 'Hearing about the fire at Gulati's has come as a huge shock. Going there with the family was a yearly ritual, especially during winters. Really hope it becomes operational again because the food and ambience there was unmatched. Authorities must also look into fire compliance norms being followed as these cases of restaurant fires have become frequent. Additionally, a fire broke out at a plastic bag manufacturing unit in outer Delhi's Narela Industrial area early Wednesday. An official from the DFS said the call regarding the fire was received at 1.42 am and 16 fire tenders were pressed into service. The blaze was brought under control after three hours of dousing operation and the cause of the blaze is being ascertained by the police. Fortunately, no one was injured in both of these incidents.

Nikky Haley 'strongly endorses' Trump

n dian - American Republican leader Nikky Haley has endorsed her former boss Donald Trump as the party's candidate for the presidential election, delivering the message of unity after their bitter rivalry during the primaries.

Haley, 52, unsuccessfully challenged Trump for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination and spent months sparring with the former president. But last week, she instructed her 97 delegates to vote for Trump at the convention as she called for unity in the party.

"I'll start by making one thing perfectly clear: Donald Trump has my strong endorsement, period," Haley said Tuesday as she addressed the Republican National Convention here during which the party will nominate Trump as its presidential candidate.

Haley, who was the only Republican leader to have seriously challenged Trump during the bruising campaign primaries, told thousands of delegates and party leaders that Trump is the best bet for the country and that the Republicans are united to defeat incumbent President Joe Biden.

"Let us join together as a party. Let us come together as a people — as one country – strong and proud. Let us show our children and the world that



even on our worst day, we are blessed to live in America," said the former South Carolina governor and the US Ambassador to the United Nations.

As Trump, 78, watched on from the convention centre's VIP suite, Haley used her speech to defend the former president's foreign policy record and speak directly to voters who disagree with him on certain issues.

'There are some Americans who don't agree with Donald Trump 100% of the time," she said. "My message to them is simple: You don't have to agree with Trump 100% of the time to vote for him."

"Our country is at a critical moment. We have a choice to make. For more than a year, I said a vote for Joe Biden is a vote for President Kamala Harris. After seeing the debate. everyone knows it's true," Haley

said. "If we have four more years of Biden . . . or a single day of Harris . . . our country will be badly worse off. For the sake of our nation, we have to go with Donald Trump," Haley

Trump was present at the convention centre when she spoke. Trump and his running mate Senator J D Vance gave a standing ovation to Haley when she started her speech and

endorsed him. Our foreign enemies win when they see Americans hate each other. They see that today, whether it's on college campuses or in a field in Butler, Pennsylvania. But we can conquer those fears with strength and unity," she said.

'Our fellow Americans are fearful right now. Families are suffering from inflation and wages that don't keep up with prices. Young people are being indoctrinated to think our country is racist and evil. The Iewish community is facing an obscene rise in antisemitism. Too many minorities are trapped in communities devastated by crime," she said. She said no president can fix all

problems alone.
"We have to do this together. America has an amazing ability to self-correct. At this moment, we have a chance to put aside our differences and focus on what unites us and strengthens our country," Haley

"We must not only be a unified

party. We must also expand our party. We are so much better when we are bigger. We are stronger when we welcome people into our party who have different backgrounds and experiences. And right now, we need to be strong, to save America. This is a defining moment, not only for our party but for our country," said the popular Indian-American leader.

Haley said under Donald Trump, the US didn't have the border disaster being faced today.

"And we won't when he is president again," she said. "Under Joe Biden, migrants are coming into our country by the thousands every day. We have no idea who they are, where they end up, or what they plan to do," she said. Biden, she alleged, lifted the

sanctions on Iran.

Iran rejects accusations

AP TEHRAN

ran has rejected accusations Tregarding plots to assassinate former US President Donald Trump, while citing legal action for the 2020 assassination of a revered general by US drone, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Wednesday. IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani as saying Iran "strongly rejects any involvement in the recent armed attack on Trump or claims about Iran's intention for such an action." Kanaani added, "The Islamic

Republic of Iran is determined to pursue legal action against Trump for his direct role in the crime of assassi-nating Martyr General Qassem Soleimani." Soleimani was the commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force and was killed in a U.S. drone attack in Baghdad in January 2020. A threat on Trump's life from Iran prompted additional security in the days before Saturday's campaign rally, but it was unrelated to the assassination attempt on the

Republican presidential nom-inee, two US officials said

Traces of cyanide in blood of 6 dead Bangkok hotel guests

Doctors who performed autopsies on the six Bangkok hotel guests who died mysteriously confirmed Wednesday that they had traces of cyanide in their blood. Dr. Kornkiat Vongpaisarnsin,

head of the forensic medicine department at Chulalongkorn University's medical school, said at a news conference that a CAT scan showed no signs of blunt force trauma on the dead, reinforcing the hypothesis that they had been poisoned.
Police found traces of cyanide

in the cups of six Vietnamese and American guests at a central Bangkok luxury hotel and one of them is believed to have poisoned the others over a bad investment, Thai authorities said Wednesday.

The bodies were found Tuesday in the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, a landmark at a central intersection in the capital busy with malls, government buildings and public transit. The six had last been seen alive when food was delivered to the room Monday afternoon. The staff saw one woman receive the food, and security footage showed the rest arriving one by one shortly after. There were no other visitors, no one was seen leaving and the door was locked. A maid found them Tuesday afternoon when they failed to check out of the room.

Lt. Gen. Trairong Piwpan, chief of the Thai police force's forensic division, said there were traces of cyanide in the cups and thermoses that police found in the room, but initial results of an autopsy were expected later Wednesday. Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen.

Thiti Sangsawang identified the dead as two Vietnamese Americans and four Vietnamese nationals, and said they were three men and three women. Their ages ranged from 37 to 56, according to Noppasin Punsawat, Bangkok deputy police chief. He said the case appeared to be personal and would not impact the safe-

ty of tourists.

A husband and wife among the dead had invested money with two of the others, suggesting that money could be a motive, said Noppasin, citing information obtained from relatives of the victims. The investment was meant to build a hospital in Japan and the group might have been meeting to settle the matter. Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang said Tuesday that four bodies were in the living room and two in the bedroom. He said two of them appeared to try to reach for the door but collapsed before they could.

Noppasin said Wednesday that a seventh person whose name was part of the hotel booking was a sibling of one of the six and left Thailand on July 10. Police believe the seventh person had no involvement in the

deaths. The Vietnamese and United States embassies have been contacted over the deaths, and the American FBI was en route. Prime Minister Srettha

Thavisin said. He said the case would likely not affect a conference with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev at the hotel later Wednesday. "This wasn't an act of terrorism or a breach in security. Everything is fine," he said.

Trairong said a mass suicide was unlikely because some of the victims had arranged future parts of their trip, such as guides and drivers. He added that the bodies being in different parts of the hotel room suggested they did not knowingly consume poison and wait for their deaths together.

US State Dept. spokesman Matthew Miller in Washington offered condolences to the families of the victims. He said the US is closely monitoring the situation and would communicate with local authorities. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his Thai counterpart on Tuesday, but Miller said he thought that call happened before the deaths were reported and he didn't know if it came up in their conversation.

Won't stop telling the truth about Trump: Biden

President Joe Biden returned to the campaign trail Tuesday for the first time since the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, continuing his call to calm the divisive rhetoric on both sides, but also arguing that doing so "doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth" as he tore into his Republican

Addressing the NAACP convention in Las Vegas, Biden said addressing political violence in the country should mean curbing all kinds of bloodshed — including better combating police brutality and banning weapons like the AR-style rifle used in the weekend attack on Trump.

"It's time for an important conversation in this country. Our politics have become too

heated," Biden said. That didn't stop him for

tion was "hell" for Black Americans, including the former president's mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic, skyrocketing unemployment amid early lockdowns and attempts to, as Biden put it, erase Black history.

'Just because we must lower the temperature in our politics as it relates to violence doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth," Biden told the crowd that often broke into chants of 'Four more years!"

The president is aiming to showcase his administration's support for Black voters who are a tentpole of the Democratic coalition and of his personal political support. As part of his swing in Nevada, he'll also participate in an interview with BET and address the Hispanic advocacy group Unidos US, another crucial Democratic-leaning bloc. For the NAACP crowd Biden



seized on Trump recently referencing "Black jobs," drawing big applause by joking, "I love the phrase."

"I know what a Black job is. It's the vice president of the United States," Biden said of Vice President Kamala Harris, who he added "could be president." He also referenced Barack Obama as the nation's first Black president, and his own appointment to the Supreme urt of its first Black and

female justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Biden's trip comes as Democrats have been engaged in a weeks-long crisis of con-fidence over his candidacy after his devastating debate with Trump last month. The president's shaky performance inflamed voter concerns about his age, fitness for office and capacity to defeat Trump once again.

Republicans, for their part, are demonstrating that they are more coalesced than ever around Trump amid their national convention in Milwaukee.

The 81-year-old Biden has rejected a flurry of calls from within his party to step aside, restating his belief that he is the best-positioned Democrat to beat Trump. He has relied heavily on his support among Black and Latino elected officials, and was set to appear with many of them in Nevada

The president made indirect reference to unrest in his own party on Tuesday, recalling President Harry S Truman famously saying, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a

"After the last couple of weeks, I know what he means," Biden said. He said later, "hopefully, with age, comes a little bit of wisdom. Biden also promised that in the

first 100 days of a second term he would oversee congressional approval of a dramatic expansion of voting rights something he's been unable to do as president so far. He also renewed earlier promises to "end medical debt," saying he was working with states to settle outstanding bills for care for pennies on the dollar."

'I know the good Lord hasn't brought us this far to leave us now," Biden told the convention, offering overtly religious

Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels strike ships in Red Sea

AP DUBAI

Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted ships in the Red Sea on Monday as a new US aircraft carrier approached the region to provide security for the key international trade route that has been under assault since the Israel-Hamas war erupted nine months ago.

Three small Houthi vessels, two of which were crewed and another uncrewed, attacked the Panama-flagged and Israeliowned MT Bently I off the coast of Al Hudaydah, Yemen, according to British and American authorities.

The "reported unmanned small craft collided with the vessel twice and the 2 manned small craft fired at the vessel," the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade

Operations centre reported. The vessel conducted selfprotection measures, after 15 minutes the small craft aborted the attack."

The captain later reported three separate waves of missile attacks that exploded in close proximity to the vessel.

Later on Monday, in a separate incident off the same coast, the MT Chios Lion, a Liberianflagged and Marshall Islandsowned oil tanker, was attacked by an uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle, which "impacted on the port side causing some damage and light smoke," the UKMTO said.

Both ships and all crew were reported safe, the UKMTO said in a warning to mariners. Late Monday, the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attacks on Bently I and Chios Early Tuesday, the US Central Command confirmed the attacks and identified the names and flags of the ship. This continued reckless

behaviour by the Iranianbacked Houthis threatens regional stability and endangers the lives of mariners across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden," a Central Command statement 'The Houthis claim to be act-

ing on behalf of Palestinians in Gaza and yet they are targeting and threatening the lives of third country nationals who have nothing to do with the conflict in Gaza."

Also on Monday, the Central Command said US forces destroyed five uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicles, three over the Red Sea and two in Houthi-controlled areas of

Israel's military will begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men on Sunday

AP JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Tuesday said it would begin sending draft notices to Jewish ultra-Orthodox men on Sunday — a step that could destabilise Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The announcement followed a landmark Supreme Court order for young religious men to begin enlisting for military service. Under long-standing political arrangements, ultra-Orthodox men had been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish

The exemptions created resentment among the general public in Israel, especially tions-old way of life will be

of war against Hamas militants in Gaza. The army summons is the beginning of a monthslong enlistment process that could be difficult to enforce if there is large-scale refusal to comply. The army did not say when it expects ultra-Orthodox men to begin serving or how many it expects to

The court ruled that the system of exemptions, which allow religious men to study in Jewish seminaries while others are forced to serve in the army, was discriminatory. Ultra-Orthodox leaders say religious study is equally important for the country's

after more than nine months threatened if their followers serve in the army.

Netanyahu's government relies on the support of ultra-Orthodox parties that oppose changes to the system. Religious leaders have not said what steps they will take. If they leave the ruling coalition, the government would likely topple and the country would be plunged into early elections two years ahead of schedule. Past attempts to enlist ultra-Orthodox men have triggered mass protests in ultra-Orthodox communities. Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox men blocked a main highway in central Israel for several hours on Tuesday in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv. Police on horseback pushed the crowd back, and officers dragged protesters away. Police said nine people were arrested.

The army is not an army for fighting. It's an army with indoctrination" against religion, said Yona Kay, a protester. "Therefore our children, our boys — and I have a son over here — will not go to the army, not for one minute." On Monday night, dozens of ultra-Orthodox surrounded the cars of senior military commanders who were meeting with local rabbis in Bnei Brak to discuss an ultra-Orthodox unit in the army. The crowd threatened the officers, calling them "murderers" and throwing bottles, according to Israeli media.

Not enough info on Covid-19 vaccine deals shared with public: EU court

AP BRUSSELS

The European Commission did not allow the public enough access to information about COVID-19 vaccine purchase agreements it secured with pharmaceutical companies during the pandemic, the EU general court said

Wednesday. The decision came a day ahead of a vote at the European Parliament at which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is seeking reelec-

A group of EU lawmakers had taken legal action after the Commission refused to grant them complete access to COVID-19 vaccine contracts secured between the EU's executive arm and manufacturers. The pandemic shed light on the

issue of transparency surrounding the negotiations for vac-cines between the EU and big pharmaceutical groups. The EU Commission was mandated by member countries to



ment of vaccines during the pandemic and led negotiations with manufacturers. According to the court, the

procurement of vaccines on

behalf of all 27 member states allowed the bloc to quickly gather 2.7 billion euros (\$2.95 billion) to place an order for more than a billion doses of vaccines.

> In 2021, some members of the European Parliament asked for the full details of the agreements, but the Commission only agreed to provide partial access to certain contracts and documents, which were placed online in redacted versions. It also refused to say how much it paid for the billions of doses it secured, arguing that con-tracts were protected for confidentiality reasons.

> In a statement, the court said that "the Commission did not take sufficient account of all the relevant circumstances in order to weigh up correctly the interests at issue."

adoption proceedings and conduct a hearing on the Afghan couple's adoption peti-

tion, which is currently pending before the court. The

Masts may file their own peti-

Post violence, Bangladesh asks all universities to close down AP BRUSSELS

Authorities in Bangladesh urged all universities to close on Wednesday, after at least six people died in violent protests over the allocation of

government jobs. Some universities quickly moved to comply, but others, including the major universitv at the center of the violence, were still deciding how

to respond. The University Grants Commission asked all public and private universities to suspend classes and empty their dormitories until further notice, in order to protect students. The country's universities are run autonomously and the request did not have legal

Authorities said that at least six people were killed on Tuesday in violence across the country as student pro-testers clashed with pro-government student activists and with police, and violence was reported around the capital of Dhaka, the southeastern city of Chattogram and the northern city of Rangpur.

On Wednesday, stray protests took place at Dhaka University and elsewhere in the country. Police were deployed on the campus, while paramilitary border forces patrolled the streets in Dhaka and other big cities. The protests began late last month, demanding an end to

a quota that reserves 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence in 1971, but turned violent on Monday as protesters clashed with counter-protests and police at Dhaka University, leaving 100 people injured.

Marine's adoption of Afghan orphan

AP WASHINGTON

A Virginia appellate court ruled Tuesday that a US Marine should never have been granted an adoption of an Afghan war orphan and voided the custody order he's relied on to raise the girl for nearly three years. The decision marked a major turning point in a bitter custody battle that has international ramifications far greater than the fate of one child.

The appeals court decision dealt a significant blow in Marine Maj. Joshua Mast's yearslong legal quest to keep the child, who was orphaned on the battlefield in Afghanistan in 2019.

Mast and his wife, Stephanie, convinced the courts in his hometown, rural Fluvanna

Afghanistan as the government there tracked down her extended family and reunited her with them. The family fled Afghanistan

with thousands of other evac-

uees when the Taliban took over in the summer of 2021. Once she arrived in the United States, Mast used the Fluvanna County documents to convince federal government offi-cials to take the child from her Afghan relatives and give her to him. She turns five years old this month. The Masts have insisted they are her legal parents and "acted admirably" to save a child in a desperate and dangerous situation. The Afghan family, who challenged

Mast's adoption, have not seen her for nearly three years. The child's fate is still in limbo: County, Virginia, to grant him an adoption of the child, even The decision by the appellate court Tuesday does not clarify

though she remained in who should ultimately get to raise the girl, and she remains with the Mast family for now. No government agencies involved would clarify Tuesday what the next steps might entail, or what their role might be in determining where the child should live as the remaining legal fight unfolds.

The Masts could appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court and ask that Tuesday's decision not be enforced through that

All the parties involved have been forbidden by the court to speak to the press about this case. Attorneys for the Masts and the Afghan couple did not return phone calls. A lawyer appointed by the court to represent the interests of the child, who is referred to in court records as Baby Doe to protect her identity, also did not



Several legal organisations supporting the Afghan couple said they were encouraged. National Centre for Youth Law senior attorney Becky Wolozin said that by "clearly stating that the Masts have no legal rights over Baby Doe, the Court refused to legitimise

which have led to profound and unnecessary suffering." Charlottesville Circuit Court Judge Claude Worrell last May vacated Mast's adoption order, which was granted by another judge in 2020, but left in place a custody order that allowed the child to stay with the Masts. A three-judge appellate panel heard arguments in the fall, and issued a 23-page order Tuesday that dissolved Mast's legal guardianship over the girl. Appellate Judge Daniel E Ortiz wrote in Tuesday's order that Mast's adoption "did not fit into any" of the criteria required by state law. He said the "procedural errors" that led to it were "so outside the scope of the adoption code that the circuit court lacked the power" to sign the adoption. He also acknowledged

their unlawful actions - actions that Mast failed to inform the court of key developments, including that the government of Afghanistan never gave up its claim to the girl, that she had been given to Afghan relatives and that a federal court had already rebuffed his efforts to stop that reunification. How exactly the court justified granting the Marine the adop-

tion in the first place remains shrouded in secrecy. The Associated Press filed in court to get the case unsealed. In January 2023, Worrell granted that request, ordering the case opened to the public. But more than 18 months later, the court continues to keep the entire file hidden despite numerous letters sent by lawyers representing The Associated Press.

The appellate panel directed the circuit court to dismiss all

tion as well, Ortiz wrote. Retired Circuit Court Judge Richard Moore, who issued the original adoption order, declined to comment on the case. The US government has insisted in court that Mast never had any claim to this child, and that she be returned immediately to her Afghan family. Justice Department lawyers have written that allowing the child to remain with the Marine could have broad consequences for American foreign policy: from threatening international security pacts to endangering

troops stationed abroad by feeding Islamic extremist pro-

LUCKNOW | THURSDAY | JULY 18, 2024

ADB retains India's growth Corporate funding in solar forecast at 7% for FY'25

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on (ADB) ADB) on maintained Wednesday India's GDP growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections.

The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its GDP growth projections for India to 7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent projected in April.

Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised upward its growth forecast to 7.2 per cent, from 7 per cent estimated earlier.

The Indian economy is on track to grow by 7 per cent in FY2024 (ending 31 March 2025) and 7.2 per cent in FY2025 (next financial year), as projected in ADO April 2024, said the July edition of rebound in agriculture is the Asian Development expected given the above-Outlook (ADO).

The Indian economy logged a growth rate of 8.2 per cent for the financial year ended March 2024, as against 7 per



Services continued to expand robustly in Q4 of FY24, and the forward-looking services PMI is well above its longterm average, it said, adding, industry is also expected to grow robustly, driven by manufacturing and strong demand for construction led by housing, it said.

"After muted growth in FY2023 (previous fiscal), a normal monsoon projections. This is notwithstanding the slower advance of monsoon in June. A rebound in

in rural areas," it said. Investment continues to be strong, led by public investments and bank credit is fueling robust

housing

demand

demand, it said. However, it said, export growth will continue to be led by services, with merchandise exports showing relatively weaker growth.

improving private investment

The stronger-than-expected fiscal position of the central government could provide a further boost to growth, it said.

However, the report said, this March 2024, as against 7 per agriculture will be important cent in the previous fiscal to sustain growth momentum downside risks arising from

and geopolitical shocks. With regard to inflation, ADO has also retained its

fiscal. With regard to developing Asia's growth forecast, ADO said, it is revised up to 5 per cent in 2024 and maintained at 4.9 per cent in 2025.

forecast at 4.6 per cent for the

current financial year and expects it to marginally

decline to 4.5 per cent next

Growth projections remain broadly unchanged with respect to ADO April 2024, it said, adding, resilient domestic demand along with resilient improved exports and manufacturing will support growth this year. The region's 2024 growth

forecast has been marginally adjusted up by 0.1 percentage points due to upward revisions in the Caucasus and Central Asia along with East Asia, it said.

Meanwhile, the inflation forecast for the region has fallen to 2.9 per cent in 2024, largely due to downward revisions in China and the Caucasus and Central Asia, which offset a slight increase in South Asia, it said.

sector globally dips: Mercom

PTI NEW DELHI

Total corporate funding in the solar sector globally fell by 10 per cent to USD 16.6 billion in January-June 2024 due to uncertainties in major markets including the ÚS, according to Mercom Capital. In the first half of 2023, the global solar energy sector attracted USD 18.5 billion of investment, the US-based research firm said in a report. "Total corporate funding,

including venture capital/private equity (VC) funding, public market, and debt financing, in 1H 2024 totaled USD 16.6 billion compared to USD 18.5 billion raised in 1H 2023. The number of deals increased 9 per cent to 87 deals in 1H 2024 compared to 80 during the same period last year," the Solar Funding and M&A Report' said.

"This has happened because of uncertainties in major markets. The financing activity in the solar sector remains restrained despite tailwinds from the Inflation Reduction Act and favourable global policies," said Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group.



Besides, high interest rates, an uncertain rate trajectory and timeline, increasing trade barriers. supply chain challenges, concerns about the US presidential election's impact on the sector, and constantly evolving trade policies have created an unpredictable and uncertain climate. This has slowed development, down investments, and decision-

making, he added. In the first half of 2024, the global VC funding activity decreased 29 per cent with USD 2.7 billion raised in 29 deals compared to USD 3.8 billion from 33 deals in the first half of 2023.

In India, independent power producer AMPIN Energy

Transition secured funding of up to USD 35 million from responsAbility. While Ecozen and SolarSquare raised USD 30 million and 4.2 million in funding rounds to accelerate expansion and meet working capital needs.

The global debt financing activity in the first half of 2024 reached USD 12.2 billion in 50 deals, a 53 per cent increase compared to 1H 2023 when USD 8 billion was raised in 33 deals.

In this space, Jakson Green in India obtained a sustainable trade facility of USD 7.1 million from HSBC India and Husk Power Systems secured a USD 4 million investment in debt financing from

Cabinet to soon decide on IPEF's clean, fair economy agreements

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet will 🛾 soon take a decision on the commerce ministry's proposal to seek approval for signing of 14-member IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc's agreements on clean and fair economy, an official

Last month in Singapore, 13 IPEF bloc members signed these agreements, while India stated that it would ink the deals after getting domestic approval. The official said the commerce ministry has sent both pacts to the cabinet secretariat and soon the cabinet will take it up for approval.

Agreement on a clean intends economy accelerate efforts of IPEF partners' towards energy and transition, security climate resilience adaptation, (greenhouse gas) emissions mitigation; find/develop innovative ways of reducing dependence on fossil fuel energy; promote technical cooperation, development, capacity building, and collaborations.

Exposure to India's infra sector helps LIC, SBI outshine peers

 $S_{\text{behemoth Life Insurance}}^{\text{hares}} \ \text{of} \ \ \text{state-owned}$ Corporation (LIC) have outperformed rivals HDFC Life and ICICI Prudential Life as it placed bets on India's growth sectors, including infrastructure, while the private sector concentrated bet on tech, consumer and consumer-related BFSI companies.

LIC's stock has gained nearly 79 per cent from Rs 620 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 1,109.15 at the closing on Tuesday, according to stock exchange

In contrast, HDFC Life gave a negative return, if Tuesday's closing price of Rs 646.55 on the BSE is compared to Rs

666.55 a year back.
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co delivered a return of 12 per cent, considering its stock price rise from Rs 582 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 654.10 on June 16,



Life Insurance shares have risen from Rs 1,314 to Rs the country's infrastructure 1,621.20, delivering a return of 23 per cent.

premiums for policies and then investing the premiums into assets. It is the latter that generates the bigger delta in profits, thus impacting value creation and managing risks. Global majors, including Warren Berkshire Hathaway, have been successful due to their ability to make superior investments.

sector, analysts said.

Indian insurance companies Capital market analysts said concentrated insurance companies make investments in the BFSI, IT, money in two ways - charging and consumer sectors - all of have been underperformers in the recent past. Only 8-10 per cent of their investments are in the infrastructure sector. This is far less when compared to global standards. Large global insurance Buffet-owned companies -- such as Allianz, Nippon Life Insurance, and Metlife, and other insurers like Berkshire Hathaway --2024. Most Indian insurance have much larger exposure all other sectors, according to Over the past one year, SBI companies are yet to ranging from 15 to 30 per analysts.

cent to the infrastructure sector, analysts noted. Over the past few years, global insurers have been

considering increasingly infrastructure investments as 'core' investments as the stable and long-term cash flows of infrastructure assets naturally align with the liabilities of insurers. Additionally, infrastructure

defensive assets have of high characteristics barriers to entry, strong pricing power, structural growth, and predictive cash flows, and lietad infrastructure can provide investors with inflationprotected income and solid capital growth.

India, government focus on the sector with large spending, supporting initiatives and encouraging policies, and improving governance, the infrastructure industry has come off-age. This has helped the infra sector to outperform They said the high focus on retail loans, and the strategic reluctance to look at infrastructure for growth opportunities is proving detrimental for shareholders such companies.

SBI, with its higher exposure to the infrastructure sector, has seen its stock gain 48 per cent in the year (from Rs 592 to Rs 880.95 on Tuesday), while those of its private counterparts HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have gained only in the range of (-3 per cent to 24 per cent. Kotak and HDFC Banks with negligible exposure to the infrastructure sector are the

worst performing, with their shares giving a negative return, stock exchange data showed. Kotak Mahindra Bank shares were at Rs 1,895 on June 18, 2023, and closed at Rs 20 on Tuesday, HDFC Bank closed at Rs 1,619.20 on

BSE on Tuesday, down from Rs 1,679 a year back.

Alphacorp to invest ₹350 cr to develop luxury housing project in Gurugram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R_{\text{invest Rs 350 crore to}}^{\text{ealty firm Alphacorp will}}$ develop a luxury housing project in Gurugram as part of its expansion plan amid strong consumer demand.

Without divulging the name of the partner, Alphacorp said it has tied up with an entity that owns two land parcels of nearly 2.4 acre each, located in Sector 15, Part 2, Gurugram.

"We will develop a total of 200 apartments on these two land parcels," said Santosh Agarwal, Executive Director and CFO of Alphacorp. On one parcel of 2.38 acre, the

company has launched luxury high-rise project 'Alphacorp SKY1' comprising 100 units. The price is Rs 5 crore per unit. The project on the second plot will also be launched in the next 2-3



investment is estimated at Rs 350 crore excluding land cost. He said the investment will be funded through internal accruals and bank loans, if necessary.

"Gurugram, regarded as the Millennium City, exemplifies rapid infrastructure growth dynamic urban and development. This bustling hub attracts a diverse range of residents, businesses. investors," Agarwal said.

When asked about the project The demand for luxury cost, Agarwal said the total housing has been very strong

in Gurugram in the past two vears, he said.

Since its inception, Alphacorp has developed integrated townships. condominiums, hubs, retail centers, and industrial parks across the National Capital Region Punjab, (NCR), Pradesh, and Guiarat. Agarwal said the company

has developed around projects so far while six projects are

Sebi's proposal on new asset class for high risk takers looks promising: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi's proposal for introducing a new asset class for high-risk profile investors can help them gain access to a newer set of strategies including long-short equity fund and inverse Exchangetraded Fund (ETF).

The new asset class is aimed at bridging the gap between mutual funds and Portfolio Management Services (PMS) in terms of flexibility in portfolio construction. The Sebi's consultation paper

floated on Tuesday on 'new asset class' and creating a structure for differentiated, higher risk strategies looks very promising, Radhika Gupta, MD and CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund said. "India is finally opening up to different investment products, styles and approaches. Passive, factor, inverse ETFs, alts and more. There is no single way to invest," she added.

In its consultation paper, the regulator said the new asset class will provide a regulated product with features like SIP (Systematic Investment Plan), higher risk-taking capability, and a higher ticket size, to meet the needs of the emerging category of investors. The suggested regulator minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh for the new asset class, which could be permitted to invest in derivatives for purposes beyond just hedging

deter retail investors from



Rs 10 lakh and Rs 50 lakh, who are being drawn to unauthorised and portfolio unregistered management providers," the regulator said. Sebi's consultation paper for introducing new product classes with higher higher investment minimum than mutual funds and more freedom to invest can help investors gain access to a newer set of strategies like Long-short equities, inverse ETFs, etc which can help them express specific views on the market," Kaustubh Belapurkar, Director Manager Research Manager Investment Morningstar

Research India, said. Long-short equity fund seeks to deliver returns by taking long and short positions in equity and equity-related instruments. For example, the fund may be bullish on the automobile sector and bearish on the IT sector and may invest in both these sectors by and rebalancing. going long on the automobile sector and short on the IT

sector. investing in this product, Inverse ETF aims to generate while attracting investors, returns that are negatively with investible funds between correlated to the returns of

the underlying index. Dezerv Co-Founder Sandeep Jethwani said higher-risk profile investors can now regulated opportunities without the high minimum thresholds of PMS and AIF or resorting to unregulated structures that

bode really well for the protection of wealth that

Îndia creates. This new asset class is poised to leverage the exponential growth expected in managed assets (MFs, PMSs and AIFs) in the next 5-7 years, he added. Sebi believes that over the years, a notable opportunity for a new asset class has emerged between mutual funds and PMS in terms of flexibility in

portfolio construction. The absence of such an investment product appears have inadvertently propelled the investors of this segment towards unregistered and unauthorised investment schemes. Such schemes often promise unrealistically high returns and exploit the investors' expectations for better yields, leading to potential financial risks," it

Goa targeting new markets for tourism through global trade fairs, says Minister

Goa is looking forward to tap new and emerging markets through participation in global trade fairs after international tourism was affected due to the Russia-Ukraine war and other problems, minister Rohan Khaunte said on

Wednesday.
During COVID-19, the international footfall in Goa was only 33,000, which has now increased to 4.5 lakh for this particular year (calendar year), Tourism Minister Khaunte said in the state assembly.

Responding to a question raised by Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai in the assembly, he said after the COVID-19 pandemic, the perception about tourism in the state is changing, taking it away from beaches.

Sardesai said Goa spent Rs 63 crore in the last four years (on various events), including Rs 29.84 crore to promote the state within the country. Former chief minister late Manohar Parrikar had

emphasised on the pre-audit of roadshows and that accountability parameters should be framed, he said.
Khaunte said after the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism department in 2022 decided to change the perception of Goa "beyond beaches" as earlier the impression about the coastal state was only about its

beaches and party life. "We needed to see that quality people come in. Since 2021-22, Goa tourism board headed by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant discussed



about the emerging markets and tapping of new markets," he said

"Problems with the UK market and the Russia war impacted international tourism to a big extent," the minister said, adding the Israel military campaign (in Gaza) also resulted in a dip in the number of tourists from that country.

"We had to ensure that we tap the emerging markets like South East Asia, South Asia, the US, UAE and Germany,"

The state tourism department participated in the WTM (World Travel Mart) London, ITB, Berlin, IITF and other events, Khaunte said. "We are presenting ourselves

to the world through these events where players from the emerging markets also come," he said. Earlier, only Goa used to participate in these events but

now Ladakh and states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka are attending the international marts, he noted. "During the events, we have serious B2B and B2C trade meetings. The minutes are

placed before an empowered

committee before we decide

the next course of action," he

Govt should rationalise customs duty in Budget to boost domestic manufacturing, says ICC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has suggested the government to rationalise customs duties in various sectors including steel, solar battery, aluminum, and lithium cells in a bid to boost domestic manufacturing. Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for financial year 2024-25 on July 23. ICC President Ameya Prabhu said protective measures are needed for the growth of domestic industry in sectors including steel, solar battery, aluminum, and lithium cells. "There is a need for rationalization of customs duty in these specific sectors in a holistic manner. Huge potential is there to boost domestic manufacturing and make India a global hub for

He added that levies on raw materials impact domestic players particularly the downstream firms.

Prabhu

manufacturing,"

He also asked for correction in inverted duty structure by cutting down duty on mixed petroleum gas from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent. "To boost domestic

manufacturing, there is a need to increase duty on polyvinyl polymers chloride, polypropylene terephthalate, polypropylene and polyesters to 10 per cent. This will help in reducing import dependency and will drive India towards selfsufficiency in the

p e t r o c h e m i c a l manufacturing segment,"

Prabhu said. Talking about the importance of the aluminium foil sector, the President said the domestic industry has been facing severe losses as there is antidumping duty on raw materials whereas the finished goods are not subject to any duties on imports from China.

This dual effect has resulted in extensive net losses to the companies that have made significant investments into this industry," Prabhu noted. On the taxation side, the chamber has suggested setting up a commission to review the Income Tax Act 1961 in its entirety and simplify the provisions.

"This is an old Act. Every year in the Budget, amendments are made which has made this Act complex to understand. These amendments have resulted in many anomalies which in turn have given rise to a large number of legal cases," the chamber has said. Prabhu further

recommended government not to impose tax on dividends.

He added that during his tenure so far the ICC has spread its wings further nationally internationally and become a truly world-class chamber. "We have opened 25 chapters globally in countries including New Zealand, the US, Europe,

Australia, Korea and Middle

East nations," he said.

PwC for extension of beneficial tax regime for new manufacturing firms

PTI NEW DELHI

to extend the beneficial tax regime for new manufacturing companies and introduce a comprehensive tax amnesty scheme for cases related to

Customs. Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for 2024-25 on July 23.

"I think the Make in India is the first thing which comes to mind, and you will recall that in 2019, the government introduced a 15 per cent rate for new manufacturing companies, which lapsed on

March 31, 2024. "I think that is one extension, which is being expected, and the expectation is also that instead of giving a year-onyear extension if we can look at the block period, say for the next five years because shifting a manufacturing is a big decision and the corporates may take time before making a decision and make it viable, feasible and that's the first bit," said Sandeep Puri, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP. Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act offers a concessional tax rate of 15 per cent for new

Initially, this benefit was available for companies set up and registered after October 1, 2019, and commencing production by March 31, 2023, which was later extended to March 31, 2024, to account for delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

manufacturing

domestic

companies.

IOA chief PT Usha chides WFI ad-hoc panel for exclusion of Antim's coaches in long list

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

OA President P.T. Usha on Wednesday came down heavily on the ad-hoc panel that managed the suspended WFI, saying the committee did not do due diligence and missed out on diligence and missed out on giving the names of wrestler Antim Panghal's coaches in the long list, sent to the Paris Olympic Games organisers.

The Indian Olympic

Olympic Association's reaction came in the wake of delay in visa clearance for Panghal's preferred coaches for the Gamesa.

The 19-year-old Panghal, who trains in Hisar, was the first Indian wrestler to qualify for the Paris Games when she won a bronze at the World Championship in 2023.

She wants her coaches Bhagat Singh and Vikas to travel with her along with physiotherapist Heera. The IOA has cleared all

the names but the support staff members attached with Panghal are still awaiting visa clearance.

"Antim won India an Olympic quota as early as in September 2023 by claiming a bronze medal in the World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade. In its wisdom the Ad Hoc Committee, administering wrestling, chose not to include the names of Antim's coach or physiotherapist in the long list of names sent to the Olympic Games Organising Committee," Usha said in a statement.

The wrestlers are supposed to reach Paris on August 3 and the supports staff members have got appointment for biometrics for August 2.
IOA had, in December 2023, named its EC member

Bhupendra Singh Bajwa as the head of the ad-hoc panel and made MM Somaya and Manjusha Kanwar as the other



The IOA President also took

The IOA President also took an indirect dig at SAI for not being attentive enough.

"It is strange that the responsible authorities, who approved the long list of athletes, coaching and support staff, did not deem it fit to recommend the inclusion of recommend the inclusion of Bhagat Singh or Heera or

"It was only after Antim's father came to IOA a few days ago that I stepped in to have them cleared by the Ministry," Usha said.

Meanwhile, an IOA source told PTI that Panghal instead of going to VFS (Visa Facilitation Services), should have approached IOA for intervention intervention.

"If they had come to us, we would have requested the French Embassy and it would have been done easily since the embassy is very supportive. We would have

solution but I think they were being misled by someone," the official said.

The IOA chief appreciated the French Embassy for its

support.

"Many athletes will vouch that IOA has been proactive in getting their coaches and personnel support accreditations or visas from the Embassy of France in India.

"The Embassy in Delhi and its consulates elsewhere have extended the greatest support in processing visa requests not only from such personnel but also from journalists who do not have accreditation," she

"We are confident that despite such misleading reports, IOA will be able to facilitate a speedy processing of visa requests of those coaches and support staff cleared by the Ministry," Usha said.



Express yourself in Paris: Kapil's advise to Olympics-bound **Indian athletes**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India skipper Kapil Dev, on Wednesday, advised Olympic-bound Indian athletes to express themselves fearlessly at the mega-event starting July 26 and hoped that the country would hit double digit mark on the medals tally.

India will be represented by a strong 117-member athlete contingent in Paris and the country

hopes to better seven-medal count it logged in Tokyo.

"I can't really say for anybody but I can just wish them all the luck and hope we should win more medals this year and that's important," Kapil, who is also the president of Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) said here on the sidelines of the launch of second edition of the Trinity Golf Champions League

(TGCL). "My advise to all (Indian athletes) would be to go and express yourself. I cross my finger and why not if we believe it (double digit medal haul) will happen." Kapil, however, refrained from commenting on Indian cricket and newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir.

"If Gautam Gambhir is taking that position (of head coach of Indian cricket team), I wish good luck to him and the team. I hope they do better than what we have done previously. I want to wish the Indian players all the

Kapil, who played a lot of amateur event back in the day,

hoped that the sport will continue to grow in the country.
"When I started playing cricket, I never thought golf will reach this height. I hope to see golf reaching the heights of cricket one day," he said.
"We just need good goog goog to the continue to the seed good goog good goog to the said.

"We just need good sponsors to promote the game. Without sponsors nothing is possible. In years time we should reach there," added Kapil, who is the ambassador of TGCL and also plays in the league.

Buoyed by the resounding success of the inaugural season last year, which featured four teams. TGCL this year will feature eight teams -- seven from India and one from Sri Lanka. The event will be held in Bengaluru from September 2 to 7.

The league is a IPL kir venture and will be played in the Ryder Cup format with 20 players in each team, which includes professional, celebrity and amateur golfers playing together. The winning team will be richer by Rs 30 lakh, while second and third placed sides will get Rs 15 and Rs 10 lakh respectively. "It's a unique concept, never seen something like this. I hope the prize money for the winners of TGCL will one million dollars in the next five years," Kapil

The eight teams participating in this year's TGCL are debutants Wave Riders, Mumbai Warriors, Chandigarh Titans, Chennai Hustlers, Dakshin Rangers, Lahari Lions, Golfism and Colombo Lions.

Chelsea begins disciplinary action after Fernandez's involvement in Argentina player chants

Chelsea has begun disciplinary action after midfielder Enzo Fernandez was involved in a video where members of Argentina's

where members of Argentina's Copa America-winning squad appeared to sing about French players with African heritage. FIFA also said it was also looking into the incident after the French soccer federation pledged to file a complaint with the sport's world governing body over "racist and discriminatory remarks."

Fernandez said he was "truly sorry" and Chelsea said discriminatory behaviour was unacceptable." "completely

"We are proud to be a diverse, inclusive club where people from all cultures. communities identities feel welcome," the Premier League club said in a statement Wednesday. "We acknowledge and appreciate our player's public apology and will use this as an

opportunity to educate.
"The Club has instigated an internal disciplinary procedure."

Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 on

Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida. Afterwards a video posted on



Instagram appeared to show Fernandez and Argentina players chanting about France's team as they celebrated.

The same chants - by some Argentina fans - emerged before the team beat France in the World Cup

final in 2022. The derogatory chants single out France players of African heritage, from several countries, and holding

a French passport. Fernandez apologized for "getting caught up in the euphoria of our Copa America celebrations." "That video, that moment, those words, do not reflect my beliefs or

my character," he said on Instagram. "I am truly sorry."
Fernandez became the most expensive player in British soccer history after joining Chelsea from Benfica for 106.7 million pounds (\$131.4 million) in 2023.

Chelsea's response comes after one of Fernandez's clubmates, France defender Wesley Fofana, posted the video on his social media accounts Tuesday and called it "uninhibited racism.

Fofana has family ties to Ivory Coast and is among several French players who are Black in the Chelsea firstteam squad.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has said soccer and its 211 national federations must have a zero tolerance approach to racism and in May committed to relaunching a task force to monitor incidents.

"FIFA is aware of a video circulating on social media and the incident is being looked into," the governing body said Wednesday. "FIFA strongly condemns any form of discrimination by anyone including players, fans and officials. It is unclear what jurisdiction FIFA

has over the incident on a team bus after a tournament, but the governing body likely could act if the Argentina federation's handling of the case is considered

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's first woman Paralympic medallist Deepa Malik has been named subregional representative for regional representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC). This appointment, which was confirmed during the 34th Executive Board meeting of the APC, signifies a significant step forward for gender diversity and athlete-centric leadership in page sports. She leadership in para-sports. She will take up her post immediately.

The former Paralympic Committee of India chief's appointment brings the of female number representatives on the APC Executive Board to five, making it the highest female representation on the board in the history of the organization, according to a media release.
"Having more women during

our Executive Board meetings is a very positive step forward, especially when one voice is of someone with the experience, skills and wisdom of Dr. Deepa Malik," APC President Majid Rashed said.

"The APC acknowledges Dr. Deepa's extensive experience and is confident that our members from the South Asia Sub Region will be excellently represented by you on the APC Executive Board," he added. Malik's role will involve representing South Asian nations and advocating for the development and promotion of para-sports across the

region. "It is an honor and an



Asian Paralympic Committee appoints Deepa Malik as representative for South Asia

> voice for our region. India for long is a flag bearer of "Vasudev Kutumbakam" and now is also a right time to take a step forward in taking the lead in contributing to this one big family," Malik said "It's time for me to represent

India at a bigger level and contribute in the collective growth of parasports and inclusion through sports' at large," she added.

Malik's appointment also aligns with the Paralympic Committee of India's broader mission to foster excellence and inclusivity in para-sports.
"This is a defining moment for

opportunity for me to Indian Paralympics. It is the represent South Asia and be a right step in the overall right step in the overall development of sports in this region. I wholeheartedly welcome this announcement. We will collaborate with Dr. Deepa Malik and the APC to develop para-sports across the region. PCI is truly happy that APC has shown trust in our former president and our champion player," PCI president Devendra Jhajharia said.

> This appointment marks a significant milestone in the history of the APC and the showcasing India's PCI. leadership and commitment to global para-sports community.

Can Indian wrestlers deliver in Paris or medal-winning trend under risk

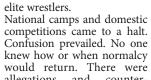
(Left to right): AMAN SEHRAWAT (Men's freestyle 50kg); VINESH PHOGAT (Women's 50kg); ANTIM PANGHAL (Women's 53kg); ANSHU MALIK (Women's 57kg); NISHA DAHIYA (Women's 68kg) and REETIKA HOODA (Women's 76kg)

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndian wrestlers have delivered a medal every single time at the Olympics since the 2008 Beijing edition. Success in four consecutive editions has enhanced the status of wrestling as a prime Olympic sport in the country. There was success at junior level too.

The sport also produced U23 world champions. It raised hopes of big success in Paris. It was Sushil Kumar who changed the way wrestling was perceived in the country by winning a bronze in 2008. He bettered his medal four years later in the London Games, where he fetched a silver. While Yogeshwar Dutt also won a bronze in the British

Sakshi Malik carried forward the trend by bagging a bronze in Rio in 2016 and Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia made it a double delight in the delayed Tokyo Games (2021). However, the sport which was soaring high and was expected to reach even greater heights, was brought down to earth by the prolonged protests against



Confusion prevailed. No one knew how or when normalcy would return. There were allegations and counter-arguments. WFI elections were held and the national body got suspended but finally when UWW lifted its suspension, things began moving.

Only one male and five female wrestlers qualified for the upcoming edition. There is hope, but doubts too.

PTI takes a look at the strength and weakness of all then Wrestling Federation of India chief by the country's AMAN SEHRAWAT (Men's

freestyle 50kg): With his steady progress, Aman did was unthinkable: replacing Olympic silver medallist Ravi Dahiya, the most formidable Indian wrestler, in the men's 57kg weight division.

Aman's biggest strength is his stamina and endurance. If the bout lasts six minutes, it will be difficult to beat him.

However, what is lacking in his game is limited strategy and technique. It was evident when he was pitted against Rei Higuchi in the Ranking Series event in Hungary. He did not seem to have a plan B. At this stage, planing against each rival is key.

His biggest threats are Higuchi and Uzbekistan's Gulomjon Abdullaev.

VINESH **PHOGAT** (Women's 50kg): Without doubt, Vinesh Phogat is one the best woman wrestlers that India has produced. A solid and defence equally impressive attack are her strengths.

However, what could trouble her is lack of quality mat time against top wrestlers in the last vear or so.

Lowering the weight class to 50kg means more stress on her body. Cutting the weight cut ahead of the bout is a painful process, it sucks the energy out of the body and hers is an aging body. She is almost 30. Her natural body weight is about 55-56kg. Much would depend on how Vinesh copes with it.

In the recent Grand Prix of Spain, the weight relaxation was 2kg but that won't be the case in Paris.

ANTIM PANGHAL (Women's 53kg): The firebrand wrestler from Hisar was first to lock a Paris Olympics quota. She also challenged Vinesh for a trial with her when the protest controversy was at its peak.

trap her. She has the spark and However, she has not

competed since the Asian Games. A back injury forced her to miss the Asian Championship this year. The lack of mat time and competitive action could prove to be her bane.

ANSHU MALIK (Women's 57kg): Anshu's career graph has not really taken off the way it was expected after her exploits on the junior circuit and the smooth transition to senior events. Injuries have Her biggest strength is flexibility that allows her to wriggle out of her rivals' grip pretty easily. It's difficult to Serior events. Injuries have troubled her and et she is one of the best bets in Paris for India.

Quick movement on the mat

shoulder injury. She claims it's just a neck spasm but she has not been tested.

field.

NISHA DAHIYA (Women's **68kg):** Away from the limelight, Nisha Dahiya has quietly made her way into Paris Games. She had shown

to go with an aggressive game style is Anshu's biggest strength. She also has the

experience of competing at the Olympics. She was not

ready for the big stage in Tokyo as a teenager but now has a fair idea what is required

in such a highly competitive

Her fitness, though, is a

worrying aspect as she enters the Olympics with a suspected

dead wrongly in 2021, Nisha has managed to surprise quality rivals with her aggressive game style. She is seasoned and her fearless approach is her biggest strength. Not having the exposure of competing at

promise early but injuries has halted her ascent. Reported

big events consistently is her weakness apart from losing steam in the fifth-sixth minute of the bout. She tends to pour out everything in the first four minutes of her bouts and if an up-and-down bout lasts the

distance, she gives away points easily. Handling nerves on debut will also be key.

REETIKA (Women's 76kg): Reetika has the capability to surprise her rivals. She is not exactly unknown in the circuit but can prove to be a tough nut to

crack even for experienced

wrestlers due to her explosive strength. She has power and technique

but has the habit to concede points in the last 30 seconds of the bout. Even if she builds a lead, she can end up losing those points. Probably losing focus in the fag end of bouts is

Suryakumar holds 2nd spot, Jaiswal make gains in ICC T201 batting rankings

The big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav is the highest placed Indian at second spot, while young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal occupies the sixth position in the ICC T20I batting rankings issued on Wednesday. Ruturaj Gaikwad has dropped

a place to the eighth position in the T20 batters list, which was updated following India's recent 4-1 series triumph over Zimbabwe.

Jaiswal was the big winner following his 141 runs in the series as he rose four places, behind No.1 ranked batter Travis Head of Australia and Survakumar.

Shubman Gill, who led India against Zimbabwe in the absence of senior players and was the leading run-scorer of the series with 170 runs from

five innings, moved up a whopping 36 places to 37th.

No Indian features in the top 10 of the T20I bowlers rankings. Axar Patel, who was rested for the Zimbabwe series, dropped four places to 13th

spot. matches, h Fast bowler Mukesh Kumar 73rd rank.



and spinner Washington Sundar also made upward movements.

Mukesh, who scalped eight wickets from three games, has gained 36 places to rise to 46th spot. Washington, who picked up eight wickets in five matches, has risen 21 spots to England's Adil Rashid is leading T20I bowlers' chart ahead of South Africa's Anrich Wanindu Nortie and Hasaranga of Sri Lanka.

In the T20I all-rounders' rankings, India's Hardik Pandya dropped four places to sixth while Axar slipped one

Washington (41st) and Shivam Dube (43rd) have risen by eight and 35 places to 41st abd 43rd spots respectively. Lanka's Hasaranga

continues to top the all-rounders' list ahead os Australia's Marcus Stoinis and Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar



Roshni scores hat-trick as Hockey Jharkhand wins

Hockey Jharkhand thrashed Assam Hockey 13-0 in the women's category with the young Roshni Aind (24th, 32nd, 33rd) scoring a hat-trick in the 2nd Hockey India Junior Men & Women East Zone Championship here on Wednesday.

The other goal-scorers for the winners at the Netaji Subhas Eastern Centre were captain Rajni Kerketta (11, 27), Barwa Purnima (31, 46), Mundu Sukarmani (46, 56), Parwati Topno (21), Pinki Kumari (29), Hemrom Leoni (43) and Aupriya Soreng (59).

Hockey Association of Odisha too scored a lopsided 11-0

win against Hockey Bihar with Kachhap Rimjhim (20, 21, 31, 36) scoring four goals. Najiya Khatun (8, 34), Marandi Rajina (38), Khushi Kumari (44), Sugandha Sonam (49, 50), and Kumari Sharda (57) too were on target.

target.
Hockey Bengal defeated
Manipur Hockey 8-3 with
Laltlanchhungi (4, 39, 49, 56),
Shanti Horo (6, 33), and
Lalpeksangi (23, 24) on target.
For Manipur Hockey, Tanu
Shorensangbam (26), Devi
Mutum Priya (41) and Devi
Laishram Ritu (48) scored the
consolation goals consolation goals.

In the men's section, Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Manipur Hockey 7-0

- the age of Tom Watson when he was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year before,

Greg Norman was 53 when he had

Courses for the U.S. Majors might be

getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together

by hardware. But there is something

you see older champions up there on

the board because they're not forced

Woods always will be linked with

Augusta National because of his

watershed win at age 21 when he

won the 1997 Masters by 12 shots,

Woods. The flight of his shots was ideal for the links golf. It still is.

to have to carry the ball 320 yards."

3-wood, whatever.

the 54-hole lead at Royal Birkdale.

with Rohit Kullu (14, 60), Sunil Lakra (22), Deepak Pradhan (28, 50), Premdayal Giri (41) and Deonath Nanwar (47) on target.

Hockey Jharkhand crushed Hockey Bihar 9-0 with Abhishek Tigga (6), Jolen Topno (20, 59), Rohit Pradhan (21), Roshan Ekka (37), Ghuran Lohra (38), Adisan Minj (42), Faguwa Horo (44), and Dodray Sandeep (53) scoring the goals.

Hockey Bengal registered a 5-1 win over Assam Hockey. Karan Shaw (2, 23, 39) led the goal-scoring efforts for the winners while Prince Gabriyal Dhan (28) and Bishnu Paswan (34) too scored a goal each.

England great Lucy Bronze joins Chelsea from Barcelona

AP ■ LONDON

England defender Lucy joined Chelsea from Barcelona on Wednesday on a two-year deal. Five-time Champions League

winner Bronze completed her move to the Women's Super League (WSL) champion after two years with Barcelona.

"To know I'm a Chelsea player still feels a little bit surreal. It's obviously a club I know so much about and have done for such a long time," she said.

"I'm really excited to be back in England. My family are so excited as well to get to more of my games."

Bronze is one of the most successful players in the history of the women's game after winning major titles with clubs and country.

The 32-year-old right-back the won European Championship with England in 2022 and was a losing finalist at last year's World Cup. She won three Champions League titles with Lyon and two more with Barcelona.

Bronze won eight league titles in England, France and Spain with Liverpool, Manchester City, Lyon and Barcelona.

She was runner-up for the Ballon d'Or award in 2019 and named FIFA Best Women's Player of the Year in 2020.

"Lucy will bring leadership to the group. She is a serial winner and a versatile defender. She has lots of experience and a winning mentality which we feel will fit well into the squad," Chelsea general manager Paul Green said.

Chelsea has dominated women's soccer in England and is the five-time defending WSL champion.

It was managed by Emma

Analysis: Tiger Woods playing all the majors, but for how much longer?

AP ■ TROON (SCOTLAND)

 $T_{\text{majors for the first time since}}^{\text{liger Woods is playing all four}}$ 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different picture. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play - how much longer he should play - to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around.

Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at one point, "What the hell is he

The entirety of what Montgomerie Montgomerie came in one day, saw

now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy

it there, either." Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity.

told the Times: "I hope people all the signatures on the table and reached for pen.



The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what

The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final

time at St. Andrews. He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse nis spine, and two years later he won

and it is the major he has won the most times. But for all his power as a younger man, no one hit irons like

sleeve covering his right leg. That was a clear reminder that age isn't as big an issue as health. Woods has been forthright in explaining his dilemma. His body won't allow him to play a full schedule, and when he shows up at the majors, he has to deal with competitive rust. He could play more and risk not playing where it matters. That's

by hardware. But there is something about links golf that is timeless.
"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, 3-wood whatever. something he will have to sort out. And it was telling that the PGA Tour created an exemption category exclusively for him to play in the \$20 million signature events by adding him to the field - he wouldn't be taking a spot away from another player. How much he plays next year will be worth watching.

In the meantime, Woods has been at "I think that's one of the reasons why

Royal Troon since Sunday. He has high hopes. Maybe they are unrealistic based on the scores he is positing, but they are his hopes.

There is a time for all sportsmen to say goodbye, but it's very difficult to tell Tiger it's time to go," Montgomerie said. "Obviously, he still feels he can win. We are more

The truth is probably somewhere in between. But perhaps Woods still

Haves before she left for the United States Women's passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that him. "It's only for Open champions." "I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him because unlike him. "It's only for Open champions." Woods showed up Tuesday wearing feels he can win because unlike him. "It's only for Open champions." National Team at the end of the shorts, with a black compression Montgomerie, he has done it before.

Scottie is adjusting to links golf and his role as best player in the world

AP ■ TROON (SCOTLAND)

The first stage of Scottie Scheffler's rise to the top of golf felt like warp speed. He went from No. 15 in the world to No. 1 in the span of five tournaments, and that was before he won the Masters for the first time.

Now he's on a level not seen since Tiger Woods was in his prime.

Scheffler is not the biggest draw at the British Open, not with Woods in the field. Rory McIlroy remains a big attraction, especially in the U.K., and he comes into Royal Troon as a sentimental favorite from his sad collapse in the U.S. Open and going 10 years without a major.

But any conversation at the final major of the year starts with Scheffler, a heavy favorite as he has been in every major this year. And that has taken him time to fully appreciate his status in the game.

"I never really thought of myself as anything but a golfer," Scheffler said Tuesday. I was never trying to be famous. I didn't want to be a celebrity or whatever. I just wanted to become a good golfer and get the most out of myself. It's brought me this far, a thing." so I continue to just try to keep my head down and put in the work that got me here and just continue to practice and hopefully continue to get

His six PGA Tour victories before the calendar turned to adjust the flight of his ball since



Iuly are the most since Arnold Palmer in 1962. Someone pointed out to Scheffler that Palmer's seventh victory that year was a claret jug he won at Roval Troon.

He wasn't sure how to react to that except to shrug his shoulders and say, "Yeah, that would be great." "I love the history of the game,

and there's certain things that I know and certain things that I don't. That was something that for some reason I just never stumbled across," he said, searching for the right answer. "So I had no idea that that was

The British Open figures to present his biggest test. Scheffler is still relatively new to links golf - everything about his rise to No. 1 is new - having played this style in 2021 for the first time. He has learned to

links turf creates a little more spin on certain shots. The greens can be slower. Bunkers are to be avoided.

He is a two-time Masters champion, missed a U.S. Open playoff by one shot at The Country Club and was runnerup in the PGA Championship at Oak Hill. But he has never seriously contended in golf's oldest championship. Even so, the love of the links is

He went to the J.P. McManus Pro-Am in Ireland a few years ago and took side trips to Lahinch and Ballybunion. He began this trip across the Atlantic Ocean by skipping the Scottish Open at The Renaissance Club - links style, but not links turf - and going to Turnberry with Sam Burns for a match with their caddies, both good players.

"A tremendous amount of

fun," he said.

And then it was time for work at Royal Troon, the links renowned for having the longest hole (the 623-yard sixth) and shortest hole (the 123-yard eighth) in the British Open rotation.

Most peculiar about Troon is that the outward nine typically with at least a wee breeze at the players' back - has two par 5s and measures 3,539 yards. The inward nine with the wind in the face has one par 5 and is 3,846 yards.
"It's basically a tale of two nines

on this course," McIlroy said. "You feel like you have to make vour score on the way out and then sort of hang on coming

McIlroy has far more experience on links golf - and a claret jug to show for it from his victory at Royal Liverpool in 2014 - but it still takes time to adjust because "you play 11 months of your golf every year in very different conditions." Players also are preparing for weather described as "mixed," a gentle way of saying it probably won't be terribly pleasant for most of the week. Sunshine gave way to spells of rain on Tuesday, and that was before lunch was served.

PGA champion Xander Schauffele might be the second-most consistent player in golf behind Scheffler -nothing but top 20s in his last 10 starts and 51 cuts in a row and has acquired a taste for less-than-pleasant conditions, particularly in the Open.

AP ■ TROON (SCOTLAND)

Ton Rahm felt like one of the most popular players when he arrived at Royal Troon, even if it had nothing to do with him or with his golf.

Spain is on quite the run at the moment. Carlos Alcaraz won Wimbledon on Sunday for his second Grand Slam title of the year, right before Spain defeated England in the European Championship final. It's the latter that made the Scottish fans celebrate the Spaniard.

No one in these parts likes to see England

win anything.
"Played all 18 holes, and I think I got more congratulations for something that I didn't do than I ever have in my life," Rahm said Tuesday. "I don't know what they've done, but anytime anybody plays against the English national team, every other country in Europe just unifies against them.

"I think because we've heard It's Coming Home' so many times the last few years that nobody wants to see it come home at this point."

Throw in Sergio Garcia winning his first LIV Golf event at Valderrama, and Rahm

Jon hoping to ride Spanish momentum to end drought



would like nothing more than to extend Spain's run of winners.

Mostly, he needs it for himself. The major championship season ends

with the British Open, and Rahm has been a no-show. He was the reigning Masters champion when he left for the Saudi riches of LIV Golf last December and he still hasn't won. His last victory was the

Masters some 15 months ago. He barely made the cut at the Masters. He missed the cut at the PGA Championship. And he didn't even get to play the U.S. Open because of a foot infection.

"Last year from the Masters on I didn't really play my best," Rahm said. "Ryder Cup was the only resemblance to maybe the early part of the year. But Nashville and last week (LIV events), I felt closer to getting to a higher level of golf where maybe there isn't as many thoughts on my process. Maybe I'm playing a little bit more freely and seeing the ball flight that I want to see more often.

"I'm getting much closer to what it might have been early last year."

US women's soccer team fights the heat, plays to a draw against Costa Rica in final Olympic tune-up

The heat was on for the U.S. Women's soccer team's final exhibition tune-up game before the Paris Olympics, with sweltering temperatures in the air and plenty of chances to score.

The goals did not come in a 0-0 draw against Costa Rica on Tuesday night, just the second time - and first since 2015 - the U.S. Did not win its last game before a major tournament. But the match showed the



Americans could handle the day on record in the nation's kind of high temperatures that could await later this month. The last two games have been insane," defender Casey Krueger said, referring to back-to-back exhibition games before the team's cross-Atlantic flight. "I feel like this is going to be even hotter, so if we can play in this, it gives us confidence going into France, for sure."

It was 98 degrees Fahrenheit (37 Celsius) at kickoff after Washington tied the hottest

capital at 104 (40C) hours earlier. It was still 94 (35C) when the match was over. Coach Emma Hayes figured it would be a nice test for her players, given the forecast for nearly this level of heat during upcoming games in Marseilles later this month. "That's added value," Hayes said Monday. "It's perfect preparation. It's pretty hot down there, so this is a great opportunity for us to experience what we're going to

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