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UP A STATE WITH UNLIMITED POTENTIAL: CM YOGI

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ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE HITS SCHOOL IN GAZA

SPORT 8
DRAVID'S MESSAGE TO GAMBHIR

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

LUCKNOW, SUNDAY JULY 28, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹



Established 1864 sunday pioneer

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HOW MANY MORE?

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A Border Action Team (BAT), comprising battle-hardened terrorists and elite special forces personnel of the Pakistan Army, on Saturday violated the February 2021 ceasefire agreement by launching a deadly strike on one of the forward Indian posts. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of an Indian Army soldier and left four others injured along the Line of Control in the Kamakari sector of Machhal, located in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The BAT strike came mere hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning, asserting that the Indian Army would crush all terror attempts with full force.

During the firefight, one of the foreign terrorists was also neutralised. Preliminary reports indicate that a two to three-member BAT team lobbed grenades and unleashed a barrage of indiscriminate gunfire on the Indian troops.

At least five soldiers were injured in the BAT action, with one soldier later succumbing to his injuries at the base hospital. The soldier who laid down his life in the line of duty has



File Photo

been identified as Rifleman Mohit Rathour. Since June 9, the day Modi took the oath of office for the third time, foreign terrorists have carried out

at least 10 terror attacks in the region. These attacks have resulted in the sacrifice of over a dozen soldiers and nine civilians in Jammu and

Kashmir. In the past week alone, three soldiers have lost their lives along the Line of Control in the Kupwara and Poonch districts. In a statement, a Srinagar-

based Defence Spokesman said, "Taking advantage of bad weather and poor visibility along Line of Control in Machhal Sector, a group of two to three armed

personnel crossed the LoC and fired on a forward Army post from a close range. Alert troops responded vigorously and in the ensuing exchange of fire,

one Pakistani intruder was killed along with the recovery of weapons, ammunition, and war-like stores. Identification and affiliation of this Pakistani national is being ascertained."

In the past, similar attempts by infiltrators, actively aided and abetted by the Pakistani Army, have sought to exploit the dense foliage and poor visibility conditions. However, these efforts have consistently, as they were today, been successfully thwarted and disrupted by the vigilant Indian forces.

The Indian Army is firm in its resolve and commitment to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control and defeat the nefarious and inimical designs of the Pakistan Army, the spokesman added. Meanwhile, to further step up security across the Jammu region, the Union Government has reportedly decided to rush over 2,000 BSF jawans to be deployed in the Samba sector to plug the routes of infiltration.

The decision to "immediately" move the two units from the anti-Naxal operations grid to Jammu was taken in the wake of the recent spate of terror attacks in the region.

A broader consensus emerged during recent high-level security review

meetings to bolster the anti-infiltration grid in the region. The Indian Army has already deployed more than 3,000 troops and 500 para commandos to flush out the foreign terrorists occupying 'Jammu Heights'.

In another related development, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of the three terrorists responsible for the recent killing of four soldiers, including a Captain in Doda district, and announced a cash reward of ₹15 lakh on their heads.

Doda in Jammu region has been rocked by several terror incidents since June, which is being seen by security agencies as an attempt by Pakistan-based terror handlers to revive terrorism in the hilly district.

Releasing the sketches of three terrorists, a police Spokesman in Doda said they are moving in the upper reaches of the district, especially in Dossa forest where an Army Captain and three soldiers were killed in a gunfight during an anti-terror operation on July 16.

J&K Police announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh on each of these three terrorists, the spokesperson said, appealing to the general public to provide information about them and assuring that the identity of the informer will be kept a secret.

Setback for Vijay Mallya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has barred former liquor baron Vijay Mallya from accessing the securities market for three years for routing funds to the Indian capital markets using his overseas bank accounts with UBS. The regulator has also restrained Mallya from associating with any listed company, directly or indirectly, for three years. Sebi's investigation is based on the findings of Financial Conduct Authority, its counterpart in UK, for the period from January 1, 2006 to March 31, 2008. It had suo-moto taken up the instant matter for further investigation based on the findings in the communication from the Financial Services Authority (now known as Financial Conduct Authority and hereinafter referred to as 'FSA/FCA') to ascertain whether there was any routing of funds to the Indian Securities Market by Mallya, Chairman of the UB Group and individual controlling shareholder of United Spirits Limited ('USL') during the relevant period, through his bank accounts



with UBS AG, London ('UBS') in violation of the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the 'PFUTP Regulations, 2003') and the rules and regulations framed thereunder during the period from January 01, 2006 to March 31, 2008. In its 37 pages order, the SEBI said the noticee (Vijay Mallya) is hereby restrained from accessing the securities market and further prohibited from buying, selling or otherwise dealing in securities, directly or

indirectly, or being associated with the securities market in any manner, for a period of three (3) years from the date of this order. "The noticee is further restrained from associating himself with any listed company or proposed to be listed company, in any capacity, directly or indirectly, for a period of three (3) year from the date of this order. Further, during the period of restraint, the existing holding of securities including the holding of units of mutual funds of the Noticee shall remain frozen," it said. The investigation, prima facie, revealed that the noticee had used a sub-account i.e. Matterhorn Ventures, a Foreign Institutional Investor (FII), as an investment vehicle to indirectly trade in scrips of his own group entities in India i.e. Herbertsons Limited ('Herbertsons') and USL. Thus, the investigation revealed that the amounts paid to Matterhorn Ventures were routed by the Noticee by opening various beneficiary accounts with UBS and routing these accounts, indirectly, to the Indian Securities Market.



Prime Minister Modi to visit Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

PPrime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Ukraine next month, marking his first trip to the war-torn country since the conflict with Russia began two years ago. Following his Ukraine visit, Modi is also slated to travel to Poland, making it the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in over 40 years. India and Ukraine are exploring the possibility of Prime Minister Modi's visit on August 23-24, sources said on Saturday. The proposed visit comes amid renewed global efforts to bring peace to the eastern European nation, they added. Modi might visit Kyiv around Ukraine's National Day on August 24 and is expected to travel to Poland after concluding his trip to Ukraine, the sources said. Last month, the Prime

Minister held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy's Apulia. India and Ukraine are considering Modi's visit to Kyiv in the latter half of August, the sources said, noting that there is no final confirmation yet, as massive preparations in terms of logistics and related issues would be required. During the meeting with Zelenskyy on June 14, Modi conveyed that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and emphasised that the path to peace is through "dialogue and diplomacy." Modi also told Zelenskyy that India believes in a "human-centric" approach to finding a solution to the conflict in Ukraine. At the meeting, the Ukrainian president invited the Prime Minister to visit Kyiv.

Mamata walks out, Nitish skips NITI Aayog meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The NITI Aayog meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, was marked by political fireworks rather than fostering the progression of the States. The meeting faced a boycott from States governed by INDIA Bloc parties, with the notable exception of West Bengal. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made headlines by walking out of the NITI Aayog meeting. Adding to the political drama was the conspicuous absence of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose party JD(U) is the second largest in Modi's NDA coalition at the Centre. Intriguingly, Kumar opted to stay in Patna, where he convened a meeting to discuss JD(U)'s prospects for the upcoming Assembly elections in neighbouring Jharkhand, in alliance with the BJP. To begin with, Mamata claimed that she was unfairly stopped midway through her speech, despite being the sole representative of the Opposition. She said her microphone was switched off after five minutes, while other Chief Ministers were allowed to speak for longer duration.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with the media after walking out of a Niti Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, on Saturday

"This is insulting. I will not attend any further meeting. I have come out boycotting the meeting. (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister) Chandrababu Naidu was given 20 minutes to speak. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Goa, Chhattisgarh spoke for 10-12 minutes. I was stopped from speaking after just five minutes, Mamata told reporters after coming out of the meeting. "This is unfair. I am the only one from the Opposition side. I attended this meeting because of the greater interest that cooperative federalism should be strengthened," she added.

However, PIB Factcheck, in a post on X, said it is "misleading" to say Mamata's microphone was switched off. "The clock only showed

that her speaking time was over," it said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rejected her claim that she was unfairly stopped midway in her speech. "CM Mamata attended the NITI Aayog meeting. We all heard her. Every CM was given the allotted time and that was displayed on the screen which was present before every table...She said in the media that her mic was put off. That is completely false. Every CM was given their due time to speak...It's unfortunate that the Mamata has claimed that her mic was switched off which is not true...She should speak the truth behind this rather than again build a narrative based on falsehood," the Finance Minister said. **Continued on Page 5**

Team India's Olympic outfits become talk of virtual world

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The official outfits for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024 were unveiled last week, sparking considerable buzz. Designed by the renowned Indian fashion designer Tarun Tahiliani in collaboration with Tasva, these outfits sought to blend traditional Indian attire with a contemporary twist. However, the results were met with mixed reactions. Social media was ablaze with opinions following the opening ceremony late Saturday, as critics and supporters alike shared their thoughts on the distinctive attire. The men of Team India donned elegant kurta bundi sets, while the women graced the event in

matching saris, all meticulously designed in the vibrant colours of the Indian flag. The ensembles featured ikat-inspired prints and luxurious Banarasi brocade, intended to infuse a touch of elegance and sophistication. Tahiliani, a name synonymous with high fashion, said his goal was to honour India's rich cultural heritage while simultaneously appealing to an international audience at the Olympics. Despite his good intentions, the outfits did not receive universal praise. Many netizens felt that the designs fell short of truly capturing the essence of Indian culture. Critics on social media labelled the designs as a "disgrace" to the rich heritage and culture of the country, calling them "cheap



designs." Some netizens were particularly disappointed with Tahiliani, wondering if he was

perhaps too preoccupied with high-profile events to give the Olympic outfits the attention they

deserved. While the outfits were undoubtedly stylish, many argued that they failed to showcase the

rich diversity of Indian textiles and craftsmanship that make Indian fashion so unique. Many people felt that more iconic elements, like vibrant colours and intricate embroidery, which are often associated with traditional Indian attire, were overlooked. "These outfits are beautiful, but they feel like a missed opportunity to showcase the true depth of Indian culture on a global platform like the Olympics," one critic wrote. Others lamented the missed chance to highlight the rich artisanal value of India's textiles and sustainable practices that bind the country's diverse communities together. "It's sad that such a renowned designer couldn't create an outfit that represents India's vibrant culture. Sadly, this is such a failure." This whole situation

highlighted the tricky balance between innovation and cultural authenticity in fashion design, especially for an event as prestigious as the Olympics, where countries proudly present their unique identities. As Team India geared up to take the world stage, the discussion about their outfits served as a reminder of how important it is to thoughtfully represent culture. In today's world, where cultural authenticity is increasingly valued, choosing Olympic attire was not just about looking good, it was about what these outfits said about the athletes and the nation they represented. Whether you loved or hated them, the outfits certainly got people talking and that's what fashion is all about, isn't it?

Youth stabbed to death at salon

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was stabbed to death at a barber's shop in Millat Nagar, Faizullahganj (Madiaon), on Saturday. The victim, identified as Abu Amama aka Osama, was attacked by two unidentified assailants while getting a haircut.

According to DCP (North) Abhijeet R Shankar, the attack occurred inside the salon, and a police team quickly arrived at the scene. Osama was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre, where he succumbed to injuries shortly afterwards. The police said they were searching for the accused.

Initial investigations revealed that Osama's friend Abhay Dhawri had been attacked eight days ago. Following the incident, Osama had expressed fears for his own safety, but his concerns were not taken seriously by the police. The lack of attention to his apprehensions is now being scrutinised.

Witnesses stated that Osama had been near the Faizullaganj police outpost for some work when he was approached by two individuals who attacked him with knives before fleeing the scene. The body bore multiple knife wounds, suggesting

Prime accused among five held in property dealer murder case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In connection with property dealer Hritik Pandey murder case, five people, including prime accused Avnish alias Lovy Singh, were arrested in Banthra following a prolonged manhunt.

Those arrested include Avnish's cousin Himanshu Singh, Pratyush Singh, Aman Singh, and Pramanshu Singh Chauhan. All of them had been on the run since the incident. DCP (South) Tej Swaroop Singh confirmed that the search for other unidentified

suspects was ongoing, as was the investigation. The incident occurred on the night of July 21, when Hritik Pandey was brutally beaten to death for complaining about frequent power cuts in the area and demanding immediate resolution. The victim's family claimed that police inaction allowed the accused to remain at large for an extended period. They also alleged that one of the accused was seen with a water bottle at the police station, suggesting preferential treatment. Former MLC Arvind Trivedi

(Guddu) and national president of Bhartiya Kisan Manch Devendra Tiwari visited the victim's family on Saturday. They assured the family of justice, pledging to push for the prosecution of the accused and to provide security for the grieving relatives. Tension continues to prevail in the Banthra village where the incident occurred. A PAC contingent has been deployed to secure the area, maintaining a close watch on the homes of both the victim and the accused, as well as monitoring visitors to these residences.

able. Osama's family criticised the police for their inaction, claiming that prompt intervention could have prevented his death. They highlighted that Osama's father is currently imprisoned in Mumbai, while his mother and aunt live in Faizullahganj. The family believes that had the authorities acted on Osama's earlier complaints, his life might have been saved.

Meanwhile, a 60-year-old morning walker was killed while his colleague suffered serious injuries after a speeding vehicle knocked them in PGI police station area on Saturday morning. The deceased, identified as Shivji Verma of Green Valley Awas in Kalli Paschim, was a retired official of UP Power Corporation. His colleague Vijay Kumar Mishra of Adil Nagar in Kalli Paschim is a retired army official.

As per reports, both went out for a morning walk and reached near Mary Gold Hospital on Rae Bareilly road when the speeding unidentified vehicle knocked both down. While Vijay escaped with injuries, Shivji died at SGPGI Trauma Centre-II. A case was registered in this regard.



Bhojपुरी Mahotsav being inaugurated at PWD's Vishveshwariya Auditorium in Lucknow on Saturday

Pioneer

Agra to have modern police commissionerate building

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/AGRA

The Uttar Pradesh government has developed a comprehensive action plan to enhance the security infrastructure of the state. A key component of this plan includes the expedited construction of a new police commissionerate building in Agra and the development of residential and non-residential buildings in the GRP Line area.

The Planning department has initiated the process of appointing and allocating a project management consultancy agency to oversee these projects, as directed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The new commissionerate building in Agra, to be built at a cost of Rs 65 crore, will feature various modern facilities, including an advanced dedicated war room for surveillance and video monitoring. This facility will enable comprehensive surveillance and monitoring across the Agra region. Additionally, the residential and non-residential buildings in the GRP Line area will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 55 crore. These buildings will feature futuristic designs and advanced amenities.

According to Chief Minister Yogi's vision, all construction and development work for the new commissionerate building and GRP Line in Agra will be carried out in Engineering,

Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode. The target is to complete the construction and development of the new commissionerate building within 18 months of the determination and allocation of the PMC agency. The agency will prepare the architectural design and detailed project report within the first 75 days. Upon approval, construction work will commence. The PMC agency will also be responsible for a defect liability period of 36 months during this time. Simultaneously, the construction and development of residential and non-residential buildings on 2.12 acres in the GRP Line area will also be completed within 18 months following the appointment and allocation of the agency. The agency is required to prepare the architectural design and detailed project report (DPR) within the first 75 days. Additionally, a defect liability period of 36 months will apply to this project as well. It is anticipated that the process of appointing and allocating the agency will be completed in August, paving the way for expedited progress on both projects.

All construction activities will adhere to the Energy Conservation Building Code. The projects will incorporate the latest innovative technologies and comply with the standards set by the Building Material and Technology

Promotion Council. The buildings will be equipped with advanced features, including automatic fire fighting and alarm systems, solar water heaters, CCTV, lifts, electric sub-stations and solar power generation units. Before starting the construction, the designated PMC agency will prepare a detailed master plan, incorporating architectural design, concept plans, 3D views, and an animated walkthrough model. Construction will proceed rapidly only after approval of this plan. All construction activities will be monitored to minimise noise and air pollution, ensuring that the work remains environmentally friendly.

As part of the plan, the new commissionerate building will feature a functional medical unit designed to operate like a hospital. This unit will include an operating theatre, ICU, and CCU facilities, and will be equipped with a medical gas, compressed air, and steam PNG supply system. Additionally, the building will have a bulk storage system, a centralised kitchen and a hospital waste management system. The new commissionerate building is set to be a state-of-the-art facility designed with future needs in mind. Similarly, the residential and non-residential buildings in the GRP area will be constructed and developed using futuristic design and technology.

Unable to repay loan, woman held hostage by finance co employees

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Employees of a finance company tasked with recovering pending loans allegedly misbehaved with a woman and her elderly father-in-law at their house in Indiranagar police station area on Friday evening. The accused allegedly held the entire family hostage for about three hours, forcing them to vacate the house due to an unpaid loan.

The distressed woman, Rajni Singh, called her brother for help, who then alerted police. As the police arrived, the accused fled the scene.

Rajni Singh alleged that the finance company had deceitfully given her a loan and subsequently pressurised her for

The woman alleged that the finance company had deceitfully given her a loan and subsequently pressurised her for repayment

repayment. She questioned how the loan was approved for her unemployed husband. According to reports, a loan of Rs 13 lakh was issued for the house where Rajni Singh resides. She stated that her husband Ashutosh is unemployed. "The loan collectors themselves said he is a drug addict, so how was the loan given in his name? How can we repay the loan without any income?" she asked. Rajni alleged that the agents of the finance company knew she would not be able to pay the instalments. "They intended to seize the house by fraudulently approving the loan. No bank would pass a loan without salary slips and bank transaction details," she claimed. The victim recounted the distress caused by the sudden

intrusion of the finance company's employees. On Friday evening, a woman reached her house with 6-7 people. "The woman called us outside, and the group behaved indecently before entering the house. They continued their inappropriate behaviour, identifying themselves as employees of the finance company," she alleged. Rajni described how the loan recovery team allegedly tortured the family for about three hours. "They told the tenants that we were not paying the loan instalments and that the house now belonged to them. They demanded the rent be paid to them," she said. Frightened by their behaviour, Rajni secretly called her brother for help. He then contacted the police control room. "When the police arrived, the intruders left one after another," she recounted.

At the time of the incident, her husband was at their ancestral home in Rajmatiyapur, Pratapgarh district. "He visits our Indiranagar house once or twice a month," she explained. The police confirmed they were investigating Rajni's complaint to determine further action.

Lawyers protest police's 'one-sided' action

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A large group of advocates laid siege to the Thakurganj police station, accusing the cops of biased actions and mistreating a lawyer, Shailesh Kumar, who was a complainant. The lawyers claimed that despite no complaint being lodged against him, Shailesh was forced to sit on the ground overnight. They raised slogans against the police administration, demanding justice.

The situation escalated as police personnel tried to explain their stance to the protesting lawyers, but their efforts were in vain. Senior police officers eventually intervened to bring the situation under control. The deadlock ended only after an FIR was registered based on the advocate's complaint, with assurances of further action following an investigation. Recounting the events that led to the protest, Shailesh Kumar said that three youths from his locality in Thakurganj engaged in an argument with his wife, who was returning home by car at night. The incident occurred because there was little space left in the lane due to parked vehicles, making it difficult to steer the car. When she asked

the youths to move their car, Sachin, Sunny, and Deepak argued with her. Shailesh and other family members rushed to her aid. The situation escalated when the youths called their friends, who allegedly attacked Shailesh and his family with lethal weapons. Upon hearing of their colleague's distress, a large number of advocates gathered at the Thakurganj police station on Saturday morning, surrounding it and lying down on the ground in protest. They continued their demonstration despite police trying to calm them. Under pressure, the Thakurganj police released Shailesh. Shailesh further alleged that the accused youths had also beaten his wife and aunt. He claimed that when he went to the police station to file a complaint, instead of listening to him, the police made him sit at the station, verbally abused him, and forced him to sit on the ground all night. He also accused the police of treating his fellow advocates harshly when they arrived to support him.

In a turn of events, Sachin and Deepak also filed a written complaint, accusing the lawyers of assault.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name Spelling From Rafiqun Nisan To Rafiqun Nisha W/o Shabbab Uddin R/o 88/43 Prem Nagar Takiya Park Kanpur Nagar

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Sanhung Basumatary s/o Basanta Basumatary 15733599 X Rank- L Nayak R/O -Rang Rang Para Post KushDhawa Teh Dudhami Distt GoPaara state-Assam-Pin-783124 Unit -146 IBSC near DRC Ayodhya,Cantt.UP declared that in my service record White's name wrongly recorded as RimaBasumatary,whereas her correct name is Rima Brahma with supported with affidavit.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Gawade Subhash Malu s/o BijendraSingh Singhal 15710452 Rank- Nayak R/O -Shivaji Gali,Koleek Po-khalsa MahaLungay Taluka-ChandGarh Distt-Kohlapuri state- Haryana-127031 Unit-146 IBSC near DRCAyodhya Cantt. UP declared that in my service record mother's name wrongly recorded as Gawade Droupati Malu &DOB 1/7/1964 whereas her correct name is Draupadi Malu Gawade DOB 1/1/1957 father's name Malu Laxman Gawade incorrect DOB 1/1/1957 while correct DOB 1/1/1959 supported with affidavit court Ayodhya.

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AUCTION NOTICE

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य एक्स निर्यात सोसाइटी, लखनऊ की निष्पक्षोच्च घोषित सामग्रीयों को विक्रय नवन के पंचम तल पर रकित है जिनका निरीक्षण 13-08-2024 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे- 12:00 बजे तक एवं सोसाइटी मंडारगृह - नारीय प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र, औद्योगिक, द्वापौराई नगर, लखनऊ में रकित निष्पक्षोच्च सामग्रीयों का निरीक्षण 12-08-2024 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे - 2:00 बजे तक करने के पश्चात नीलामी दिनांक 13-08-2024 को अपराह्न 1:00 बजे सोसाइटी मंडारगृह - किसान मण्डी परिवेश नवन- नूतल, विभूति खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ में होगी, सिक्कोरिटी रु० 5000/- नानद अधया बैंकड्राफ्ट 'PROJECT DIRECTOR, U.P. STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY,LUCKNOW' के नाम फर्म के बैंक जे.एस.टी. वजीकरण, आधार / वैतनार्ड के साथ जमा करना होगा। आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I AMIT s/o Bijender Singh Singhal 15743543Y- SigMn. C/O 56APO , R/O -1247 Singal Pana. Badestra ,Bhiwani Haryana-127031 Unit-4IDSR Allahabad UP declared that in my service record mother's name wrongly recorded as Kabita Devi,whereas her correct name is Kavita Devi supported with affidavit.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Akanksha Manwar to Akanksha Sharma. Now I should be known by this name, Akanksha Sharma W/o Awadhesh Sharma, D/o Vinod Manwar, Resident Shivpuri Colony, Agra.

सूचना

मेरे हाईस्कूल सीबीएससी बोर्ड के वर्ष 2022 अंकपत्र एवम प्रमाणपत्र अनुक्रमांक : 23249798 मेरे पिताजी का नाम त्रुटिवश श्रुतिक्रमण कुमार हो गया है, जबकि सही नाम श्रुतिक्रमण कुमार मिश्रा है। भविष्य में मेरे पिताजी को इसी नाम से जाना और पहचाना जाए। आदर्श मिश्रा पता= 7 व, शिवपुरी नियर शिवमंदिर गोविंदपुर प्रयागराज।

NOTICE

Notify that due to mistake my Daughter's Name written in school Records, as Ojal Pawar and mother's, name Richa whereas correct name is Ojal and mothers name Richa Chaudhary Please correct accordingly. Richa Chaudhary, 04, sita vihar Manas enclave area Indira nagar Lucknow

Washerwoman's daughter lands YES scholarship

Lucknow: A good academic life was a distant dream for Deepali Kannoujia, who was born in poverty with both her parents engaged in washing clothes for a living. Things became more difficult for the family after her father got bedridden following a surgery. But the event gave Deepali more clarity on what she wanted to do. She kept the fire aglow in her, scraping by through private tuition. At 16, she landed the coveted YES (Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study) scholarship, administered by the US Department of State. Suman, Deepali's mother, brimmed with pride as she spoke about her. "My daughter has been selected to go to America and study there. I don't know how America is but I know that my daughter will do well there," said the mother of four and wife of a washerman. Deepali said her mother's hard work day in and day out inspired her to do something big with her life. "My mother is my biggest motivation. I have seen her work so hard for the family every day which she continues till today. She can barely read and write but she always taught me to value education and focus on my studies," said the class 10 girl, who is scheduled to fly to the US in August. The last born among four siblings was admitted to Prerna Girls' School, a unit of Study Hall Educational Foundation, a school meant for girls from low-income and marginalised communities. Within a year, her excellent performance secured her a scholarship to the main Study Hall school. Deepali maintained a good academic record throughout her school. Last year with the help of her school she applied for the YES scholarship. "I was not confident about my selection for the YES scholarship. But with encouragement from my teachers I successfully cleared it to receive the scholarship," she said. On her father's becoming bedridden, she said, "I want to become a doctor. I have decided to opt science for my class 12 board exams and appear in the NEET". Deepali said she is looking forward to learning important life skills during her one-year sojourn in the US. "I have never lived alone on my own. But I will have to do so once I go for higher studies. I believe that the programme will help me learn skills, including how to live alone, managing finances, doing chores while managing work and interacting with a wide array of people. These skills will help me throughout my life," she said. **PTI**

Real estate company directors booked for fraud

Lucknow (PNS): An FIR has been registered against the director of real estate company Shine City in Lucknow for allegedly defrauding a school convener, Bhanu Pratap Singh Yaduvanshi, of Rs 5 crore. Yaduvanshi, who runs a school in Daroga Kheda, was introduced to the accused by a staff member. Shine City directors have been under scrutiny for some time, with investigations into their assets and financial activities being conducted by both the Economic Offenses Wing (EOW) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). According to the complaint filed at Banthra police station, Yaduvanshi accused the director of Shine City of cheating him out of Rs 5 crore. He alleged that the accused misappropriated advance fees collected from students after being given the contract to run the school on lease. Yaduvanshi's school, located on Kanpur Road, offers education up to Class VIII and includes a course in aviation technology. Due to financial difficulties and unpaid bank loans, Yaduvanshi approached Shine City directors Rashid and Asif Naseem through Mohammed Saif, who worked both as a school staff member and as an agent for the real estate company. The deal struck was worth Rs 10 crore for managing the school. Yaduvanshi paid Rs 5 crore as an initial installment, but the directors failed to pay the subsequent installment. When Yaduvanshi inquired about the payment, Asif reportedly refused to continue running the school. The investigation revealed that the directors had also misappropriated advance fees paid by students enrolled in the aviation technology course.

Man loses ₹3.5 lakh in cyber fraud

Lucknow (PNS): A man was defrauded of Rs 3.5 lakh after being enticed with promises of easy earnings through Instagram in Krishnanagar police station area. The accused tricked the victim into investing in bitcoin. The victim, identified as Hardeep from Krishnanagar, was approached by cyber fraudsters who lured him with promises of attractive returns on bitcoin investments. The fraudsters maintained contact with him via Instagram for about a week, during which they siphoned off the money. Realising he had been deceived, Hardeep reported the incident to the cyber police online and subsequently registered a case at the local police station. He explained that he had been shown fake advertisements claiming substantial profits from bitcoin investments through a fraudulent Instagram account, leading him to fall into the trap. According to Hardeep, the scammers initially instructed him to deposit money into an app called TrustPilot. They then continued to press him to complete various tasks, showing incremental winnings in his account. As a result, Hardeep deposited Rs 3.5 lakh into a bank account provided by the fraudsters. They then demanded a larger investment, but when he requested a refund, the scammers disconnected all communication and disappeared with his money. Meanwhile, a woman was defrauded of her jewellery by a conman in Manak Nagar police station area. The incident occurred on July 18, but the case was only registered on Saturday. According to reports, the accused visited the home of Visheshwar Rao in RDSO Colony and falsely informed his wife that Rao had been arrested by the police. At the time of the fraudster's visit, Rao was

Hapur to have new convention centre

Lucknow/Hapur (PNS): As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance civic amenities, the Uttar Pradesh government will soon build a new convention centre in Hapur. The initiative aims to provide excellent facilities to residents across the state and foster integrated development in all regions. It is important to note that a detailed action plan was developed for Hapur's development, and the Hapur-Pilkhuva Development Authority (HPDA) has begun implementing it. The new convention centre will be constructed in Sector H of the Anand Vihar Scheme, developed by HPDA. Spanning 17,407 square metres, the project is in the process of selecting an agency and allocating work for its construction and development. It is anticipated that agency selection and work allocation will be completed by early August, paving the way for the swift construction and development of the convention centre. According to the action plan, once the agency is selected and work is allocated, the chosen agency will be required to survey the site and prepare a detailed project report. This report must include architectural designs, a complete layout plan, and specifications for all sections and facilities. Additionally, the agency will have to create video presentations with 3D views and high-resolution walk-throughs to present a comprehensive proposal for the project to the authority. Construction work for the project will commence only after the authority approves the detailed project report (DPR). Following this approval, the construction and development of the convention centre in the designated area will proceed.

'UP a state with unlimited potential'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, said that Uttar Pradesh had emerged as a state with unlimited potential in the recent years. Addressing the ninth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held at the Cultural Centre of Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, he said: "Seven years ago, the state was classified as a BIMARU state and seen as an obstacle to national development. Today, Uttar Pradesh has shed this BIMARU label and has emerged as a state with unlimited potential."

Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's achievements, he added that Uttar Pradesh, contributing 9.2 per cent to the national GDP, has established itself as the growth engine of the country and is now the second-largest economy in India. Over the past seven years, significant progress has been made in doubling the per capita income. He stated: "Viksit Bharat embodies the noble prime minister's vision of a self-reliant, prosperous, capable, competent, inclusive, and technologically advanced India. Our mission is to turn this vision into reality. Uttar Pradesh is swiftly advancing

towards becoming the growth engine of India." The chief minister stated that due to strong law and order, ease of doing business, investment-friendly policies, and good governance, Uttar Pradesh has become the dream destination for investment in the country today. Enumerating the achievements of Uttar Pradesh phase-wise across MSME, women's safety, infrastructure development, PM Gati Shakti, health, and nutrition, Chief Minister Yogi said, "To contribute to the prime minister's resolve to make the country a 5-trillion-dollar economy, a target has been set to make the state's economy one trillion dollars. For this, planned efforts are being made by classifying all the departments into 10 sectors."

The chief minister said that as per the SDG India Index 2023-24 report, Uttar Pradesh had been recognised in the Front Runner category. Additionally, 351 best practices from the state that contribute to the goal of 'Developed India' are now uploaded on the NITI for States Portal of NITI Aayog. Yogi Adityanath invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh in January 2025, noting that this



holy occasion occurs once every 12 years. He stated, "The state government is committed to ensuring a clean, safe, and well-organized Maha Kumbh-2025. All preparations are nearing completion."

The chief minister said that 'Rule of Law' was the pre-condition of good governance, pointing out that the UP's commitment to law and order has played a crucial role in achieving good governance. "Today, Uttar Pradesh boasts of a robust law and order system, which has positively shifted perceptions about the state both nationally and interna-

tionally. This improvement is attributed to a zero-tolerance policy towards crime," he remarked.

He further emphasised that the NCRB data further validates the state's effective policies, clear intentions and successful implementation. Uttar Pradesh is recognised as the leading state in the country for ensuring punishment for criminals involved in crimes against women.

"Currently, there are no organised criminals in the state operating freely outside of prison," he added.

He said that Uttar Pradesh

Police was the largest civil police force in the country and the world. The state government is consistently modernizing the police force with new technology and equipment.

"Cyber crime police station has been set up in every district to effectively combat cyber-crimes. Additionally, a Cyber Help Desk is now operational at every police station," he stated.

The chief minister pointed out that that over 56 lakh poor and homeless families have been given pucca houses. Various programmes, including Swachh Bharat Mission, Mission Shakti, School Chalo Abhiyan, Operation Kayakalp, Massive Tree Plantation Public Campaign, and Matribhoomi Yojana, are being implemented based on extensive public participation.

"The Aspirational District Scheme, implemented under the guidance of the prime minister has shown encouraging results. Inspired by this success, the state government has launched the Aspirational Development Block Scheme and the Aspirational Municipal Body Scheme. The youth selected for the Chief Minister Fellowship Programme are serving as CM Fellows," he added.

Two students killed, 13 injured as pickup van rams into parked truck

Ballia: Two school students were killed and 13 injured when their pickup van rams into a truck parked in the Phephana area of this Uttar Pradesh district on Saturday morning, an official said.

The victims, aged between 12 and 17 years, were from a private school, Ballia District Magistrate (DM) Praveen Kumar told PTI.

According to police, the driver of the speeding pickup van lost control of the vehicle, which collided with a truck parked on the roadside near Kapuri Narayanpur village on the Ballia-Phephana road. Yash Pratap Singh (16) died on the spot while Vishal Pratap Singh (17) succumbed to his injuries while being taken to hospital, the DM said.

All the injured were rushed to the district hospital, he said, adding that the condition of two is critical. Senior police and administrative officers visited the hospital.

Man stages abduction, seeks ₹60 lakh from family to repay loan

Gonda: A businessman, whose family feared had been abducted for a ransom of Rs 60 lakh, had allegedly faked his kidnapping to repay a loan, police said on Saturday.

According to police, Arjun Kumar (35), a flower trader from Basehiya village, reached Colonelganj market on Wednesday evening but did not return home. His family registered a missing person's complaint and teams were deployed to look for him. On Thursday, Kumar's brother Rakesh received a call claiming to have kidnapped the businessman and demanded a ransom of Rs 60 lakh, the police said.

Gonda Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal on Saturday said, "Arjun Kumar was caught by our team in Haridwar where he had fled to stage his kidnapping." Kumar told police he had taken a loan of Rs 31 Lakh without informing his family members. He was unable to pay the loan after suffering losses in the business. "Arjun Kumar staged his kidnapping, hoping that his family members would arrange the ransom, which he would then use to pay his loan. The police will take action against him for this act," said the SP. **PTI**

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Yogi govt gears up to provide world-class health services

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

MAHA KUMBH-2025

The Yogi Adityanath government is set to offer world-class health services to the devotees attending Maha Kumbh 2025, with a significant investment of approximately Rs 125 crore allocated for 18 health-related projects.

This funding will be utilised to upgrade hospitals in the mela area, Prayagraj city, and community health centres and primary health centres located along routes leading to the event. The facilities will be equipped with advanced technology to enhance service quality.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, 43 temporary hospitals will be established in the Mela area to ensure optimal health services for the devotees. Additionally, 305 beds will be reserved across four city hospitals. To ensure continuous care for the pilgrims coming to Prayagraj, doctors and paramedical staff will be on duty 24x7 to manage emergency situations effectively.

Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand stated that Chief Minister Yogi is continuously monitoring the preparations for Kumbh mela and giving

necessary directions to ensure the grand and safe organisation of Maha Kumbh 2025. As per his vision, 18 health-related projects are being implemented in Prayagraj at an estimated cost of around Rs 125 crore. To date, Rs 41.73 lakh have been released by the government for health-related works, and an additional Rs 57.97 lakh have been approved and will be released soon.

Additional Director (Health) Dr Rakesh Sharma mentioned that the government initially allocated Rs 28 crore for upgrading four hospitals in the city — Motilal Nehru Hospital (Colvin), Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital, State Tuberculosis Hospital Teliyarganj, and District Women's Hospital (Dufferin). These hospitals are reserving 305 beds for devotees, with 50 beds specifically reserved for female devotees at Dufferin Hospital.

Furthermore, Rs 13.73 lakh have been allocated for ambulances, biomedical waste management, mortuary vehicles, disaster management and office expenses. This fund will be used to deploy 125 road

ambulances, 20 river ambulances and one air ambulance. Joint Director of Health, Dr Vivek Kumar Mishra, stated that to accommodate the needs of devotees, the Maha Kumbh Mela area has been divided into 25 sectors. Accordingly, 43 temporary hospitals with a total of 380 beds are being established in the Mela area. This includes a 100-bed central temporary hospital, two 25-bed sub-central temporary hospitals, two 20-bed infectious disease temporary hospitals, and eight 20-bed temporary hospitals in eight sectors. These hospitals will cover approximately three sectors of the Mela area.

Additionally, 10 first aid posts with one bed each and 20 outpatient health posts are being set up. These health posts will be located at parking lots, stalls and other locations. A budget of Rs 14.25 lakh has been allocated for these facilities. Furthermore, Rs 10 crore will be spent to control vector-borne diseases in the Mela area.

To cover the costs of food, surgical items and local purchase of medicines for patients

admitted to these hospitals, Rs 12.73 lakh is being spent. Additionally, Rs 21.24 lakh is being spent on upgrading 12 community health centres (CHCs), two primary health centres (PHCs), a post-mortem house, and a drug warehouse located on the way to the Mela area.

Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand informed that as many as 407 doctors will be stationed in the Mela area to provide 24-hour health services for devotees. Additionally, 182 nursing staff, 150 ward boys, 354 pharmacists, and 60 lab technicians will also be deployed.

Special arrangements are being made to cater to the large number of female devotees expected at the event. Three shifts of 48 female doctors will be available at the Mela hospitals. A labour room is being set up at the central hospital, and gynaecologists will be on duty around the clock in the Mela area. A team of 40 specialist doctors will also be present.

Emergency services will be available 24x7 at the CHCs and PHCs, with extra supplies of medicines, bandages, and other necessities ensured for the area.

Govt providing subsidised seeds for crops to farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a significant move to support farmers affected by scanty rainfall and adverse weather conditions, the state government is providing subsidised seeds for crops such as maize, millet, sorghum, pulses, and oilseeds. The initiative aims to assist farmers in areas of the state where insufficient rainfall has hindered paddy cultivation or where crops have been damaged by floods.

Additionally, the Agriculture department is actively educating farmers on ways to mitigate their losses. Contrary to the Meteorological department's forecast, July experienced approximately 42 per cent less rainfall than usual. This shortage has significantly impacted the sowing of paddy, the primary Kharif crop. Central Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand have received considerably less rainfall than the average, leaving 25 to 30 percent of fields in these regions still unsown.

According to the Meteorological department, there is little hope for significant rain in the remaining days of July. UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi advised farmers who are still waiting for rain to plant paddy to consider switching to other crops that require less time and water to grow. As alternatives, he suggested that farmers could plant maize, millet, sorghum and pulses-oilseeds.

Under the Rapid Maize Development Programme (Tvarit Makka Vikas Karyakram) and National Food Security Mission, a provision has been made for 50 per cent subsidy on normal seeds of hybrid maize across all 75 districts of the state. Maize is in high demand due to its versatility and it also offers a better yield per quintal.

Additionally, the government is offering a subsidy of Rs. 6,000 per hectare for the demonstration of Desi Maize, Hybrid Maize, and Popcorn Maize. For Baby Corn Maize, the subsidy is Rs. 40,000 per hectare, while for Sweet Corn Maize, it is Rs. 50,000 per hectare. Stalls featuring hybrid seeds for maize, millet, and sorghum from private companies are being set up in every block, with a 50 per cent subsidy on these seeds directly credited to farmers' accounts.

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Sr. No.	Branch	First Holder	Second Holder	Address	Alternate Address	Overdue Amount (Without Gst)**
1	AMINABAD	Manish s/o Phool chand urf Mahesh chandra chaurasia	-	7/47-Prag Narain Road, Hazratganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh- 2260061	142/23.Batashe wali gali, Aminabad, Lucknow-226018	7500
2	AMINABAD	Ms. Naseem D/o Syed Sagir Hussain	-	Sheesh Mahal, Gend Khana, Lucknow	-	6000
3	AMINABAD	Shri Virendra Kumar Prajapati s/o Late Krishna	-	H.No-256/13, Khajulha, Lucknow-226004	-	6000
4	ALIGANJ	Smt. Madhu Gupta	-	H.No- 8/336 Vikas Nagar, Lucknow	-	7500
5	ASHOKMARG	Ms.Rita Biswas	2. Mr.Rahul Biswas 3. P. Biswas	2/491, Rashmi Khand, Sharda Nagar, Lucknow	-	6000
6	MAHANAGAR	Smt. Safia Khatoun	Shri Mahmood Alam	C-36, Sector-G, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024	-	7080
7	MAHANAGAR	Ms. Manju Pal	-	B-803, Gopal Apartment, Narhi, Lucknow-226001	-	7080
8	TEHSIL FATEHPUR	Mr.Santosh Kumar S/O RAM LAKHAN	-	VILL & POST- ISRAULI BARABANKI- 225305	-	4000
9	KAISERBAGH	Ms. Aruna Khandelwal	Mr.Vijay Khandelwal	Anand Bhawan, Khayaliganj, Lucknow	-	7080
10	KAISERBAGH	Smt. Renu Sukhani w/o Naresh R. Bhojwani	-	Mahabeer Apartment, 401, 4 Floor, 36 Cant Road, Lucknow	-	7080
11	BARABANKI	Shri Jai Narain Verma s/o Shri Jagdish Prasad	2. Smt Saroj Khatun s/o Shri Jai Narain Verma	Vill & Post-Kothi, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh-225001	-	4000
12	BARABANKI	Shri Govind Prasad Soni	2. Smt Rita Soni	Krishna Nagar, Naka Satrikh, Barabanki Uttar Pradesh-225001	-	4000
13	BARABANKI	Shri Kamla Prasad Mishra s/o Shri Jagannath	2.Shri Rajesh Kumar Mishra s/o Shri Kamla Prasad Mishra 3.Shri Jitendra Kumar Mishra s/o Kamla Prasad Mishra	VPO-Gadia, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh-225001	-	4000
14	BARABANKI	Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav s/o Shri Jagannath Singh	-	K-131, Katra, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh	-	4000
15	INDIRANAGAR	Shri Ahtesham Ali	-	Picnic spot Road, Khurram Nagar Lucknow-226016	-	7500
16	RAJAJIPURAM	Ms.Preetika Rawat	-	355/384,Thadi, Alamnagar, Lucknow	-	6000

**Amount may vary at the time of actual payment
*All the above - mentioned locker holder/s of our Bank of India are put to notice that their locker rent is overdue for more than 3 years. Reminders/follow up by branches has not been responded by locker holders. All lockers holder/s are once again advised to contact respective branch immediately and deposit the overdue rent within 15 days. In the event of Non Payment bank will drill open the locker at their (Locker holder/s) cost, expenses and charges entirely at their risk and responsibility after 15 days from date of this publication / Notice."

Forest officials accuse BJP MLA of misbehaviour

Ballia: Forest department officers have accused BJP MLA Ketakee Singh and his supporters of allegedly misbehaving with them in their office here after they took action against an illegal saw being used to fell trees in the Maniyar area, officials said on Saturday.

Ketakee Singh, however, denied the allegations, and said they were levelled against her after she found that some forest department officers were "involved in corruption". District Magistrate Praveen Kumar told PTI on Saturday that the matter came to his notice on Friday and he has sent a report on the matter to the state government that night.

Forest department Deputy Divisional Officer Kumari Urvashi said she has reported Singh's "misbehaviour" to the Superintendent of Police in a letter.

Urvashi told reporters Friday evening that forest department officials responded to a complaint registered on IGRS, the Chief Minister's complaint portal, about a saw that was being illegally used in Maniyar area in Ballia. A joint team of the forest department and the departmental enforcement team was sent to take action on Friday, the deputy divisional officer said.

She said the team found that a saw machine was being operated illegally, took action on the spot as per rules and returned to the forest department office.

After this, MLA Ketakee Singh reached the forest department office with party workers who misbehaved with the officials regarding the action, the deputy divisional officer said. Singh, however, told PTI on Saturday that the allegations are "baseless".

The Banshidh MLA said she participated in a tree plantation programme in Raksa village of Sikandarpur area of the district on Friday. "After the programme, I went to the forest department office to inquire about the security arrangements for the tree plantation. Many officers as well as most of the employees were absent in the office," she said. "I found that some officers are involved in corruption. The forest department officers are making false allegations in their defence when questioned about it. These allegations is baseless," the MLA said.

Singh added that being a woman MLA she would never allow misbehaviour against a woman in her presence. DM Praveen Kumar said that further action in the matter will be taken on the instructions of the state government.

Statewide centenary celebrations of Kakori train action from Aug 9

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As part of its ongoing effort to introduce the younger generation of Uttar Pradesh to India's glorious history, the Yogi Adityanath government will organise centenary celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the 'Kakori Train Action' starting from August 9.

The event will be celebrated throughout the year with various activities across the state in honour of the revolutionaries.

On August 9, a special event featuring various competitions, will be held in schools, colleges and universities at Kakori and Shahjahanpur and in Lucknow. The district administration will also honour the families of freedom fighters on the occasion.

At the same time, the Forest department will establish Shaheed Smriti Vatika in every district in memory of the martyrs of Kakori. On this occasion, preparations for Shaheed Smriti Yatra by 100 cyclists are also proposed.

Furthermore, the Kakori Literature Festival will take place, featuring an exhibition of books related to Kakori freedom fighters, the freedom movement, and the Kakori train action. Historians and experts will hold interactive sessions in schools and colleges.

The events will also feature theatrical performances, book releases and seminars related to the Kakori incident, organised by university history departments. Digital versions of the books will also be released.

Additionally, poetry and story writing competitions related to the Kakori incident, open mic events

in schools, and quiz competitions based on the lives of revolutionaries will also take place.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Kakori Train Action, the Yogi government has instructed the Forest department to establish Shaheed Smriti Vatika in every district. Additionally, the State Lalit Kala Academy and the Education department will organise on-the-spot painting and camp events at freedom struggle sites and martyr memorials.

There will be painting, mural and clay modelling competitions in universities, colleges and schools. Other activities will include folk drama competitions, theatrical performances on events related to martyr sites and memorials, and theatre festivals.

The Uttar Pradesh Culture department will organise cultural processions, and cultural programmes filled with patriotism on the birth anniversary and martyrdom day of the martyrs.

Additionally, grand events will take place in Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur), Ballia, Ferozabad, Ayodhya, Mainpuri, Varanasi, Meerut, Prayagraj, Kanpur (Bithoor), Jhansi, Bareilly, Saharanpur and Gonda. Other districts will also host related events.

Under the directives of the Yogi government, district administrations will honour the families of freedom fighters.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Kakori Train Action, the centenary celebration will be organised with the Culture department as the nodal agency. The event will be coordinated with the cooperation of several departments.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | Date of e-Auction : 14-08-2024

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder.

Branch Name : Sadar Bazar, Jhansi • Address : 341-G, Sadar Bazar, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Naresh Ratnakar • Mob. : 9506849123

Borrower : Shri Jitendra Parihar S/o Shri Babu Lal, R/o : 381, Ekta Public School, Bhatta Gaon, Near Nala (Govt. Toilet) Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Rajkumar S/o Shri Ganesh Shyam, R/o : 307, Outside Sayanar Gate, Jhansi
O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : **Rs. 4,41,050.37** + Int. + Other Charges
Property : Land & Building situated at Ward No. 4, Mauza Talpura Abadi, Bhatta Gaon, Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Jitendra Parihar S/o Shri Babu Lal, Area : 754 Sq. Ft., Bounded : North-Plot Seller, South : Rasta, East-Plot Smt. Rani, West : Rasta.
Date & Time of E-Auction : 14-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 9.28 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.93 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Subhash Chand S/o Shri Deep Chand & Smt. Rama Devi W/o Shri Subhash Chand and Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lala Ram, All R/o : 58, Idgha, Pulia No. 9, Near Power House, Tehsil & Distt. Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 9,30,387.70 + Int. + Other Charges
Property : Residential House No., 58, Idgha, Pulia No. 9, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lala Ram, Area : 61.68 Sq.Mtr., Bounded : North- Rasta 5 Ft., South : House of Ram Swaroop Kansoria, East- Kachha Rasta 10 Mtr., West : Rasta 5 Ft.
Date & Time of E-Auction : 14-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 13.77 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.38 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Jaipal Singh S/o Shri Than Singh, R/o : Near Vipesh Inter College, Rashgarh, Jhansi, Guarantor : Shri Prabhu Dayal S/o Shri Ganesh Prasad, R/o : 538, Indra Nagar, BHEL, Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 3,49,172.00 + Int. + Other Charges
Property : Residential House Situated at Rashgarh, Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Jaipal Singh S/o Shri Than Singh, Area : 1296 Sq.Ft., Bounded : North-Plot of Garibey, South : 10 Ft. Wide Rasta, East-Plot of Seller, West : House of Devi & Jagdish
Date & Time of E-Auction : 14-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 10.55 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.06 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

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ATIQ AHMED-ASHRAF CASE

Red diary reveals hidden assets, fraudulent deals

Brother-in-law Saddam's role under scanner

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

After the murder of mafia don-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf, the Prayagraj police are targeting people who have amassed significant wealth through criminal activities.

In one such investigation, a red diary was found in the Fortuner car of Ashraf's brother-in-law Saddam. The diary revealed numerous properties owned by Atiq, Ashraf, and Atiq's sister-in-law Zainab, previously unknown to the police. The diary details investments of crores of rupees in businesses involving over five major builders and businessmen in Prayagraj. It also includes information on plotting with a former MLA of Kaushambi and regular transactions of Rs 10-12 lakh every three months from a multi-storey building in Kareli. The police are incorporating these findings into their ongoing investigation.

Atiq and Ashraf were murdered on April 15, 2023. Before this, Atiq had been in jail for about seven years, while Ashraf was lodged in Bareilly jail. During this period, Ashraf's brother-in-law Saddam managed their business affairs. Ashraf had entrusted Saddam with all financial accounts. On September 28, 2023, the police arrested Saddam in

Delhi, announcing a reward of Rs 1 lakh for his capture. His car (Fortuner) was recovered on July 19, 2024. During a search of the vehicle, the police discovered the red diary. According to police sources, the diary mentions the Soliver City project in Dhoomanganj area, documenting Rs 5 crore invested ten years ago, along with numerous subsequent transactions. The police were unaware of Atiq-Ashraf's involvement in this project until now. Following these revelations, the police have interrogated nine contractors associated with the project, and Saddam himself confirmed the funding details after his arrest. The diary also details a partnership with a property dealer in Kareli, where Ashraf invested several crores in a multi-storey building, with transactions of Rs 10-12 lakh every three months, likely from shop rents. Additionally, it outlines plotting activities with a former MLA of Kaushambi, including land sales and subsequent investments. The police found records of land transactions on the Puramufti, Jhalwa, and Kaushambi borders, including the sale of two plots in Sallapur. However, the names of the buyers are not mentioned. The DCP stated that the investiga-

tion into Saddam's benami properties is ongoing, and the Fortuner has been confiscated along with important documents, including the red diary containing confidential information.

Ashraf had been in Naini jail for many years before being transferred to Bareilly. During Ashraf's incarceration, Saddam handled the financial accounts, including earnings worth crores, kept separate from the Atiq family. This trust led Ashraf to rely on his brother-in-law. A chargesheet has been filed against Saddam, currently in Badaun jail, for cases registered in Bithrichainpur and Baradari police stations. The Bithrichainpur police are identifying the properties of 11 accused, including Saddam, in the gangster case. The Bareilly police, with assistance from the Prayagraj counterparts, have identified five properties belonging to Saddam.

Saddam, who spent many years in Dubai living a luxurious lifestyle, facilitated Ashraf's investments of several crores there. After Atiq and Ashraf's deaths, investigations into properties in Dubai intensified. With the noise tightening around Saddam, further investigations into his Dubai investments are ongoing.

Official highlights role of taxes in country's revenue

PNS ■ VARANASI

Prayagraj (PNS): The Income Tax department is a critical revenue source for the government, as taxes provide essential funding for state functions. Therefore, it is a crucial aspect of any administrative system. A robust tax system is foundational to the strength of an economy, promoting economic development and prosperity. These views were shared by Principal Income Tax Commissioner Abha Rani Singh during her recent address on Income Tax Day.

She recalled that in the year 1860, a sum of Rs 30 lakh was collected as income tax. In the previous fiscal year, the government set a target of Rs 1,945 lakh crore and achieved a collection of Rs 19.58 lakh crore. The tax collection performance in Allahabad has also shown improvement, with net tax collection amounting to Rs 818.22 crore last year. In the current financial year, tax collection has reached Rs 326.72 crore so far.

Singh congratulated the taxpayers of Prayagraj for their contributions and expressed hope for their continued support in strengthening the country's economy. She emphasised that in today's technological age, the department closely monitors every taxpayer. Revenue generated from income tax is utilised by the government to provide better public facilities. She noted that 19% of the government's revenue comes from income tax, and 17% from corporate tax, underscoring the significant contribution of the Income Tax department and taxpayers to government receipts.

Budget gives full focus on UP: Arun Singh

PNS ■ VARANASI

Reacting sharply to the continuous attacks of the opposition for adopting a "biased" approach towards states like Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, Bharatiya Janata Party national general secretary and Rajya Sabha member Arun Singh defended the recently presented Union Budget, saying that it gave equal focus on entire Uttar Pradesh, including Purvanchal (eastern UP). Talking to reporters at BJP's city office at Gulab Bagh here on Saturday, Singh said that in the Budget, Rs 2.44 lakh crore had been allocated for the development of UP and this budget would make significant progress in the fields of infrastructure, industry and energy in the state.

"The loan guarantee scheme in the budget will give life to 20 lakh units in UP by preparing 22 lakh new entrepreneurs," he said, adding that in the announcement of upgrading 1,000 ITIs, about 100 ITIs of UP were expected to be upgraded, which would benefit 3.5 lakh youth and provide internship to two lakh youth in UP. Not only this, the BJP leader said that in the field of infrastructure, about Rs 40,000 crore was expected to be received in the current financial year for highways in UP, which would get 10 new national highways. "Besides, under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, 2,000 new roads will be constructed in the rural areas of the state and two to three new industrial parks are expected to be built in UP out of 12 in the country," he said.



BJP general secretary Arun Singh addressing mediapersons in Varanasi on Saturday

Singh said that Rs 19,848 crore had been given for the development of railways in UP. "Three tracks will be built on the 23-km line from Jhansi to Datia. The 19.2-km line from Aunrihar to Sadat in Purvanchal will be doubled. The 22-km railway line from Rudauli to Suhawal will be doubled. A 2-km bypass line will be built in Ayodhya at a cost of Rs 56 crore. A new 29-km broad gauge line will be laid between Etah and Kasganj at a cost of Rs 389 crore. A 6-km chord line connecting Didarganj-Shahganj-Bilwai Halt will be laid with Rs 137 crore and a 2-km chord line connecting Muftiganj-Jaunpur-Mahagan Halt will be laid at a cost of Rs 76 crore," he said. Apart from this, he said that

three tracks would be laid on the 6-km line from Varanasi to Shivpur at a cost of Rs 76 crore and a new 53-km railway line between Anandnagar and Ghughuli at a cost of Rs 958 crore apart from doubling of 96-km line from Gorakhpur Cantonment to Valmiki Nagar at a cost of Rs 1,121 crore and 102-km line from Chopan to Chunar at a cost of Rs 1,424 crore. The MP further said that Rs 11,500 crore had been allocated to UP instead of the expected Rs 7,000 crore for Central government schemes and Rs 96,000 crore for centrally sponsored schemes instead of the expected Rs 90,000 crore. "After Congress government in 2014, there has been a total increase of 113.40 per cent in tax devolution to UP and

100.62 per cent increase in assistance from the Government of India. During 2019-2024, there has been a total increase of 44 per cent in tax devolution and 75 per cent increase in assistance by the Government of India," Singh said. He added that in 2009-2014, when the Congress government was in power, UP was given Rs 23,136 crore by the Finance Commission. At the same time, after the BJP government came to power in 2014-2019, this amount increased to Rs 42,378 crore, which is an increase of 83 per cent. Apart from this, during the tenure of the BJP government during 2019-2024, this amount increased to Rs 68,515.6 crore, he added.

Plantation, cleanliness drive mark CRPF Raising Day

PNS ■ VARANASI

On the occasion of 86th Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), plantation and cleanliness campaigns were taken up apart from other programmes in the campus of the 95th CRPF Battalion headquarters here on Saturday under the guidance of Commandant Rajeshwar Balapurkar. The chief guest of the plantation programme was president of Srijan Samaj Vikas Nyas and Brand Ambassador of Ganga Haritimaan Abhiyan, Anil Singh, and the special guest was vice-president of Srijan, Madan Ram Chaurasia. The CRPF officers and personnel planted trees in large numbers. Before this, a cleanliness drive was also run in the campus and a message of cleanliness was given by taking out a public awareness rally.



headquarters campus by running a cleanliness campaign. After this, fruit-bearing, shady and beneficial plants were planted. On the occasion, various types of inter-group games were organised. For dinner, a big meal was arranged for the personnel of all the groups. Later, in the night colourful cultural programmes were also

organised for entertainment. Deputy Commandants Navneet Kumar and Umakant Ojha, Assistant Commandants Abhishek Kumar Singh, Virendra Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, Inspector Prince Singh and all the officers and personnel of the battalion participated enthusiastically in the programme.

Youth attacked with knife for objecting to public urination

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Panic gripped Katka Bazaar in Karchana police station area, Meja, when a youth was allegedly attacked with a knife by another youth after being objected to urinating in front of a shop. Following an investigation based on the victim's complaint, the police registered a case, but the accused remains at large.

Pintu Nishad, son of Jawahar Lal Nishad, runs a cosmetic shop in Katka Bazaar. Once while Pintu and his friend Shamsheer Kumar were at the shop, Akash Gautam from the same village began urinating in front of the shop. Pintu objected, leading to a furious reaction from Akash, who started abusing him. After initially leaving, Akash returned with a friend and allegedly stabbed Pintu in the stomach. When Shamsheer intervened, Akash allegedly injured his hand with the knife before fleeing the scene.

Both injured youths were taken to a nearby private hospital for treatment after their families

informed local police. Bhirpur police outpost-in-charge Amit Kumar Singh confirmed the veracity of the complaint, and a case was registered in this regard.

In another incident, a DCM driver was killed and a truck driver critically injured when both vehicles collided head-on on the Bhati overbridge under Handia Kotwali, Prayagraj. The accident occurred late on Friday night, drawing a crowd of onlookers who informed police.

The police reached the scene and transported the seriously injured drivers to the Upardahan Community Health Centre, where one was declared dead, and the other was referred to the district hospital in critical condition.

As per reports, truck driver Ankit Pal was heading towards Varanasi when his vehicle collided with a speeding DCM coming from the opposite direction. The collision severely injured both drivers. The deceased was identified as DCM driver Akash from Faridabad. The police sent the body for autopsy.

IM-BHU organises panel discussion on budget

PNS ■ VARANASI

Student Well-Being Initiative Committee of the Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (IM-BHU) organised a panel discussion on Union Budget 2024.

In the discussion, carpet manufacturer Ravi Pataudiya, stock exchange expert Chandra Shekhar Kabra and BHU assistant professor Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh accepted that investment in health, education, and MSME sectors should be the national priority, and this will come from policy initiatives.

Retired general manager of SBI, Shekhar Srivastava, chartered accountant Satish Jain and Saurabh Srivastava from Stockholding Corporation stressed upon the fact that the dream of 5-trillion-dollar economy should not be based on stock market performance, but it should be led by the growth of the manufacturing sector. The panel members provided different perspectives on the impact of tax rates on high net worth individuals (HNIs) and the middle class.

Dean, Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), BHU, Prof SK Dubey, welcomed experts from



industry and academia for comprehensive discussions on the nation's fiscal policies and economic strategies. Prof HP Mathur felicitated the experts by presenting them mementoes. The Budget Session was moderated by Prof Amit Gautam of IM-BHU who also provided invaluable insights into the current economic landscape and the highlights on the recent Budget. The session fostered a deeper understanding of the valuable points of the Budget, fiscal policies and their implications on various sectors of the economy. Students from MBA and MBA (International Business) participated in the session by providing an overview on various aspects of the Budget including areas like agriculture, employment, women empowerment,

energy conservation, infrastructure, urban development, R&D, and taxation. The participants had the opportunity to network with industry leaders, gain insights into the implications of the Budget, and explore the potential impacts of fiscal policies on the economy. Student advisor and chairperson of Student Well-Being Committee, Dr Shashi Srivastava, along with the committee members Dr Vishal Kumar Laheri, Dr Ram Shankar Araon, and Dr Abhijeet Biswas of the IM-BHU organised the panel discussion. Dr Ashutosh Mohan, Dr Anurag Singh, Dr Anindita Chakraborty, Dr Rajkiran Prabhakar, Dr Harsh Pradhan, Dr Arun Kumar Deshmukh and others also expressed their views.

Control room for online monitoring of classrooms opens

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The system of online monitoring of studies in government secondary schools has now commenced. On Saturday, Director of Secondary Education Mahendra Dev inaugurated the control room at the JD office. He emphasised the brilliance of children and the need for proper guidance to ensure they do not lack any skills. To address this, the online monitoring system has been introduced, requiring cooperation from parents and teachers. Retired teachers will also be encouraged to come and teach.

Dev praised the efforts made in the Prayagraj division and expressed intentions to implement this system across the entire state. He said that he would personally take feedback on the control room to ensure effectiveness, aiming for all schools to be under camera surveillance.

With 2,300 government schools in the state, the same arrangement will be applied to all. This initiative has begun in government secondary schools in the Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, and Fatehpur dis-

tricts. The initiative was spearheaded by Joint Director of Education, Prayagraj Division, Dibyakant Shukla. The primary aim of this system is to enhance the quality of education in secondary schools by connecting classrooms through the IP addresses of installed CCTV cameras.

The monitoring team will oversee the schools directly, with Shukla himself involved in the monitoring process. Previously, Shukla implemented a similar arrangement for exams while serving as the UP Board secretary. During that time, exams were monitored through CCTV cameras at all centres, with a control room established at the UP Board headquarters. A dedicated team continually monitored both the exam room and the strong room, leading to a successful and copy-free exams. Now, the same strategy is being applied to classrooms.

DIOS of all four districts have been instructed by Shukla to ensure no negligence in implementing this system. Initially, this experiment will commence in government schools, with plans to extend monitoring to other schools subsequently.

DM holds chaupal at PM-adopted Nagepur village

PNS ■ VARANASI

Varanasi (PNS): District Magistrate S Rajalingam held a chaupal at Nagepur village adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Araziline development block of his Varanasi parliamentary constituency under Adarsh Sansad Gram Yojana and enquired about the problems of the villagers. He directed the officers present in the chaupal to get the complaints of people resolved soon. The DM also got the development works verified in the village and wherever the flaws were found, he directed to get them rectified immediately. The villagers put forth problems related to various departments before the DM, on which he sought answers from the officials concerned and directed them to resolve the same soon. "If any employee or officer is negligent in solving the problems of the public, then action will be taken against such person," he said. In the chaupal, the works related to ration distribution, housing, Kisan Samman Nidhi, revenue, old age pension, Anganwadi, clean toilet, Ayushman card, widow and disabled pensions, drinking water scheme, road, Ujjwala Yojana, Bal Seva Yojana, Kanya Samangala Yojana etc were verified.

NER DRM inspects KV Exp train at Banaras station



DRM VK Srivastava inspecting Kashi Vishwanath Express at Banaras station

PNS ■ VARANASI

North Eastern Railway's Divisional Railway Manager of Varanasi Division, Vineet Kumar Srivastava, made a surprise inspection of train number 15127 Banaras-New Delhi Kashi Vishwanath Express at platform number 6 of Banaras railway station here on Friday. He was accompanied by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Anubhav Pathak, Divisional Operations Manager

Ratandeep Gupta, Coaching Depot Officer (Banaras) Vineet Ranjan Singh and others. During his surprise inspection of Kashi Vishwanath Express, the DRM first inspected the availability of water in general and sleeper coaches, water refilling, cleanliness of toilets, cleanliness of coach surface and seats and found everything smooth. In this regard, he directly communicated with the passengers and took cognisance of the facilities available to them in the train

and was satisfied after getting satisfactory answers from the passengers.

After this, Srivastava inspected the water, toilets, cleanliness of the coaches and the linen (pillows, bed sheets, blankets and towels) and OBHS staff in the AC third class and second class coaches respectively. Along with this, he directly interacted with the passengers travelling in the AC coaches and asked about the difficulties in the amenities provided but no passenger reported any problem.

Then the DRM came out of the train and checked the quality of maintenance of vacuum brakes, wheelbase and clamps to assess the safety of Kashi Vishwanath Express and gave instructions to the concerned. He gave instructions regarding ensuring proper passenger amenities in Kashi Vishwanath Express along with uninterrupted supply of water and cleanliness in the toilets and washbasins of the train.

Before this, Srivastava inspected the mechanical office located on platform number 8 of Banaras station and administered cleanliness oath to OBHS staff.

GM, retiring staff plant saplings in BLW



Varanasi (PNS): Under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Lagao' campaign in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), General Manager Abhay Bakre along with 12 employees retiring in the month of July, planted saplings on the BLW campus. The purpose of the initiative was to create a sense of dedication among the employees towards the environment and to promote environmental green cover in the premises of this leading production unit of Indian Railways. Speaking on the occasion, the GM Abhay Bakre stated that just as mother has an important contribution in every person's

life, in the same way we can show our love towards the environment by planting saplings with a sense of dedication. "Tree plantation is not only beneficial for the environment, but it also makes our life prosperous and happy," he said. The GM also motivated all the retiring employees as well as other officers and personnel to play an active role in environmental protection. He enquired about the well-being of the retiring employees and learned about the work done by them during the railway service. All these 12 employees will retire on the last working day of the month.

Emergency a dark period: Dhankhar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing Emergency as a "painful, dark" period, Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said if that period is ignored, the Parliament has done well. Addressing new MPs of the Rajya Sabha at an orientation programme here, Dhankhar said, "There has been only one painful, heart wrenching dark period and that was when Emergency was declared." During the period, the Constitution was reduced to just a paper, he said. "It was shredded and leaders were jailed. MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) became a draconian word. One of the senior politicians of the country, Lalul Prasad Yadav, was so moved and touched by the atrocities of the Emergency that he named his child Misa," he said. Misa Bharti was a member of Rajya Sabha and is currently a Lok Sabha MP. "That was the sentiment. If we ignore that dark period, our parliament



has performed very well. It has done excellently," Dhankhar told the new RS MPs. He also lauded the members of Parliament, saying they have contributed to the growth of the nation. He said undignified behaviour during House proceedings to score a political point is a blow to the spirit of democracy. He also lamented that members these days are not willing to listen to the views of others. "You are free to disagree with the views of others. To ignore the other point of view is not part of parliamentary practice," Dhankhar told new Rajya Sabha members at an orientation programme. He said some members try to



find space in newspapers, give media statements immediately after leaving the House and use social media to grab eyeballs. "Members come a minute before their speech and leave immediately. Your presence is not there that you adopt a hit-and-run strategy," he said. Dhankhar said Parliament has been a citadel of constitution-

al values and liberties. At times, there have been issues, but House leaders have shown the way using wisdom, he added. "But the situation now is worrisome. Undignified behaviour is being used as a political weapon, which is a blow to the spirit of democracy," he told the members.

Modi, Shah laud CRPF role on raising day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday praised the role of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the occasion of its raising day. Modi lauded the CRPF's unwavering dedication and relentless service to the nation on the force's raising day on Saturday. The CRPF is the country's largest organisation of its kind under the Union Government and is primarily engaged in counter-insurgency work in coordination with states. It is the country's premier central police force, entrusted with maintaining internal security. It was originally established as the Crown Representative's Police on July 27, 1939. "My greetings to all CRPF personnel," Modi said in a social media post. "Their unwavering dedication and relentless service to the nation are truly



commendable. They have always stood for the highest standards of courage and commitment. Their role in keeping our nation safe is also paramount," the prime minister added in the post. Home Minister Shah greeted CRPF personnel and their families on the occasion of the force's raising day, saying its brave soldiers exerted all their might for National security without ever caring for their lives and emerged victorious every time.

"Greetings to CRPF personnel and their family members on their Raising Day. Since its inception, the @crpfIndia has taken National security as its mission," Shah said in a social media post. "The brave soldiers of the force have exerted all their might to accomplish this goal without ever caring for their lives and have emerged victorious every time. I bow to the martyrs of the CRPF who laid down their lives in the line of duty," he added.

Treatment meted out to Mamata unacceptable, says Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said the treatment meted out to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a NITI Aayog meeting here was "unacceptable". The Opposition party's scathing criticism of the Government think tank came after Banerjee walked out of the 9th Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog, claiming she was unfairly stopped midway through her speech. The Government rejected Banerjee's charges, saying the time allotted to her for speaking at the meeting was over. The Congress alleged the Niti Aayog has functioned as a "drumbeater" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was chairing the meeting, since it was set up 10 years ago. The meeting was boycotted by



Congress party Chief Ministers over alleged discrimination against non-NDA-ruled states in the Union Budget. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Since it was established ten years ago, NITI Aayog has been an attached office of the PMO and has functioned as a drumbeater for the non-biological PM." It has not advanced the cause of cooperative federalism in any manner, he said.

"Its functioning has been blatantly partisan, and it is anything but professional and independent," Ramesh alleged. "It muzzles all divergent and dissenting viewpoints, which are the very essence of an open democracy. Its meetings are a farce to be reckoned with." Its treatment of the West Bengal CM today, although typical of the NITI Aayog, is "unacceptable", Ramesh said in a social media post.

Hepatitis B leads to severe illness, deaths due to liver cancer: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite being preventable and treatable, chronic hepatitis B and C have respectively afflicted approximately 40 million and 6 to 12 million people in India with specific regions, including Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and several tribal belt areas showing notably higher prevalence rates, experts said on the eve of the World Hepatitis Day on Saturday. These chronic infections, particularly hepatitis B, are leading to severe illnesses and deaths due to liver cancer, cirrhosis, and liver failure. The WHO 2024 Global Hepatitis Report highlights India as one of the nations with the highest global burden of hepatitis B and C. In Southeast Asia, almost 75 per cent of liver cirrhosis cases are attributed to hepatitis B and C infections, according to the WHO. On the eve of World

Hepatitis Day, the WHO issued a critical call for Southeast Asian countries to intensify their efforts in providing universal access to the prevention, vaccination, diagnosis, and treatment of viral hepatitis B and C. Dr Saima Wazed, the WHO's Regional Director for Southeast Asia, stressed the urgency, stating, "We have the knowledge and tools to prevent, diagnose, and treat viral hepatitis, yet people with chronic hepatitis B and C are still waiting to access the services they need. We need to accelerate efforts to deliver equitable services closer to communities, at the primary healthcare level." In India, Dr Apurva Pande, consultant in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department at Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, highlighted the local situation, saying, "Hepatitis B and C are among the most com-



mon infections in India. During our clinical practice, we see a considerable number of cases from our district and surrounding areas. Especially during the monsoon season, cases of hepatitis A and E rise due to contaminated food and water." Dr Pande said hepatitis B infection is more prevalent in regions such as Ladakh (12.7 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh

(21.2 per cent), and the Nicobar Islands (23.3 per cent), including the Shompens (37.8 per cent) and Jarwa (65 per cent) tribal communities. Conversely, hepatitis C is more widespread in northeastern India, among tribal populations, and in Punjab. Dr Praveen Kumar, CEO of Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, pointed out that "Symptoms of hepatitis can include fatigue,

fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin). If you experience any of these symptoms, it is crucial to consult a doctor." Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin, Director and Chancellor of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in Delhi, emphasised the importance of hepatitis prevention and combating associated stigma. "The theme for this year, 'It's Time for Action', underscores the urgent need for enhanced prevention, diagnosis, and treatment strategies," he stated. The institute also organised events aimed to educate school children about hepatitis and its prevention. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus — types A, B, C, D, and E. While they all cause liver disease, they differ in transmission modes, illness severity, geographical distribution, and prevention methods.



Bengal CM's act at NITI Aayog meet planned: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP took a swipe at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for walking out of a NITI Aayog meeting here on Saturday, and said it was premeditated and aimed at grabbing headlines. BJP General Secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh said, "It is very easy to grab headlines in our country. First, tell I am the only 'Opposition CM' attending Niti Aayog meeting. Come out & tell 'I boycotted since mic was switched off'. Now whole day TVs will display the same. No work. No discussion. That's Didi to you." Banerjee walked out of the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that she was unfairly stopped midway in her speech, despite being the sole representative of the opposition. The Government, however, rejected her claim and said her speaking time was over. The BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya alleged that Banerjee's walkout from the meeting was premeditated and for the cameras. In a social media post, he said: "It is sad to see a Chief Minister reduce serious issues of governance to theatrics. People of West Bengal are suffering as a consequence of her confrontational politics." Malviya also posted a journalist's comments prior to the meeting that there is a view that chief ministers like Banerjee and Hemant Soren, both from the Opposition camp, may walk out.

SC to hear ED plea challenging HC's order granting bail to CM Hemant Soren

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 29 an Enforcement Directorate plea challenging the Jharkhand High Court's order granting bail to Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan is scheduled to hear the federal agency's plea against the June 28 order of the high court. Soren, the Executive President of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), had resigned as Chief Minister shortly before the ED arrested him on January 31 in the case. After coming out of jail on bail in the case, he took oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on July 4. Earlier during the hearing in the high court, the ED's counsel had argued that if Soren was released on bail, he might commit a similar offence and referred to cases against ED officers in the SC/ST police station.



"Though the conduct of the petitioner has been sought to be highlighted by the Enforcement Directorate on account of the First Information Report instituted by the petitioner against the officials of the ED, but on an overall conspectus of the case, there is no likelihood of the petitioner committing a

similar nature of offence," the high court had said. The single-bench order had also mentioned that the consequence of the findings recorded by the court "satisfies the condition as at section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 to the effect that there is reason

to believe that the petitioner is not guilty of the offence as alleged". Soren's lawyer had argued strongly for his bail, contending that he was falsely implicated in a criminal case by the central agency. The ED, opposing Soren's bail plea, had alleged that he misused his position as the Chief Minister to "unlawfully" acquire 8.86 acres of land in the Bargain area in the state capital. The agency had claimed that during the probe, Soren's media consultant Abhishek Prasad admitted that the JMM leader instructed him to manipulate official records to change the ownership details of the plot. The ED had also claimed that the original owner of the land, Raj Kumar Pahan, had tried to lodge a complaint when his land was usurped but it was never acted upon. Soren had been summoned multiple times by the ED before he was questioned at his residence and subsequently arrested on January 31.

Modi meets CMs of BJP-ruled States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held deliberations with chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of BJP-ruled states over a host of issues. The "mukhyamantri parishad" organised by the BJP at regular intervals is aimed at reviewing key schemes in states, following the best governance practices and the delivery of central government welfare initiatives. Besides Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah and J P Nadda, who is also the party president, chief ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Bhajanlal Sharma (Rajasthan) and Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha) were among the leaders who attended the first day of the two-day meeting here. Chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Manipur and Chhattisgarh were also part of the deliberations. The leaders at times also take stock of the political situation. The meeting includes two sessions where BJP leaders will discuss the Lok Sabha election results. The agenda of the meeting include analysis of the 2024 Lok Sabha results to identify areas to be improved, strategy for the upcoming assembly polls and implementation of the states and centre's schemes at ground level.

Mamata...

From Page 1 Mamata said she mentioned during the meeting that the BJP-led Centre presented a politically-biased Budget and asked why it was discriminating among States. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin came out in support of his West Bengal counterpart. Opposition parties have alleged that the States ruled by them have been ignored in the Union Budget presented recently in the Lok Sabha. Chief Ministers of the INDIA Bloc -- Stalin (DMK), Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (CPI-M), Punjab's Bhagwant Mann (Aam Aadmi Party), Congress's Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh) and Revanth Reddy (Telangana), and Jharkhand's Hemant Soren (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha) -- skipped the NITI Aayog meeting. The cause for Bihar CM's absence from the crucial meeting could not be known immediately and the State was represented by Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha. Kumar, who after the Centre's announcement of the decline of Special Status Category quipped last week that all will

know everything "slowly-slowly", chaired a meeting of his party at his official residence. The meeting was attended by JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, among others. In his address to the ninth Governing Council meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, Modi called upon the States to take advantage of technological and geo-political changes to make India a developed nation by 2047. He also asked the States to make policies which are conducive for attracting international investments. NITI Aayog in a series of social media posts said the Prime Minister emphasised the need to make India a developed nation by 2047 and states can play an active role in achieving this aim as they are directly connected with the people. "Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is the ambition of every Indian. States can play an active role to achieve this aim as they are directly connected with the people," NITI Aayog said in a post on X quoting Modi. Modi further said this decade is of technological and geo-political changes, and also of opportunities.

Indian astronaut will travel to International Space Station

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One of the four Indian astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha. In a written reply, Singh said NASA has identified a private entity Axiom Space and ISRO had signed a Space Flight Agreement with the American firm for the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS). During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US last year, President Joe Biden announced that India and the US were collaborating to send an Indian astronaut to the ISS in 2024. India's Astronaut Selection Board had selected four astronauts from the group of test pilots from the Indian Air



Force for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first human space flight planned to take place next year. "All four astronauts have undergone training on a spaceflight basic module in Russia. Currently, astronauts are undergoing training at ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan Mission," Singh said. The minister said two out of three semesters of the Gaganyatri training programme have been completed while independent training simulators and static mockup simulators have been realised. Sharing an update on the Gaganyaan mission, Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid,

liquid and cryogenic engine, towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed. Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has been completed, he said. The Union minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the first Test Vehicle mission (TV-D1) for performance validation of crew escape system and parachute deployment has been successfully accomplished, he added. Singh said designs of the crew module and service module structure have been completed and various parachute systems have been tested through integrated main parachute airdrop test and rail track rocket sled tests. The ground test programme towards human rating of the Crew Module Propulsion System has been completed and the Service Module

Propulsion System test programme is nearing completion, the minister told Lok Sabha. He said characterisation of the Thermal Protection System has been completed. Critical ground facilities such as Orbital Module Preparation Facility (OMPF), Astronaut Training Facility (ATF) and Oxygen Testing Facility have been operationalised and works on the Mission Control Centre (MCC) facilities and establishment of Ground Station networks were nearing completion, Singh said. The minister said solid and liquid propulsion stages of human-rated launch vehicle was ready for flight integration and the C32 cryogenic stage was nearing completion. The crew module and service module structure realisation has been completed and flight integration activities were in progress, he added.

Israeli airstrike hits school in Gaza, killing at least 30

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli airstrikes hit a school and a hospital in central Gaza on Saturday as the country's negotiators prepared to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed cease-fire.

the country's negotiators prepare to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed cease-fire. The evacuation order is in response to rocket fire that Israel said originated from the area.

and Egyptian spy chief Abbas Kamel on Sunday, according to officials from the US and Egypt who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to discuss the plans.

Israel's punishing air and ground campaign. In November, the military said the area could still be struck and that it was "not a safe zone, but it is a safer place than any other" in Gaza.

Kamala Harris officially declares candidature for US presidency

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday officially signed her forms, declaring her candidacy for the post of President of the US and voiced confidence that she would win the high-stakes election on November 5.

tial campaign last Sunday, hours after President Joe Biden, 81, withdrew from the race for a second term. She is, however, yet to be officially declared as the presidential candidate by the Democrats.



Democrats will officially nominate her for president during a virtual roll call vote early next month.

select a running mate. The party will meet for its convention in Chicago starting August 19. Harris, who was a senator from California before she was elected vice president, quickly hit the campaign trail with events in Wisconsin, Indiana and Texas.

Orban warns of EU's demise, backs Trump in anti-Western speech

AP ■ BAILE TUSNAD (ROMANIA)

Hungary's nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday that the European Union was sliding toward oblivion in a rambling anti-Western speech in which he warned of a new, Asia-oriented "world order" while throwing his support for Donald Trump's US presidential bid.

Ukraine. Orban is widely considered to have the warmest relations with the Kremlin among all EU leaders. On Ukraine, Orban cast doubt on the war-torn country becoming either a member of NATO or the EU.

nationalist liberal state to a nation-state" and reshaped a slew of conservative tropes that Trump is being penalised unfairly to prevent his electoral bid. "That is why they want to put him in prison. That's why they want to take away his assets.

Jamaat-e-Islami protest against power price, tax hike continues

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Saturday vowed to continue its protest in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as the party's sit-in entered the second day to press the government to reduce electricity price and taxes on the salaried class.

Trump continues to target Harris

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris will be the "most extreme radical liberal president in American history" if she is elected, Donald Trump has said, as he intensified his attacks on his Democratic rival in the presidential polls in November.

administration with millions of people crossing, and she was the border czar," Trump said in a speech at Turning Point USA's "The Believers Summit," in West Palm Beach, Florida.

San Francisco — a liberal city long used as shorthand for conservatives eager to denigrate Democrats. "Our task is to defeat socialism, to defeat Marxism, communism, to defeat the cartels and the criminals and the human traffickers, trafficking women. That means defeating Kamala Harris in a landslide. We want a landslide this November. We want something too big to rig," he said.

and bloodthirsty rapists and drug dealers charge across our borders by the tens of thousands a day. I will throw the killers, criminals, and illegal aliens and gang members the hell out of our country," he said.

Morari Bapu to recite Ram Katha at United Nations

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian spiritual leader Morari Bapu will recite Ram Katha for the first time at the UN headquarters in New York to spread the timeless relevance of the Ramcharitmanas, one of the most revered Hindu scriptures.

Mexican kingpin's arrest likely to set off violent power struggle

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

A new era is coming for Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel in the wake of the capture by US authorities of Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, the last of the grand old Mexican drug traffickers.

operator, skilled at corrupting officials and having an ability to negotiate with everyone, including rivals. Removing him from the criminal landscape could set off an internal war for control of the cartel that has a global reach — as has occurred with the arrest or killings of other kingpins — and open the door to the more violent inclinations of a younger generation of Sinaloa traffickers, experts say.

There is "significant potential for high escalation of violence across Mexico," said Vanda Felbab-Brown, a senior fellow in the Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy and Technology at the Brookings Institution. "That is bad for Mexico, it's bad for the United States, as well as the possibility that the even more vicious (Jalisco New Generation cartel) will rise to even greater importance."

US, China air global differences

AP ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)

The United States and China on Saturday renewed their mutual grievances as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Chinese counterpart held their sixth meeting since last year amid an uncertain political situation in the US and growing concerns about China's increasing assertiveness in Asia and elsewhere.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met for roughly an hour and 20 minutes on the sidelines of an annual Southeast Asian regional security forum in Vientiane, Laos, at which tensions between China and US ally Philippines over disputes in the South China Sea were a prime focus of discussion.

tals in Europe believe Russia is using to ramp up the production of weapons for use in its war against Ukraine. Blinken "made clear that if (China) does not act to address this threat to European security, the United States will continue to take appropriate measures to do so," Miller said. Since that warning was first issued more than a year ago, the US and others have imposed sanctions on more than 300 Russian and Chinese firms engaged in the trade.

TikTok collected US user views on issues like abortion, gun control

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In a fresh broadside against one of the world's most popular technology companies, the Justice Department late Friday accused TikTok of harnessing the capability to gather bulk information on users based on views on divisive social issues like gun control, abortion and religion.

Government lawyers wrote in a brief filed to the federal appeals court in Washington that TikTok and its Beijing-based parent company ByteDance used an internal website system called Lark to enable TikTok employees to speak directly with ByteDance engineers in China. TikTok employees used Lark to send sensitive data about US users, information that has wound up being stored on Chinese servers and accessible to ByteDance employees in China, federal officials said.

more than 170 million Americans. Under a law signed by President Joe Biden in April, the company could face a ban in a few months if it doesn't break ties with ByteDance. The measure was passed with bipartisan support after lawmakers and administration officials expressed concerns that Chinese authorities could force ByteDance to hand over US user data or sway public opinion towards Beijing's interests by manipulating the algorithm that populates users' feeds.

to covertly manipulate that algorithm; China could for example further its existing malign influence operations and amplify its efforts to undermine trust in our democracy and exacerbate social divisions," the brief states. The concern, they said, is more than theoretical, alleging that TikTok and ByteDance employees are known to engage in a practice called "heating" in which certain videos are promoted in order to receive a certain number of views. While this capability enables TikTok to curate popular content and disseminate it more widely, US officials posit it can also be used for nefarious purposes.

accessible to the two companies. Nothing in the redacted brief "changes the fact that the Constitution is on our side," TikTok spokesperson Alex Haurek said in a statement. "The TikTok ban would silence 170 million Americans' voices, violating the 1st Amendment," Haurek said. "As we've said before, the government has never put forth proof of its claims, including when Congress passed this unconstitutional law. Today, once again, the government is taking this unprecedented step while hiding behind secret information. We remain confident we will prevail in court."

of certain words. Certain policies of the tool applied to ByteDance users in China, where the company operates a similar app called Douyin that follows Beijing's strict censorship rules. But Justice Department officials said other policies may have been applied to TikTok users outside of China. TikTok was investigating the existence of these policies and whether they had ever been used in the US in, or around, 2022, officials said. The government points to the Lark data transfers to explain why federal officials do not believe that Project Texas, TikTok's USD 1.5 billion mitigation plan to store US user data on servers owned and maintained by the tech giant Oracle, is sufficient to guard against national security concerns.

INDIAN ARCHERS AIM TO END 36-YEAR WAIT FOR OLYMPIC MEDAL

PTI ■ PARIS

Bolstered by their best-ever show in the ranking rounds, Indian archers will look to end a 36-year-long wait for an Olympic medal with yet another good show in the medal rounds that will get underway with the women's finals here on Sunday. India archery fraternity can hope for multiple medals from the historic Les Invalides arena following Dhiraj Bommadevara (seeded fourth) and Ankita Bhakat's (11th) exploits in the qualifiers. For the first time after 12 years, India have a full six-member contingent as they vie for medals in all the five categories -- mixed team, men's and women's team, and individual events. Having seeded straight to the quarters, the men's and women's teams need two wins to land a historic first Olympic medal in archery since their debut in the 1988 Seoul Games. India, who have never crossed the quarterfinal hurdles in the Olympics, mostly falling to archery powerhouse South Korea, will avoid their

'nemesis' first up. While the men's team can avoid them till the gold medal clash, the women's may head into Korea in the semifinals. India will take on the winners of France and the Netherlands in women's team quarterfinals on Sunday. Shooting in front of home support, France, who were ranked fifth in the qualifiers, will be the overwhelming favourites to be India's quarterfinal opponents. All eyes would be on the trio of Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Deepika Kumari and how they soak in the pressure in front of a partisan crowd. The Indian women's team seemed to be ahead of the French rivals, having shot 1983 with an average of 9.18 compared to the hosts' 1972 (at 9.13). France's Lisa Barbelin, Amelie Cordeau and Caroline Lopez are also familiar rivals for the Indians, having defeated them 3-2 in a friendly match at their preparatory camp in Jaux, 80kms north of Paris. It was in Paris at the World Cup Stage 3 in 2021, the Indian women's team had defeated France in the semifinal en



route to winning a gold. Ankita and Deepika were part of the gold medal-winning Indian team with Bhajan replacing Komalika Bari here and they may take inspiration from that match three years ago. India's most experienced

woman archer Deepika, the former world No 1, had her worst ranking round from four Olympics, finishing lowly 23rd. She struggled to get her 10s, managing just 28 perfect scores from 72 arrows and landed her arrows in the five and six rings

on two occasions. Deepika will once again play the role of a finisher and it will all boil down to how she brings her best in the crunch moment. She has won a World Cup silver this year in Shanghai, making an incredible

comeback less than 18 months after becoming mother. If the women's trio manage to get going as a team then there would be no stopping them for a medal. **MEN'S TEAM MOST FANCIED:** Games debutant Dhiraj's red-hot form and the

combined five-Olympics appearance of Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav, who was in Tokyo too, makes the Indian men's team the most fancied to win a medal. The men's finals is scheduled on Monday. In Shanghai World Cup, they had achieved a historical feat of upsetting the Koreans for the first time to win a gold. Ranked third in the qualification round, India may face Turkey in the quarterfinals. The two teams have not met in the recent past and the challenge would be to conquer an unfamiliar opposition. But for that to happen, sixth seeds Turkey, who boasts of reigning Olympic champion Mete Gazoz, will have to first need to get past 11th ranked Colombia in the pre-quarters. The qualification round average arrow score for the men's team is an impressive 9.32 -- only Korea (9.49) and France (9.38) scored higher than them. As far as Turkey are concerned they have not done well as a team and India should sail past them without much fuss. France, who will take on the winners of Italy and

Kazakhstan, the two lowly-ranked teams, are likely to be India's semifinal opposition if they manage to overcome Turkey. India are seeded fifth as a mixed team where Ankita will partner Dhiraj and they will face an easy opening round against Indonesia who are seeded a lowly 12th. They are in the same pool with China and Korea, who might be their potential quarterfinal and semifinal opponents respectively, should they progress. Mixed team finals are slated on August 2. **DHIRAJ, DEEPIKA DARKHORSES:** In peak form, Dhiraj will also hope to make it count in the individual rounds, where Deepika could also throw some surprises. Dhiraj botched up his release twice in the quarters to return empty-handed from the Asian Games individual event and he would look to overcome the disappointment. The individual elimination round will be held between Tuesday and Thursday, followed by the women's finals on August 3 and men's final on August 4.



China wins first diving gold

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

One down. Seven to go. China won its first gold medal in diving on Saturday on the first full day of competition in the Paris Olympics, a perfect start for the team of Chang Yani and Chen Yiwen. China has ruled diving for decades, and three years ago in Tokyo, it won seven of eight gold medals. But, it's never pulled off the elusive gold sweep. That's the goal this time. The Chinese were first on Saturday in the women's synchronized 3-meter springboard with 337.68 points on five dives. They were followed by Sarah Bacon and Cassidy Cook of the United States with 314.64 points and the British team of Yasmin Harper and Scarlett Mew Jensen with bronze and 302.28 points. The same Chinese duo also

won gold in the last three world championships and were heavy favourites going in. The crowd, heavy with Chinese fans and flags, chanted "jiayou" - roughly translated "let's go" - each time the Chinese walked out to dive. This event was added in 2000, and Chinese women have won gold six times in seven Games. The only loss was to Russia in 2000. China won three years ago in Tokyo with Shi Tingmao and Wang Han. Starting with the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where China claimed its first diving gold, it had won 47 of 64 gold medals in diving. Add to that 23 silver and 10 bronze. If you start counting from the 2008 Beijing Olympics, China won 27 of 32 gold at the Olympics. These are the numbers before Paris. Now, add another gold to the total and watch the numbers climb as the Olympics roll on in Paris.

Olympic cyclists criticise streets of Paris

AP ■ PARIS

Remco Evenepoel was unimpressed by the rough roads that Olympic cyclists had to cover in the time trial through Paris on Saturday, while Nino Schurter was just as critical of the gravel covering the man-made mountain bike course in nearby Elancourt. Evenepoel, fresh off his third-place finish in the Tour de France, described the first and last five kilometres of the time trial as bad roads being made worse by the rain, which made for a damp opening ceremony on Friday night and continued into Saturday when the start of skateboarding had to be postponed due to the weather. The time trial began upstream from the Eiffel Tower on the Esplanade. It covered 32.4 kilometres (19.8 miles) past Place de la Bastille and through the Polygone de Vincennes, before finishing at the gilded Pont Alexandre III bridge over the Seine River.



"Quite some beautiful sightseeing as well," Evenepoel acknowledged, "but the road surface is pretty bad in the beginning and in the end. So, that might be a problem if you have black spots in front of your eyes in the last kilometres. It's not so nice." The Belgian is the reigning time trial world champion and won the first of two-time trials during the Tour de France. Meanwhile, at Elancourt Hill about 40 kilometres (24.8 miles) outside of Paris, the Olympic mountain bike course was carved through the site of a former sandstone quarry-turned-landfill.

It was regenerated into a park in the 1980s, and one of the highest points in the region now offers sprawling vistas of the Eiffel Tower, La Defense and the forests around Paris. The course was designed by South African expert Nick Floros, who also designed the mountain bike venue for the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Games, and features man-made jumps and rock gardens with stretches of gravel-covered paths. The women's competition is Sunday and the men cover the same course on Monday. "It's slippery. It's quite loose," said Schurter, a three-time Olympic medalist and the champion in Rio. "If you go fast it's super slippery. I hope the gravel still goes a bit to the side and makes it less loose everywhere. You can feel there was no mountain biking before and it's 100% man-made, like we saw in London and in Rio. "It could be a bit more natural," Schurter acknowledged, "but in general it's nice."



Katie starts Olympic swimming with fastest time in 400 free prelims, just ahead of Titmus

AP ■ NANTERRE (FRANCE)

Katie Ledecky fired the first salvo in her duel with Ariarne Titmus, posting the fastest time in the preliminaries of the women's 400-meter freestyle Saturday as the swimming competition began at the Paris Olympics. In one of the most highly anticipated events of the Games, Ledecky claimed the prime No. 4 lane for the evening final with a time of four minutes, 21.19 seconds. Titmus, the Australian star known as "The Terminator," got off to a fast start but couldn't hold off the hard-charging Ledecky on the final lap. Titmus posted the second-fastest time of the heats in 4:02.46, setting up a side-by-side showdown with the American in the evening final. Titmus is the reigning Olympic champion in the 400 free, knocking off Ledecky at the

Tokyo Games three years ago. The Aussie also holds the world record of 3:55.38 - a sign that she's got a lot left to give in the final. Also, keep an eye on Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh, who should be in the medal mix after going 4:02.65 in the prelims for the fourth-fastest time. She was just behind New Zealand's Erika Fairweather (4:02.55). Tokyo bronze medalist Li Bingjie and Chinese teammate Liu Yaxin finished ninth and 10th, respectively, and failed to advance to the final. Their team has been under intense scrutiny after reports that nearly two dozen swimmers tested positive for a banned substance before the 2021 Olympics, but were not sanctioned. Ledecky is looking to add to her haul of six individual gold medals - already the most by any female swimmer in Olympic history.



Indians fail to qualify for 10m mixed rifle and men's pistol finals

PTI ■ CHATEAUROUX (FRANCE)

Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema sparked in patches but could not make the men's 10m air pistol final after both the air rifle mixed teams also fell by the wayside during qualification in a disappointing start for Indian shooters in the Olympic Games here on Saturday. Sarabjot finished ninth with a total score of 577 in the qualifications while Arjun ended way behind at 18th with 574. Germany's Robin Walter, who also shot 577, grabbed the last (eighth) qualifying spot after managing to shoot one inner 10 (X) more than Sarabjot's 16. A perfect 100 in the fourth series propelled the 22-year-old Sarabjot into the top-three after a poor start but he failed to sustain the momentum and fizzled out.

Cheema shot 10 perfect 10s off his last 10 shots, which lifted him to the fourth position but he too lost the plot after promising much. The 23-year-old Cheema collected 97 points from Series 2 (8, 10, 10, 10, 9, 10, 10, 10, 10) and was placed 10th in the list. He collected 96 points from Series 1. However, a poor 7 followed by a 9 from Cheema saw him slip outside the top eight. Both Cheema and Sarabjot were part of the Indian side that won the 10m air pistol team gold at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last year. **DISAPPOINTMENT IN MIXED RIFLE EVENT:** Earlier in the day, the Indian shooters were eliminated in the 10m air rifle mixed team qualifications stage. Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta finished sixth with a total score

of 628.7, while Elavenil Valarivan and Sandeep Singh ended 12th with an aggregate score of 626.3. The duo of Ramita and Babuta came close and was placed fifth with three shots remaining but fell 1.0 point short of the medal round cut-off. Babuta enjoyed a fine start in the second relay and had a sequence that read 10.5, 10.6, 10.5, 10.9, while Ramita managed 10.2, 10.7, 10.3, 10.1 in the second series. But, to get into the bronze medal round, they needed to do more than what they eventually achieved. Shooters from China, Korea and Kazakhstan dominated the qualifications. China eventually won the first gold medal of the Games in this event after qualifying as the top team for the finals. A side has to get to the top four to enter the medal matches.

American cowbell clanging will be raucous again at Paris Games

AP ■ PARIS

Before Tokyo three years ago, the US Olympic swim coaches pondered how to best support their athletes and help fire them up before a race, given there were no family or friends or fans in the stands. They turned to clanging cowbells. While spectators return to the pool in Paris on Saturday, American women's coach Todd DeSorbo and his staff plan to continue what worked so well - even if it's not popular with the rival Australians or others. Given that most everybody at the pool by now has heard about the Aussies' disdain for the noise, the rivalry could reach new decibels at these Summer Games. Australian star Cate Campbell, who is rarely afraid to speak her mind, referred to the Americans as "such, such sore losers" after Australia won more gold medals at the world championships last year in Fukuoka, Japan, and expressed her disgust with all the cowbells ringing out. "I've never wanted to punch someone more and steal the cowbell, and I really hope that someone did," Campbell said in an interview with Australia's "Today" show last year. You better believe the Americans heard about that and took notice. Michael Phelps hopes Campbell's complaints only provide more motivation for the US, saying, "I would watch that thing every single day, give me that little extra." American Abbey Weitzeil said last month at the U.S. Trials: "We're all



bringing the cowbell. "Whenever comments are made about your country or your jobs, it's all competitive. I think we all are competitive, our competitive side comes out, so we're all bringing the cowbell, extra loud!" DeSorbo didn't realize the motivational tactic would cause an international uproar. "That was an interesting thing," he said. "I think that not having fans in the stands you had to create an environment to help them get excited, to help them get motivated. I do think if you can't get motivated with the opportunity to win an Olympic medal, then I don't know what would motivate you, but the fans and the spectators certainly help. "Being in an environment where we as a coaching staff had to create that

excitement for them, I think probably the cowbells were probably rang louder at that Olympics than ever before because of that. "And, that might be part of why there's a little bit of trash-talking going on back and forth about that because it was really loud in '21 and probably since then it has been." Indeed, the clanging isn't always popular with some athletes from opposing countries. American Hunter Armstrong spoke about the 4x100 freestyle relay foursome chasing a world record in Paris while making sure to point out, "We definitely want that world record, but most importantly we need more cowbell." Campbell shared how thrilled she was not to hear the US national anthem as regularly at worlds last year.

"Australia coming out on top of the world is one thing, but it is just so much sweeter beating America," she said. "There were a couple of nights, particularly the first night of competition, where we did not have to hear Star-Spangled Banner' ring out through the stadium and I cannot tell you how happy that made me. "If I never hear that song again it will be too soon. So, bring on Paris. That's all I have to say, US, stop being sore losers. ... "When we're like right next to each other in the warmup areas, the U.S. Have this infernal cowbell that they ring and as someone leaves to go to the competition pool they ring out USA! USA! and I've never wanted to punch someone more." Turns out, Campbell won't be competing and perhaps not as bothered by those bells at Paris La Defense Arena. Yet, those thoughtful gestures by the U.S. Coaches - no matter how loud - have meant so much to their swimmers. "Since I've been on Team USA, we've always had a lot of pride and interest in our teammates' success. When they go off to the ready room before a race, there's typically a big raucous," Ryan Murphy told The Associated Press. "Whether it's a cowbell, USA chants or a fist bump, we know that we have the whole team behind us when we step up on the blocks." DeSorbo and men's coach Anthony Nesty are bringing along the last two head coaches as key support. Stanford's Greg Meehan on the women's side and University of California-Berkeley men's coach Dave Durden.

In most heated of times, exhale, take a step back: Dravid's message to Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India coach Rahul Dravid passed a lead to his successor Gautam Gambhir in taming the tough situations he is bound to encounter - "exhale, take a step back", a message that left the latter "emotional". Dravid vacated the hot seat after India's triumph in the T20 World Cup in the Americas last month, and Gambhir took over the reins of the team from the on-going whiteball tour to Sri Lanka. "From one Indian cricket coach to another, one last thing. In the most heated of times, exhale, take a step back. I wish you the very best Gautam. I am sure you will take the Indian team to even greater heights," Dravid said in a video posted by BCCI on its 'X' handle. Dravid's dry wit came to the fore even amidst that touching message. "Even if it's difficult for you, crack a smile. Whatever else happens, that will shock people," he said, eliciting a wide smile from Gambhir. Gambhir sounded moved while thanking his predecessor for the wise words. "I don't get too emotional but I think this message actually made me a lot emotional

which normally I shouldn't. But it's a great message. "It's massive shoes that I can hopefully fill. Hopefully, I can do that with absolute honesty, transparency and hopefully, I can make the entire nation and more importantly, the person I have always looked up to - Rahul Bhai - proud," he said. Dravid was certain that Gambhir, who carried a never-say-die attitude in his playing days, will bring his fighting qualities to the coaching job as well. "As your teammate, I saw you giving it your all on the field. As your batting partner and fellow fielder, I saw your resilience and refusal to surrender. Across many IPL seasons, I noted your desire to win, your assistance to younger players and your drive to extract the best out of your team on the field. I know how dedicated and passionate you are about Indian cricket and I am sure you will bring all these qualities into the new job," he said. The 51-year-old, however, offered a word of caution to his one-time teammate about living under constant scrutiny. "As you know, the expectations will be high and the scrutiny will be intense," he said, also



reminding that there will be overwhelming support for him from all quarters. "But even in the worst of times you will never be alone. You will have the support of the players, your support staff, the leaders of the past, the management and never forget for whom you play - for fans who are very demanding but will always be behind the team." Dravid hoped that Gambhir will have a fully-fit squad to work with, and will have the assistance of fortune in crunch moments. "I also hope that you will also have the availability of fully fit players in every squad. Good luck with that. I also wish you a little bit of luck, as you know that all of us coaches need to make us look that little bit wiser and smarter than we actually are," he noted. The former Indian captain also urged Gambhir to forge a strong bond with the team members - something he managed to do during his tenure. "Hello Gautam, and welcome to the most exciting job in our world, as coach of the Indian cricket team. It's been three weeks since I ended my stint with the Indian team in a manner that was beyond my dreams, both in Barbados and

a few days later in that unforgettable evening in Mumbai. "More than anything else I will cherish the memories and friendships I made in my time with the squad. As you take over the role of India coach, it's what I wish for you as well," he added. Gambhir imbibed Dravid's words in their true sense, and said he has not seen a more "selfless" servant of Indian cricket. "I don't know how to react because this message means so much to me. The reason is not because it comes from the person who I have succeeded but from a person who I have always looked up to when I was playing. "I have always felt that and I said it in a lot of my interviews - I think the most selfless cricketer I have actually ever played with. Rahul bhai has done anything and everything Indian cricket needed." Gambhir said Dravid's association with Indian cricket is a text book for others to learn from. "I think there is so much to learn from, not only for me but for the next generation and the current generation as well. That's how important Indian cricket is, not me, not individuals," he said.

Kevin hopefully will play for US in its Olympic opener against Serbia

AP ■ PARIS

There is hope that Kevin Durant will play for the US in its Olympic opener against Serbia on Sunday, which means the men's national team may have 12 players available for the first time this summer. That is unless something else happens. The Americans open their path toward what they hope is a fifth consecutive Olympic gold medal when they take on three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic and World Cup finalist Serbia in the opener for both teams at the Paris Games. Durant missed all five exhibition games the US played coming into Paris because of a calf strain, and coach Steve Kerr stopped short of definitively saying Saturday that he is in the line-up for the opener. "Hopefully," Kerr said. Durant was on the floor for practice, while presumed starting center Joel Embiid was not because of illness. Kerr said he didn't expect Embiid to miss Sunday's game. "I'm confident we'll have everybody ready tomorrow," Kerr said. There have been signs in recent days that USA Basketball expects Durant - a three-time gold medalist, now bidding to become the first player who can say he's a four-time Olympic men's basketball champion - will be ready to go. First, it didn't replace him on the roster. Second, it released clips of a Thursday scrimmage where Durant was active and even had a reverse dunk (plus got dunked on by Anthony Edwards, who idolizes him). And third, Kerr insisted earlier in the week that he wasn't concerned about Durant's status. "We'll see how things go in practice today," Kerr said Saturday. "So far, so good. He came through the scrimmage two days ago pretty well." The team convened for its first summer practice in Las Vegas on July 6, about a week and a half after Durant strained the calf. He couldn't participate in practices there, didn't play in the first exhibition win over Canada before the Americans left for their overseas legs of the pre-Olympic tour and



then the waiting game was on. Durant did some on-court work in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, but missed two more exhibitions there against Serbia and Australia. He did more work in London but missed the two exhibitions the US played there against South Sudan and Germany as well. He said he made the best of the situation. "It's been incredible," Durant said. "I mean, I haven't played yet, but just being on the sideline, on the bench, I've got more energy than I've had in the past. I hate not playing, but just watching these guys, how they operate, it's just been incredible." In Olympic play, Durant has been incredible as well. Before Durant came along, Adrian Dantley had the highest scoring average for a US men's player in an Olympic tournament; he averaged 19.3 points at the 1976 Montreal Games. That's now fourth on the single Olympics US list behind Durant's 20.7 points per game at the Tokyo Games three years ago, Durant's 19.5 points per game at the 2012 London Games and Durant's 19.4 points per game at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. He has scored 435 points in Olympic play, the most in US men's history, 99 more than Carmelo Anthony. He is third in rebounds for the U.S. Men with 118, seven behind

Anthony and six behind David Robinson. He is the all-time US men's leader in Olympic 3-pointers made with 74 and the all-time leader in free throws made with 69. "Instant impact. Instant impact," U.S. Forward LeBron James said when asked about what Durant would add to the mix when he returns. "He looked extremely well the other day in practice. Obviously, his wind, his rhythm is going to continue to come, but to be able to get him back, it makes a huge impact for our club." And, if all that wasn't enough, there's this: The US is 21-1 in Olympic games with Durant in the line-up, and he's won a pair of NBA championships with Kerr during their three seasons together with the Golden State Warriors. "I know how hard he works because I've seen it up close and personal for three years, and I know the level that he's trying to get to competitively to be his best self and why he is the all-time leading scorer in (U.S.) Olympic history," Warriors guard and first-time Olympian Stephen Curry said. "So, you thrive off of that, that preparation to give you confidence that says Hey, we're here for business, but we're also here to continue to learn from each other."

Great Britain rides strong effort of Olympic veterans to early lead in men's gymnastics qualifying

AP ■ PARIS

Great Britain surged to an early lead during men's gymnastics qualifying, posting a team total of 256.561 to finish ahead of the United States in the first of three subdivisions Saturday. The Americans, who finished third at the 2023 world championships ahead of Great Britain, dealt with issues on the high bar and pommel horse to finish second at 253.229. The US arrived in Paris believing it had a legitimate chance to medal in the team competition for the first time since earning a bronze in Beijing 16 years ago. There is work to be done after the British put on a largely mistake-free clinic across six rotations. Jake Jarman (84.897) and Joe



Fraser (84.666) posted the top all-around scores and six-time Olympic medalist Max Whitlock provided a jolt with an electric pommel horse routine - his signature event - that left the 31-year-old looking relieved. Whitlock's 15.166 trailed only American Stephen Nedoroskic, a

specialist whose 15.200 likely earned him a spot in the event finals and gave his teammates some early momentum. It didn't last. Brody Malone, who returned from a horrific leg injury to win his third US championship in June, fell twice on a high bar and once on a pommel horse to scuttle

his chances of returning to the all-around finals. Instead, Frederick Richard and Paul Juda will represent the Americans. While Richard - who earned bronze in the all-around at the 2023 world championships - is expected to advance, Juda's performance is a bit of a surprise. The 23-year-old - who unashamedly broke down in tears after being named to the five-man Olympic squad - thrust his arms into the air after his dismount on floor exercise. His all-around total of 82.865 was fourth among early qualifiers, trailing only Richard (83.498), Jarman and Fraser. Qualifying continues later Saturday, with longtime rivals Japan and China competing in the second of three subdivisions.

Landale scores 20 points, Australia powers past Spain 92-80 to open Olympic basketball tournament

AP ■ VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ (FRANCE)

Jock Landale had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Australia beat Spain 92-80 Saturday to open the group stage of the Olympic basketball tournament in Lille. Patty Mills added 19 points and Josh Giddey contributed 17 to lift Australia to victory in Group A, including Greece and Canada. Australia next meets Canada on Tuesday while Spain will face Greece. Australia led by as many as 14 points before Spain surged and used a 9-0 run to take its first lead of the game, 56-54, in the third quarter. The Aussies responded with a 15-4 spurt to close the period and never trailed again. Santi Aldama finished with 17 points for Spain. Sergio Llull added 17 for the Spaniards, who connected on 12 3-pointers, but shot 39% overall from the



field for the game at Pierre Mauroy Stadium. Australia established its presence in the paint early, scoring 42 in the paint for the game and holding a 46-34 rebounding edge.

The Aussies led 49-42 at halftime. Australia sprinted out to a 31-17 lead, with Jock Landale scoring eight early points. Spain then used a 10-0 run that started late in the first quarter and continued into the second to get back in the game. The Aussies' momentum also was disrupted by a heated exchange late in the first quarter. With 2:13 remaining in the period, Spain's Usman Garuba set a hard screen on Australia's Josh Green, sending him stumbling backwards. Green took exception and got in Garuba's face. Garuba slapped Green's hand away and Will Magnay stepped in to defend his teammate, prompting Garuba to shove him. Referees reviewed the incident and accessed double unsportsmanlike fouls on Garuba and Magnay.

Swiatek starts 2024 Olympics tennis event with win at site of her French Open triumphs

AP ■ PARIS

Iga Swiatek shook off a bit of a dip in the first round of the Paris Olympics tennis competition and grabbed the last four games to beat Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu 6-2, 7-5 on Saturday under a closed roof at Roland Garros, the site of the No. 1-ranked Polish player's four French Open titles. Swiatek, who won a third consecutive championship at Court Philippe Chatrier just seven weeks ago, got broken in that same stadium to trail 5-3 in the second set before getting back to her usual clay-court expertise. She wrapped up the victory by breaking at love when Begu double-faulted on the last point. Day 1 of tennis began with showers that might have contributed to slow lines for umbrella-toting spectators at

the facility's security checks near entrances and postponed by hours the start of matches at the 10 courts without retractable roofs. It's a good thing the French tennis federation built a pair of covers recently: 15,000-capacity Chatrier added one in 2020, and the second-largest arena, 10,000-capacity Court Suzanne Lenglen, has one as of this year. Italy's Jasmine Paolini, who was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in June and to Barbora Krejickova at Wimbledon two weeks ago, was the first tennis player to win a match at these Summer Games, eliminating Romania's Ana Bogdan 7-5, 6-3 at Lenglen. Among the other big names from the sport scheduled to play later Saturday were reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz



- facing Lebanon's Hady Habib in singles in the afternoon and pairing with Spanish teammate Rafael Nadal in doubles at night - along with 24-

time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia and four-time major champion Naomi Osaka. Nadal has won a record 14 of his 22 Slam titles at Roland Garros and owns Olympic gold medals in singles and doubles. He carried the torch and rode on a boat in the Seine River with retired tennis star Serena Williams during the drenched opening ceremony Friday night. Gauff, the female flag bearer for the United States on Friday, was slated to make her Olympic debut Saturday with Jessica Pegula in doubles. Gauff won the French Open doubles title with Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic last month and the US Open singles trophy last September. Three years ago, Gauff missed the Tokyo Games after testing positive for COVID-19 right before she was supposed to fly to Japan.

Honda India riders impress in Asia Road Racing Championship

PTI ■ LOMBOK (INDONESIA)

The riders of the HONDA RACING INDIA team impressed in Race 1 of Round 4 of the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship in Indonesia on Sunday. The Indian duo of Kavin Quintal and Mohsin Paramban completed the race with determination and consistency at Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit. Starting strong from the 27th position on the grid, Chennai's 19-year-old rising star, Kavin Quintal, swiftly moved up after the first lap and maintained consistency throughout the race.

Leveraging his experience and executing strategic moves effectively, he gave tough competition to international riders and continued to elevate his performance despite an injury. He finished the race at 19th position with a total time of 18:37.226. Kavin's teammate, Mohsin Paramban from Mallapuram, started the race from 21st on the grid and delivered a good performance on international soil. He maintained consistency throughout the race, navigating the track and crossing the chequered flag at 22nd position with a total time of 18:44.784. Both the riders, however, could not secure any points

for the team in Race 1 of Round 4. Quintal, "I began this round on a strong note, but yesterday's crash and my subsequent injury disrupted my plans for the race. Despite the tough competition, I'm pleased that we performed well and made no mistakes today. "Having recovered well, I'm optimistic about securing better results and earning points for the team in tomorrow's race." Paramban added, "Today's round was quite challenging, and my focus was on maintaining consistency throughout the race. I managed to hold my position and stay focused."

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the pioneer agenda

"It is not part of a true culture to tame tigers, any more than it is to make sheep ferocious"
— Henry David Thoreau



INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY

Forests, which are essential carbon sinks and wildlife habitats, play a crucial role in combating climate change.

Strengthening tiger conservation programs is vital to protect their ecosystems, benefiting both tigers and humans, writes **BK SINGH** on the eve of International Tiger Day

DON'T LET THE ROAR DIE DOWN

Image Source: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on X post

Scientific studies have consistently brought out that the planet Earth is warming at a faster pace than ever before. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned of the consequences of frequent and destructive climatic catastrophes if the global rise in temperature is not contained within 1.5 degrees Celsius concerning pre-industrial (1850-1900 levels). Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) dealing with the European Union's 'earth observation program' launched in January 2023, has recently taken stock of the project and found that June 2024 marks the 13th month of global temperature at 1.50 C above pre industrial levels. The monthly average surface air temperature from June 2023 to June 2024 was 16.660C and was .760C higher than the average for 1991-2020 and 1.640C above pre industrial 1850-1900 levels. So far 2023 has been the warmest year on record, but 2024 is on course to break this.

We are left with no option but to transition away from fossil fuel consumption and develop renewable energy with speed and scale. Forests are the biggest carbon sink that can suck CO2 emitted into the atmosphere due to industrial activities and fossil fuel burning. It is the home of wild animals. Forests not only provide food and shelter to wild animals but also provide a series of ecological services necessary for the survival of mankind. Tiger is at the apex of wild animals. If a tiger is saved, other wild animals and the forests are secure. Project Tiger was launched in India in 1973 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi covering nine tiger-bearing areas extending over 16338 sq km of good quality forests across the country namely Corbett, Kaziranga, Melghat, Bandipur etc. Since then many more areas have been added to the list and by now there are 53 Tiger Reserves (TRs) in India. To commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger an international conference was held at Mysuru on 9th April 2023, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The most important takeaway of the conference was the launch of the international big cat alliance to protect seven species namely tiger, leopard, jaguar, lion, snow leopard, puma and cheetah worldwide. Among 94 member countries harbouring these species, the Ministers from India, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Suriname, Tanzania, Vientiane, and Vietnam presented the status of conservation of big cat species in their country. They also pledged to conserve the species. Forests and wildlife have a symbiotic relationship and both cannot survive without the other.



BK SINGH

In this long journey of 50 years, the Project tiger coverage has been increased from 9 to 53 sites. The area under Project Tiger management has also been increased from 16338 sq km to 75000 sq km. Though tiger security was the focus in all 53 tiger reserves of the country, aggressive activities of interstate poaching gangs who killed tigers at will and decimated tigers from many reserves namely Sariska (Rajasthan), Panna (Madhya Pradesh), Buxa (West Bengal), Namdapha and Kamlang (Arunachal Pradesh) and Dampa (Mizoram). Project Tiger was revamped when the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was brought in 2006 and enabling provisions were made in the Wildlife (Protection) Act through amendment. A robust methodology for All India Tiger estimation was developed by our Scientists at the Wildlife Institute of India and experts from NTCA and used for tiger estimation in the same year. First first-ever exercise was carried out in all forest areas of the country, which revealed that India had 1411 tigers in the wild. Thereafter the estimation was repeated every four years that was in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022 which brought out the tiger numbers as 1710, 2226, 2967 and 3682 respectively.

An increasing trend in tiger numbers has been noticed, but the most worrying part that surfaced was the shrinkage in the areas of tiger occupancy. Though the recovery of tigers has grown from 1411 to 3682, the area of its occupancy has declined. From 92,000 sq km area in the first cycle of estimation in 2006, it has been reduced to 88,000 sq km in the fourth cycle in 2018. Despite all stringent measures the fragmentation of habitats and encroachments in forest lands have continued resulting in the loss of tiger-occupied areas. The western Ghats landscape itself has lost 527 sq km of tiger occupancy in four years between 2014 and 2018. North northeastern part of the country has lost more than 6000 sq km area under tiger occupancy in this period. Survey of India biannual report, which was last published in 2021 has assessed the change in forest cover of all tiger reserves over a decade (from 2011 to 2021). The report brings out that the forest cover has decreased by 22.62 sq km (0.04%) in this period. Twenty tiger reserves have gained in forest cover, while the remaining 33 have lost. While Buxa (West Bengal, Annamalai (Tamil Nadu) and Indravati (Chhattisgarh) have gained, Kawal (Telangana), Bhadra

(Karnataka) and Sunderbans (West Bengal) have lost.

The latest tiger estimation report about the Western Ghats landscape reads, "Majority of tiger populations remain stable and some have declined, a significant reduction of tiger occupancy has been observed throughout the landscape." Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats landscape are reported to have added tigers but several threats are looming large; The report adds "High concentration of mining activity poses a significant challenge to conservation. The forests of this region are under threat from various activities, despite their high biodiversity and conservation significance. - Tiger occupancy declined in states of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana." The description from the north eastern landscape is no different. It indicates some major threats the region is facing "The landscape has experienced extensive change in land-use patterns in the past, leading to severe loss of natural habitat." Overall, the report is positive about the increase in tiger numbers from 2967 to at least 3167; the loss in the Western Ghats

landscape has been wiped out by the gains in the central Indian landscape. Human-carnivore conflict is prevalent in several landscapes, especially where buffer forests are disturbed due to human and livestock presence. When an area of occupancy decreases and the number increases, tigers are bound to stray outside the reserve and come in conflict with humans. Forest department faces challenges across the tiger landscapes; the conflicts can disturb the relationship with communities. The country should pledge to focus on conservation even outside tiger reserves. Diversion of natural forests, whether inside or outside the tiger reserve is detrimental to conservation. There is a mechanism for paying

compensation for the loss of human life as well as livestock, but the community has to be taken in confidence. Losing tigers would mean losing tree cover and vice versa. Loss of forest cover is the loss of sink for Carbon dioxide and further warming of the planet.

The writer is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Karnataka; views are personalK





THE STORY OF A TIGRESS LEGACY

Explore the journey through the lens of **MANISH KALANI**, a wildlife photographer, as he unveils the legacy of Ranthambore's tigresses, revealing their untold stories and the majesty of their wilderness, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Manish Kalani's *Warrior Queens of Ranthambore* is more than just a coffee table book, it's a journey into the heart of Ranthambore National Park and a touching tribute to one of its most iconic residents, Machhli. This book is a celebration of the majestic tigresses who have roamed the park over five generations, captured through Kalani's lens in an eight-year photographic adventure. The book opens with a striking portrait of Machhli, the legendary tigress known as "The Lady of the Lakes." Kalani's photographs capture her in all her glory, her powerful presence, her regal bearing and the deep wisdom in her eyes. Machhli was not just a tigress; she was a symbol of strength and resilience, her story woven into the fabric of Ranthambore's conservation history. Kalani's images of her are infused with a sense of reverence, reflecting the profound impact she had on the park and its tiger population. Machhli's story is central to the book, but Kalani extends his narrative to include her descendants, creating a rich tapestry of the tiger lineage. The book features photographs of Machhli's daughter, Krishna, her granddaughter, Arrowhead and her great-granddaughter, Riddhi.



Each of these tigresses is portrayed with a blend of awe and intimacy. For instance, Arrowhead is shown with her fierce territorial instincts, contrasting with the more complex interactions of Riddhi, who navigates the challenges of her position within the family. Through Kalani's lens, these tigresses come to life as individuals with their own personalities, struggles and triumphs. Kalani's dedication to his craft is evident in every page. His photographs are not just visually stunning; they are imbued with emotion and context. Each image tells a story whether it's a serene moment of rest or an intense interaction with other wildlife. The book is filled with moments that make you feel as though you are right there in the forest, sharing in the experiences of these magnificent animals. The accompanying narratives provide insights into the lives of the tigresses, offering a deeper understanding of their



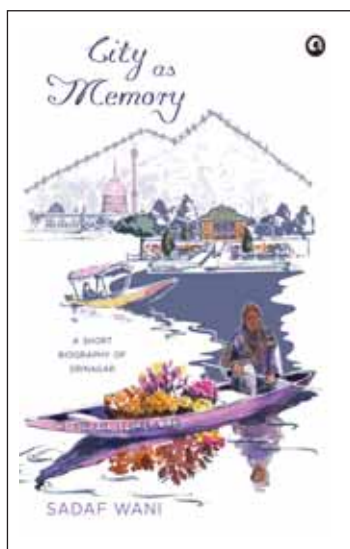
behaviors and relationships. What makes *Warrior Queens of Ranthambore* particularly compelling is its role in conservation. Kalani has dedicated the proceeds from the book to the Regal Roar Trust, a tribute to his commitment to the protection of these incredible creatures. This aspect of the book highlights how storytelling can be a powerful tool for change, transforming a beautiful collection of photographs into a means of supporting conservation efforts. The book serves not only as a tribute to the tigresses but also as a call to action for their continued protection. Reading *Warrior Queens of Ranthambore* is like taking a personal journey with Kalani into the heart of Ranthambore. It's more than just a visual experience; it's an emotional one. The book invites you to connect with

the tigresses on a deeper level, to feel their struggles and triumphs, and to appreciate the beauty and complexity of their lives. Kalani's passion for wildlife and his respect for the tigers shine through every page, making this book a heartfelt and moving experience. Arguably, *Warrior Queens of Ranthambore* is a masterful blend of art and conservation. Manish Kalani's photographic journey offers a window into the lives of Ranthambore's royal tigresses, capturing their beauty, strength and spirit. The book is not only a must-have for wildlife enthusiasts but also serves as an important reminder of the ongoing efforts needed to protect our natural heritage. Through Kalani's eyes, we are reminded of the enduring spirit of Ranthambore's tigers and the crucial role we all play in ensuring their future.

A POIGNANT PORTRAIT OF SRINAGAR'S BEAUTY AND STRUGGLE

Sadaf Wani's *City as Memory* is a heartfelt exploration of Srinagar, where breathtaking beauty and deep-rooted pain exist side by side. Wani shares her personal experiences, creating a vivid picture of a city that is both fascinating and deeply scarred, says **TEAM AGENDA**

Sadaf Wani's *City as Memory - A Short Biography Of Srinagar* offers a deeply personal and insightful look into Srinagar, Kashmir - a city where breathtaking landscapes are often overshadowed by ongoing conflict. Wani blends personal stories with historical context to present a nuanced portrait of Srinagar, revealing how its natural beauty is entwined with its troubled past. The book begins by delving into Srinagar's rich historical backdrop. Founded in 250 BCE by the Buddhist king Ashoka, the city's history is marked by conquest and foreign rule. Wani uses this historical context to set the stage for understanding Srinagar's contemporary struggles. Her childhood memories from the mid-1990s, a period of waning insurgency and increasing militarisation, illustrate how historical forces have shaped the city. The beautiful gardens and serene lakes of Srinagar are persistently overshadowed by the heavy presence of military forces, which are a constant reminder of the city's ongoing issues. As Wani transitions to her teenage years in the early 2000s, the focus shifts to a time of intensified violence and civilian unrest. Her personal experiences during this period offer a close-up view of life in a conflict zone. The contrast between the picturesque Dal Lake and the harsh realities of military checkpoints becomes a powerful symbol of Srinagar's contradictions. Wani's descriptions of restricted access to public spaces and tourist sites shed light on the



psychological and emotional impact of living under constant surveillance. This juxtaposition highlights the deep scars left by ongoing conflict on both the city and its people. Wani's writing seamlessly weaves personal memories with broader historical and political analysis. Her stories reveal how conflict influences both individual identities and public spaces, providing a thoughtful commentary on how political strife shapes a city's character. The contrast between Srinagar's scenic beauty and its troubled reality underscores the city's profound contradictions. Through vivid descriptions and reflective insights, Wani captures a place that is both enchanting and beleaguered.

The cover of the book, illustrated by Zainab Tambawalla, truly brings Srinagar to life. It features a charming cityscape with a mosque, majestic mountains and a serene lake dotted with traditional boats. A delightful "Flower Man" in a shikara adds a touch of local character. The illustration's gentle, watercolor-like style creates a warm, nostalgic feeling, while the subtle barbed wire design hints at the region's complicated past. This artwork beautifully complements Wani's story, offering a vivid, heartfelt glimpse into Srinagar's captivating blend of beauty and struggle. *City as Memory* is more than a recounting of events; it's a profound exploration of Srinagar's complex character. Sadaf Wani's portrayal offers readers a deeper understanding of how beauty and conflict coexist, shaping the lives of its inhabitants. This book is a significant addition to the literature on Kashmir, providing both personal and political perspectives on a city at the crossroads of history and identity. Adding this book to your bookshelf is not just a literary choice but a way to appreciate the intricate relationship between place and memory. Wani's work is a must-read for anyone interested in the interplay between historical conflict and personal experience. It offers a compelling narrative and valuable perspectives that will resonate long after the last page is turned.

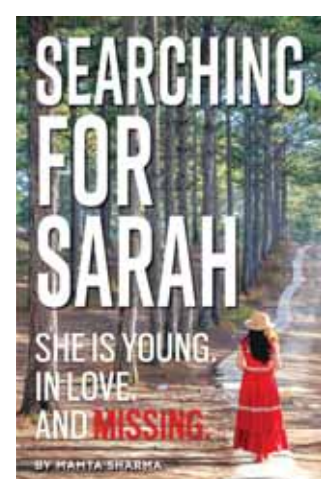
Publisher - Aleph Book Company (Rs. 399)

THE HAUNTING PAST

Mamta Sharma's debut novel masterfully intertwines personal loss with a suspenseful mystery, creating a profound narrative of emotional healing and the quest for answer, says **TEAM AGENDA**

Mamta Sharma's *Searching for Sarah* is a compelling narrative that delves into themes of grief, loss and the quest for closure through a gripping mystery. The story begins with Rini, a 34-year-old widow, navigating her life in Mumbai as she deals with the deep-seated sorrow following her husband's untimely death. Her personal journey intertwines with a decades-old mystery that unravels as she embarks on a quest for answers. The novel opens with Rini grappling with the emotional aftermath of her husband's passing. Her life, marked by a pervasive sense of emptiness, is depicted with raw honesty. Rini's struggle to find meaning and solace in her daily existence is palpable as she works as an estate agent, a role that provides her with some distraction from her grief. The routine of her professional life, however, cannot fully shield her from the emotional turmoil she faces. Her sleep is disturbed by recurring nightmares, adding to the weight of her sorrow. The turning point in Rini's life occurs during a routine work trip when she encounters a bungalow that piques her interest. The bungalow, owned by Mr. and Mrs. D'souza, an elderly Christian couple, holds a dark secret from the past. Their daughter, Sarah, disappeared 34 years ago, leaving the couple in a state of perpetual mourning and relentless searching for answers. The disappearance of Sarah has cast a long shadow over their lives, creating an atmosphere of melancholy and unresolved tension. Rini's curiosity is immediately sparked by the

D'souzas' story. The more she learns about Sarah's disappearance, the more she becomes emotionally invested in the case. Sharma effectively uses Rini's growing obsession with the mystery to drive the narrative forward, intertwining Rini's personal grief with the broader mystery of Sarah's vanishing. This dual focus enriches the story, providing a nuanced exploration of how personal loss can intersect with and amplify the search for external truths. As Rini delves deeper into the case, the novel reveals her complex emotional landscape. The investigation forces Rini to confront her own fears and insecurities, mirroring her internal struggle with her husband's death. Sharma's portrayal of Rini's psychological state is both sensitive and profound, illustrating how personal trauma can influence one's actions and decisions. Rini's interactions with the D'souzas and other characters involved in the case are marked by empathy and determination, showcasing her growth as she navigates the intricacies of the mystery. The narrative unfolds with increasing tension as Rini uncovers hidden layers of the case. Sharma crafts a suspenseful plot, filled with unexpected twists and turns, that keeps readers engaged and invested in the outcome. The process of unraveling Sarah's fate is depicted with meticulous detail, reflecting the complexity of real-life investigations where every clue can lead to multiple possibilities. The author's attention to detail enhances the authenticity of the story, making Rini's journey both credible and



captivating. In the "One Year Later" chapter, the novel takes a reflective turn as Rini looks back on the changes that have occurred in her life since her involvement in the case. This chapter provides a poignant conclusion to Rini's emotional arc, highlighting her personal growth and the impact of the investigation on her life. The passage of time allows Rini to evaluate the significance of her journey, offering insights into how the search for answers can lead to personal transformation and healing. In terms of style, Sharma's prose is evocative and often poetic, enhancing the emotional impact of the story. The descriptive passages are not merely visual but also sensory, immersing readers in the sights, sounds, and feelings of the settings. This sensory richness contributes to the novel's immersive quality, making the reader feel as though they are experiencing Rini's world firsthand. Sharma also employs a meticulous and

detailed approach to plot development. The author's careful attention to the investigation into Sarah's disappearance lends credibility to the story and engages readers with its methodical unraveling. The suspenseful elements of the narrative are crafted with precision, maintaining a steady pace that keeps readers invested in the unfolding mystery. Sharma's ability to blend personal grief with a compelling investigative plot showcases her skill in balancing different narrative threads. Sharma's writing throughout *Searching for Sarah* is marked by its emotional depth and character-driven narrative. The author skillfully balances the elements of mystery and psychological exploration, creating a story that resonates on multiple levels. The interplay between Rini's personal struggles and the mystery of Sarah's disappearance adds layers of complexity to the narrative, making it a rich and engaging read. *Searching for Sarah* is a masterful debut by Mamta Sharma that successfully blends elements of crime fiction with a deep psychological exploration. The novel's exploration of grief, loss and the search for closure is handled with sensitivity and insight, making it a standout addition to the genre. Sharma's ability to weave a captivating mystery with a profound emotional journey ensures that *Searching for Sarah* will resonate with readers long after the final page is turned.

Price of the book : Rs.200/-
Self Publish and available on Kindle and Amazon



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

A DAZZLING DEBUT IN THE WORLD OF KUCHIPUDI

Aadya Gupta's breathtaking Kuchipudi debut, Rangapravesham, showcased her years of dedication and passion. Guided by the esteemed Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Guru Kaushalya Reddy, Aadya's performance beautifully highlighted her mastery of the classical art form, illustrating her journey from student to accomplished dancer, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

As one steps into Kamaani Auditorium, they are immediately transported into the heart of a spellbinding Kuchipudi recital - Rangapravesham. This cherished milestone, marking a dancer's formal debut, was brilliantly embodied by Aadya Gupta. Under the esteemed guidance of Padma Bhusan and Padma Shri awardees Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Guru Kaushalya

Reddy, Aadya's performance was a radiant showcase of her dedication and passion. Her recital not only highlighted years of rigorous training but also celebrated her remarkable journey from an earnest student to a consummate performer. The evening was more than just a performance; it was a celebration of art and tradition that captivated everyone present. The audience's presence in the hall was a tribute to the enduring

appreciation for Kuchipudi, as people from all age groups came together to admire the rich heritage of this classical dance form. The non-stop applause and standing ovation from the audience, spanning from children to elders, underscored the universal appeal and excellence of Aadya's performance. This enthusiastic response highlighted not only her individual talent but also the remarkable mentorship of her Gurus.



The evening's celebration was enhanced by a meticulous attention to detail in every aspect of the performance. The light design added a captivating depth to the visual experience, enhancing the emotional impact of the dance. The costumes and makeup, elegant and alluring, played a crucial role in bringing the traditional essence of Kuchipudi to life, ensuring that each movement was complemented by its visual presentation.

A particularly magical aspect of the performance was the live orchestra, whose contribution was essential to the recital's success. The musicians created a soothing and heavenly auditory experience, particularly in the Raga Ragamaalika, which accompanied the piece "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni." The harmonious balance and deeply devotional quality of the music elevated Aadya's performance, creating a rich, immersive experience that resonated deeply with the audience. The symbiotic relationship between the dancer and the musicians underscored the true essence of classical performance, highlighting the integral role of live music in enhancing the beauty and emotional depth of the dance. The program featured a range of pieces that demonstrated Aadya's mastery over Kuchipudi's expressive depth and technical brilliance. She began with "Shree Venkateshwara Stothram," a devotional piece that set a serene tone for

the evening. This was followed by "Jatthikattu" in Raag Maand and Taal Khandha Chapu, a dynamic dance that showcased her precision and rhythmic mastery. One of the evening's highlights was "Bhamakalapam," a narrative dance that vividly portrayed Satyabhama's intense love for Krishna. Aadya's nuanced performance captured the emotional complexity of the character, showcasing her ability to convey deep emotions through her dance. Her rendition of "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni," a poem by the 14th-century Sufi mystic Amir Khusro, was another standout, blending romantic and devotional themes in a mesmerizing performance. The recital concluded with "Tarangam," a traditional Kuchipudi piece celebrating Lord Krishna's childhood stories. Aadya's skillful execution of intricate footwork on a brass plate was a breathtaking display of her virtuosity and command over the dance form. Drs. Raja and Radha Reddy, along with Kaushalya Reddy, have played a pivotal role in promoting Kuchipudi globally. Their unique choreographic style and ability to blend tradition with modern sensibilities have garnered them numerous accolades. Natya Tarangini,

founded in 1976, stands as a testament to their dedication and vision, nurturing countless dancers over the years. Aadya's journey, shaped by the disciplined and compassionate guidance of her Gurus, reflects the transformative power of Kuchipudi. The institute's focus on technical precision and emotional depth has enabled her to perform on prestigious platforms across India. This debut marks not just an achievement but a new beginning for Aadya, promising greater heights in her dance journey. Aadya Gupta's Rangapravesham was a radiant celebration of her talent and dedication. The performance, accentuated by beautiful lighting, elegant costumes and a supportive audience, was a seamless blend of technical brilliance and emotional depth. The live orchestra's contribution added a magical dimension, making the evening an immersive experience that beautifully highlighted the essence of Kuchipudi. The overwhelming appreciation from attendees, coupled with the meticulous execution of every element of the recital, left a lasting impression. With the unwavering support of her family, friends and mentors, Aadya is poised to achieve even greater success in her future endeavors.



A Celebration of Connection

M-tastic's inaugural Mother & Kids Exhibition offers a perfect blend of quality shopping and interactive fun. This vibrant event celebrates the special bond between mothers and children, featuring curated products and engaging activities that create unforgettable family moments, says **TEAM AGENDA**



Nagpal. Her decision to offer this service at no charge underscores the significance of such exhibitions in providing small businesses with a valuable platform. Vaishali's work adds glamour to the day and highlights how events like M-tastic play a crucial role in supporting the visibility and growth of emerging brands. This commitment enriches the experience for all attendees.

Another highlight is the variety of stalls. Rakhi stands by a mother-daughter duo buzzing with activity as children eagerly choose their favourite designs, reflecting their creativity and personal touch of the event. The Ritwik Collection, featuring handmade tote bags and file folders crafted by a mother-son duo, exemplifies collaborative creativity and practical products from small businesses. M-tastic's dedication to a holistic experience is evident in its food offerings. Health-conscious parents will appreciate the homemade bakery items and granola bites from Pinks & Grumps, crafted without preservatives. Sanchita's Gourmet Medleys provides a selection of additive-free snacks, including Nutri Hexas cheese basil crackers and Millet Murukku. This focus on wholesome, artisanal products underscores the organizer's commitment to creating a nurturing environment for families. In essence, M-tastic's Mother & Kids Exhibition resonates with laughter, joy and discovery. It has set a new standard for family-centric celebrations and illuminated the beauty of shared experiences. Families leave with hands full of delightful finds and hearts brimming with cherished memories, experiencing a renewed sense of wonder and connection. M-tastic's dedication to thoughtful curation and the joy of family moments ensures that this exhibition will be remembered as a radiant chapter in the story of family celebrations.

Isha Arora, which offer adorable pink dresses capturing the essence of childhood wonder. Tiny COCO adds to the excitement with its chic finds for little minds, appealing to both children and their parents. Beyond shopping, the event is a celebration of creativity and fun. Children can participate in art workshops, science experiments, dynamic STEM projects and cupcake decorating. Face painting, gel nail art and a dedicated play area provide endless entertainment, while older kids enjoy exciting games. The creative free art corner stands out, allowing children to express their artistic talents and share special moments with their families. Seeing their faces light up with joy and concentration highlights the simple yet profound pleasures of childhood. A standout feature is the face painting, adding a special touch of joy to the event. Children and mothers are thrilled to see their favourite stars and characters come to life with vibrant designs. A particularly heartwarming sight was a little girl with a doll painted on her face in sparkling glitter, capturing the fun and creativity that define the exhibition. The event also includes free nail art by the talented Vaishali

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

In a world where family moments meet unforgettable experiences, M-tastic's inaugural Mother & Kids Exhibition has set a new benchmark for joy and connection. This enchanting event celebrates the special bond between mothers and their children, blending quality shopping, imaginative play and creative activities into a magical experience for families. Founded by Suryashi Juneja and Surbhi Sachdeva, the exhibition reflects their combined expertise and passion. Suryashi, a seasoned chartered accountant with a background in logistics, and Surbhi, who holds dual MBAs and extensive corporate experience, have crafted an event dedicated to enhancing family life. Their goal is to bridge the gap between emerging homegrown brands and discerning parents, providing a premier platform for quality brands and enthusiastic parents to connect and discover. The exhibition features a curated selection of products catering to every child's needs. Visitors are greeted with chic clothing, imaginative toys, innovative educational tools and stylish accessories. Highlights include the Norah Kids Collection and PNK by

Discover the Depths of Abstraction

Tejinder Kanda's latest exhibition is a vivid exploration of the human psyche, inviting viewers to delve into the realm of self-discovery through a mesmerising display of abstract artistry

BY **TEAM AGENDA**

Tejinder Kanda's latest exhibition, "In-Within," at the Shridharani Art Gallery, is a profound exploration of the human psyche through abstract art. Kanda, a celebrated contemporary artist known for his evocative and thought-provoking pieces, continues to push the boundaries of abstraction with this new series. The exhibition features 32 artworks, each painted with acrylic on canvas, offering viewers an opportunity to engage with art that is both visually stunning and deeply introspective. Kanda's work in this exhibition showcases a mastery of abstract techniques, utilising impasto methods and a vibrant palette to create canvases that evoke a powerful emotional response. The use of impasto techniques adds a tactile dimension to his work, inviting viewers to experience the paintings not just visually, but almost physically. This adds depth and complexity, drawing the audience into the layered and textured world Kanda creates. The swirling strokes and tonal gradations are reminiscent of the Abstract Expressionist movement, echoing the work of artists like Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. However, Kanda's approach is distinct in its exploration of the "unidentified and unknown," pushing beyond the traditional confines of abstraction.



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

and audience. The palette in "In-Within" is notably varied, ranging from earthy tones of reds and browns to cool blues, purples and greens. This wide spectrum of color not only reflects Kanda's skillful use of color theory but also the emotional depth of his work. He also incorporates pinks, pastels and yellows, which are traditionally seen as more feminine colors. However, Kanda employs them with a vigorous application and powerful strokes that inject a masculine energy into his paintings, subverting traditional color associations.

This interplay of color and technique creates a dynamic tension in the artwork, allowing viewers to experience a range of emotions from calmness and contentment to intensity and excitement. One of the most compelling aspects of Kanda's work is his ability to capture the passage of time and emotion. The fluid application of watered-down acrylics allows him to layer colors in a way that reflects his emotions and thoughts at the moment of creation. This technique gives his work a sense of immediacy and authenticity, inviting viewers to

connect with the artist's emotional journey. It's as if each painting captures a fleeting moment in Kanda's personal exploration of his own psyche, offering a glimpse into his inner world. The exhibition is curated by Georgina Maddox, who highlights the transformative power of abstraction in Kanda's work. Maddox emphasises how abstraction goes beyond the physical realm, allowing viewers to connect with the intangible essence of the world. In this regard, Kanda's work invites the audience to engage in a shared journey of self-discovery. His art dissolves the boundaries between the physical and the metaphysical, revealing the true essence of the human experience. In "In-Within," Tejinder Kanda offers more than just an art exhibition; he provides a profound and introspective experience that invites viewers to look beyond the surface and engage with the deeper layers of meaning and emotion embedded in his work. This series represents a significant milestone in Kanda's artistic journey, as he delves into the depths of his psyche, translating his internal exploration into a visually stunning and emotive body of work. The exhibition is a tribute to Kanda's skill and creativity, offering a compelling exploration of the human condition that is both intimate and universal. "In-Within" offers a unique opportunity to experience the transformative power of abstract art in a profoundly personal and meaningful way.



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you may sense a feeling of constraint or restriction in your enthusiasm and energy. External influences might be causing you to perceive barriers that don't actually exist. It's advisable to approach situations with care and thoughtful planning. Stay alert to any misleading situations and steer clear of unneeded risks. Employ your sharp intellect and adaptability to tackle challenges effectively. Remember, obstacles are just temporary hurdles. This period calls for using your inherent resourcefulness and flexibility to navigate through any difficulties and liberate yourself from any self-imposed limitations. Focus on being proactive yet thoughtful to accomplish your objectives during this time. Embrace patience; it will be your ally in turning challenges into stepping stones for success.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, your creative energies and nurturing spirit are heightened, making it an ideal time for artistic projects and deepening relationships. Express your true self and foster meaningful connections with those close to you. This period brings a surge of abundance and creativity, highlighting growth in both personal and professional spheres. Embrace your innate ability to lead with kindness and generosity. This is a moment to appreciate your accomplishments and take pride in what you have created. Prioritize self-care and engage in activities that enhance your well-being. This season in your life is marked by a significant boost in confidence and energy, empowering you to excel in various pursuits and make a positive impact.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you may encounter challenges or unexpected setbacks. The universe is encouraging you to stay strong and keep going. When facing obstacles, draw on your innate ability to adapt and find creative solutions. This period calls for courage and a readiness to explore new territories. Embrace these tests as opportunities to strengthen your resolve and assert your convictions. Your natural curiosity and eagerness to learn will guide you through any difficulties. Let this time be a lesson in growth and discovery, as you harness your inner strength to navigate through any adversities that come your way. Embrace this journey with an open heart and mind, ready to learn from each experience.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week brings a strong focus on self-reflection. While reminiscing about the past can offer valuable insights, it's crucial not to get lost in thoughts of what might have been. You might find yourself feeling somewhat disconnected or unsatisfied with where you are right now. It's essential to take this time to evaluate your ambitions and desires, as there's possibly a deep-seated yearning for more meaningful experiences. Avoid focusing too much on perceived deficiencies, which can obscure potential avenues for personal development and appreciation. Instead, stay engaged with the present. Finding joy in your current situation and exploring creative pursuits or rekindling connections with close ones could spark fresh motivation and emotional enrichment. Be open to new possibilities that may emerge, inviting transformative experiences into your life.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Denim Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



VRIGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week presents a challenge to your meticulous planning and dedication. You may face unexpected delays or setbacks that test your ability to stay on track. Despite these obstacles, it's crucial to maintain your focus and adjust your strategies accordingly. You might find yourself managing multiple tasks and feeling overwhelmed by responsibilities. To prevent burnout, prioritize your workload and consider delegating tasks where possible. Patience and persistence are essential as you navigate this period. Setting achievable goals and pacing yourself will help conserve your energy. Don't hesitate to seek support from colleagues or friends, as collaborative efforts can significantly ease your burden. Staying organized and communicating effectively will be key in overcoming these challenges.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, your drive for achievement is exceptionally strong. You'll find yourself encouraged to take decisive steps toward your objectives, infused with an energy and zeal that will fuel your pursuits. This is an excellent time to embrace new opportunities and invest your efforts in inventive projects. The groundwork you lay now promises to yield fruitful outcomes. Trust your intuition and make courageous moves to turn your aspirations into reality. Focus on meticulous planning and maintaining self-discipline; these will be your keys to enduring success in your ventures. Stay committed, and watch as your efforts gradually lead to significant achievements. Remember, perseverance is essential, as the most rewarding accomplishments often require sustained effort.

Lucky number 23 | Lucky colour Lemon
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week calls for careful decision-making as you might find yourself drawn toward quick fixes or unhelpful attachments. The current cosmic setup might challenge your resistance to immediate pleasures, emphasizing the importance of choices that support your future aspirations. Resist the urge to fall into old habits or behaviors that obstruct your progress. It's crucial to address any deep-seated fears or restrictive beliefs that may be limiting your growth. Avoid excessive indulgence in physical comforts or negative thinking. Try to channel this energy to productive projects and chores. Communication is also key this week; speak thoughtfully and aim for clear, effective exchanges to navigate through potentially intense discussions.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Lilac
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you may encounter some challenging interactions that could test your diplomatic abilities. It's a time when differing views might surface, prompting the need for thoughtful negotiation and tactful communication. To keep the peace and ensure all parties feel valued, it's essential to listen actively and propose solutions that accommodate diverse viewpoints. Such an approach not only fosters mutual respect but also enhances your ability to navigate through disagreements without compromising the respect between all involved. Embrace these moments as opportunities for growth, allowing you to refine your skills in mediating and creating cohesive environments. This approach will help maintain a sense of balance and respect in all your interactions.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week focuses on cultivating tranquility and a sense of security. It's an excellent time to foster your personal connections and ensure your living space is a haven of comfort. Engage closely with your friends and family, showing gratitude and relishing quiet, serene moments together. You might find that your support network is particularly uplifting now, contributing to a nurturing environment. Take a moment to recognize the positive aspects of your life and commemorate your accomplishments with those close to you. This period is ideal for reinforcing relationships and creating cherished memories. Trust your inner feelings and emotional perceptions to guide you in your social exchanges, helping you to strengthen your bonds with important people in your life.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, your intuitive senses are exceptionally acute. Embrace your profound emotional insight and heightened sense of justice. Current influences favor straightforward communication and assertive actions. It's a prime moment to advocate for your values and defend your positions. You'll find that clarity comes easily now, enhancing your ability to navigate complex issues and generate innovative solutions. Your knack for dispelling ambiguity and viewing situations from new angles is amplified. Take this chance to speak up boldly and share your thoughts with conviction. As you navigate through the week, rely on your inner guidance to ensure your choices resonate with your core emotional desires. Your inner wisdom will lead you towards positive life.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Emerald Green
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week is centered on deep personal reflection and embracing solitude. Current celestial alignments prompt a journey into your own feelings, urging you to connect deeply with your inner guidance. Dedicate moments for personal introspection, perhaps through journaling, as this process will help refine your clarity and vision. Trust your internal compass to guide you through any uncertainties or decisions that arise. Prioritize self-care and take some time to think about your goals. Give yourself the space to recharge and connect with your true desires. Use this period as a chance for meaningful self-discovery. This period is marked by significant personal transformation, encouraging you to welcome change and let go of any old patterns or beliefs that hinder your progress.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week focuses on finding peace and stability. Planetary influences encourage nurturing your relationships and creating a sense of comfort at home. Connect with loved ones, express appreciation, and enjoy moments of tranquility. You may find yourself surrounded by supportive friends or family, fostering a positive and nurturing atmosphere. Take time to appreciate the blessings in your life and celebrate achievements with those close to you. It's a favorable period for strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories. Trust your intuition and emotional insights to navigate social interactions and deepen connections with those who matter most. This is an ideal time to focus on building harmonious relationships and cherishing the warmth and support of your loved ones.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Monday

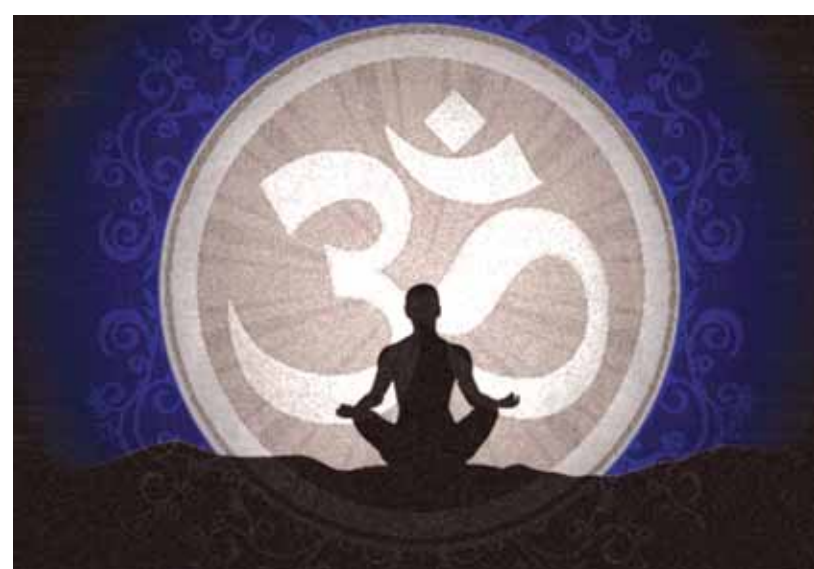
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Three dimensions of 'Om?'

'Om?' is supposedly indivisible but said to have in its womb three modes of Shakti - Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa; and so termed as Shakti-trinity. Each of them is marked with individual specific functional aspects of creation process. They are also identified with attributes manifested in human beings. It doesn't mean that Om split into three different modes. Om sound corresponds to causal stress arising at primordial source, which when gravitated, three different energy variants inherent with the primordial source got excited. The word Shakti need not be mistaken as being synonymous with energy as we understand in modern sense. Here, it is worth adding that mechanically excited energy does not have a drive of its own. It will move the way it gets directed. Shakti on the contrary, is believed to be a self-intelligent force, which involuntarily subscribes to self-evolved design parameters underlying the making of this world. It is in this sense that Shakti is perceived as self-conscious enough to follow nature driven design parameters. Had it not been true, a dynamic world would not

have spontaneously come into being, which has been doing its rounds in an orderly fashion since time immemorial, and with absolute precision. And all through its run, the forces in play remain in perfect harmony and balance. We call Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa, as three modes of Shakti. They are marked with three functional aspects of the world process. The three, working in unison, excited a creation chain that progressively evolved into the manifest plural world. Self-intelligent that they supposedly are, led them get drawn towards each other to carry forward the creation chain. It is pertinent to note here that though the three are believed to be marked with varying attributes, they do not have any relevance in isolation. They carry meaning only when acting in support of each other as a collective organism to carry forward the creation chain. Though at different stages of evolutionary chain, the attribute of one or the other may be prominently in evidence, but simultaneously the other two would be playing a supportive role from the background. As per the second law of



thermodynamics, once there is entropy (disorder), it multiplies. So, following causal stress (disorder) at the primal-source, energy trinity got excited. That followed random mutation of the three modes of energy, which led to emergence of voluminous streams of

differentiated energies. Evolved thus, step-by-step, the corporeal world of forms and names together with all dynamic mechanisms operative in between. And since matter and energy are inter-convertible, so has the world with form and name come out of forces

in play in the world process. Here, it may not be out of place to draw a parallel between emergence of three Shakti variants and the nuclear fission process. Following nuclear fission, each nuclei of a radioactive substance splits into three and then multiply in geometric progression. It sounds reason, if we hypothesize that the Big-Bag event would be nothing short of nuclear reaction type of an event. Even the issuance of energies with a roaring Hum? sound as described in Indian scriptures should also fall in the same category. Inferential logic would suggest that it would be quite fair to hypothesize the Primal-Source as the self-intelligent 'Energy-Whole'. The issuance of the inlaid constituents set into motion the creation chain, which finally culminated in the manifest plural world. Premise on which the shakti-trinity stand. Out of the above three Shakti variants, Sata (the eternal reality) supposedly carries in its womb the seeds of creation - the radical potential to manifest into a world with form and name. Rajasa is said to be the activating force, which

stirs up the seeds of creation. Tamasa, with its inherent sense of inertia has the capacity to bind whatever is subtle within the limitation of form. On this strength, it holds on what Rajasa stirred up, and then objectifies them into form-existence with name. It is something like forces of two opposite polarities such as male and female principles converging for the sake of creation. Sata, further lends support to provide temporary stability to the objectified form-existence, which could be captured by our cognitive instruments. Here again, the convergence of the three Shakti variants, provides the ground necessary for us to have a feel of the presence of "The fundamental element of Consciousness" in the form of life sparks available to all dynamic existences. The Shakti variants, thus, serve as three aspects of creative intelligences of nature, vital to carry forward the world process. *The issue continues.....*

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