WORLD 5

HITS SCHOOL IN GAZA

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE

MONEY 6

INDIA STEEL PRODUCTION TO CROSS 300MT BY 2030

SPORT 8

DRAVID'S MESSAGE

TO GAMBHIR

VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.17 Issue 205

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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HOW MANY MORE?

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MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Border Action (BAT), Team 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 Macchal, 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



been identified as Rifleman least 10 terror attacks in the Mohit Rathour.

took the oath of office for in the sacrifice of over a the third time, foreign dozen soldiers and nine terrorists have carried out at civilians in Jammu and

region. Since June 9, the day Modi These attacks have resulted

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, weapons, ammunition, and war-like stores. Identification and affiliation of this Pakistani national 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 conditions. visibility 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, 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. broader consensus

emerged during recent highsecurity review meetings to bolster the antiinfiltration 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'.

another 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 Dessa forest where an Army Captain and three soldiers were killed in a gunfight during an antiterror 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 Mallaya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has barred former liquor baron Vijay Mallya from accessing 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 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 Indian Securities Mallya, Chairman of the UB Group and individual controlling shareholder of United Spirits Limited ('USL') during the relevant period, through his bank accounts securities,



('UBS') in violation of the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Market) Securities 2003 Regulations, (hereinafter referred to as the 'PFUTP Regulations, framed

2003') and the rules and regulations 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 otherwise dealing directly

with associated 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 directly indirectly, for a period of three (3) year from the date of this order. Further, during the period of restraint, the existing of securities holding including the holding of units of mutual funds of the Noticee shall remain frozen," it said.

The investigation, prima facie, revealed that that the noticee had used a subaccount 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 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 through

accounts, indirectly, to the

Indian Securities Market.



Prime Minister Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $P_{\text{Modi is likely to visit}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ 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. the Prime Last month,

Minister held talks with President Ukrainian 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

The NITI Aayog meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, was marked by political fireworks rather than fostering the progression of boycott from 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 Baneriee 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,

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

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

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.

the designs as a "disgrace" to the elegant kurta bundi sets, while the rich heritage and culture of the women graced the event in country, calling them "cheap



funds

Critics on social media labelled



particularly disappointed with high-profile events to give the undoubtedly stylish, many argued Tahiliani, wondering if he was Olympic outfits the attention they

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.

the Finance Minister said.

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?

RANCHI | SUNDAY | JULY 28, 2024

Coordination Committee Meeting: Delayed Housing Projects irk top officials

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

A district-level coordination committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Magistrate cum Commissioner Mittal at the Ananya Auditorium, Collectorate Jamshedpur. The meeting focused on reviewing the latest progress and achievements of welfare schemes across all departments and emphasized the importance of mutual coordination to expedite development work. During the meeting, progress reports from the block administration regarding the implementation of schemes in their respective areas reviewed. All concerned officials were instructed to ensure that schemes are completed with transparency, adherence to provisions, and

within the stipulated time-

In the review of the Abua Awas Yojana, officials were directed to release the second installment to beneficiaries who have been geo-tagged after receiving the first installment. Concerns were raised over the construction delay of around 200 houses in Potka and Chakulia, and the block administration was instructed to commence construction immediately. The progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin and Ambedkar Awas Yojana was reviewed. Directions were given to release the first installment to beneficiaries of PM Janman to kick-start the projects. Regarding MGNRE-GA, instructions were issued to increase man-days creation by implementing 5-6



Birsa Harit Gram initiative was given a deadline of August 5 to complete 100% pit digging, and blocks were urged to expedite the construction of Birsa irrigation wells. For the Poto Ho Playground scheme, officials were directed to secure 100% approval against the target, Gram Panchayat grounds, and utilize school grounds under the scheme. In the Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana, instructions

were given to submit applications by matching school/college data with the voter list, aiming to distribute the scheme amount to beneficiaries by August 15. It was directed that all applied Anganwadi centers should be electrified within 20 days. CDPOs were instructed to submit applications for non-electrified centers promptly, and COs were tasked with checking and allotting land for Anganwadi and health sub-

Sarvajan Pension Yojana addressed data on failed payments due to bank account errors, urging beneficiaries to update Aadhaar seeding and KYC with their banks. Information was gathered on infrastructure Panchayat buildings, and the Panchayat Gyan Kendra (Library) was directed to be inaugurated between August 1-5 in the presence of public representatives.

In the review of agriculture animal husbandry schemes, departmental officials and BDOs were instructed to open ESCROW bank accounts for animal husbandry scheme beneficiaries and identify land for a 100 MT warehouse under Cooperative Department's scheme. Instructions were

distribution, update stock registers, and enforce strict checks on monthly physical inspection registers. Actions were directed against ration shopkeepers distributing less ration and slow progress in lifting and distributing gram dal. A list of schools without electricity was requested from the Education Department. It was noted that Aadhaar cards for about 300 children were pending due to the lack of birth certificates, and coordination with school principals was directed to resolve this issue. COs were directed to provide land for health subcenter construction, ensure availability of anti-snake bite medicines in all CHCs, and inspect malnutrition treatment centers. Applications for the Chief Minister's Health Assistance Scheme were to be

Bokaro district Congress president emphasizes on agricultural planning

Bokaro District Congress President Umesh Prasad Gupta visited the Bokaro Agriculture District Officer's office to emphasize the need for a focused agricultural work plan. He stressed that no farmer in Bokaro district should be deprived of benefits.

During the visit, Gupta highlighted the importance of the Jharkhand Loan Waiver Scheme and insisted that all farmers in Bokaro district receive 100% benefits. He directed the District Agriculture Officer to prepare agricultural work plans for all blocks, villages, and pan-

chayats, particularly focusing on completing the EKYC process for farmers who have been left out of the scheme through camps organized by agricultural friends. This ensures that no farmer misses out on the benefits. The current Jharkhand

government has initiated the Jharkhand Loan Waiver Scheme to support farmers. Under this scheme, agricultural loans of up to ?50,000 are waived. Minister Finance Rameshwar Oraon, in the 2024-25 budget session, announced an increase in the loan waiver amount ?50,000 from

IIT ISM researcher solves issue of disposal of industrial wastes, develops mine backfilling



Prof Devi Prasad Mishra, **Head of Department of Mining Engineering**

PANKAJ: DHANBAD

he steady depletion of river sand due to overexploitation for various purposes, including its usage as construction material and also as the main source of mine backfill material, and the resultant increase in the cost of mine backfilling due to the increase in sand mining and transportation costs have propelled IIT (ISM) researchers to carry out an extensive study on the feasibility of

the usage of industrial waste like mill tailings and fly ash as mine backfilling material.

The study conducted by Santosh Kumar Behera, a research scholar of IIT (ISM), as part of his PhD thesis, under the guidance of Prof Devi Prasad Mishra, Head of Department of Mining Engineering of the institute, as Supervisor, and also under CN Ghosh, Former Chief Scientist of Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) as Co Supervisor, revealed that the usage of industrial wastes like mill tailings substantially reduces the cost of mine backfilling and at the same time also prevents the overexploitation of river

The study titled, "Geomechanical and Microstructural Investigations of Lead Zinc Mill Tailings-Based Paste Backfill for Underground Metalliferous Mines" underscores the use of industrial wastes as mine backfill material and the resultant conservation of river sand in order to help prevent the ill effects of overexploitation of sand, like alteration of the river bed, change of course of the river, and erosion of the river bank causing flooding. The use of industrial waste like flyash and Mail Tailings can also help to address the problem of their dispos-al. Backfilling is an important component of the overall mining cycle as it helps in the reclamation of mine waste land and, at the same time, helps to prevent subsidence in the case of underground mines by stabilizing the surface of the underground mines. Mail tailings, which are byproducts of the beneficiation of underground metalliferous mines are finer as compared to sand and possess favorable properties for use as paste backfill material.

The fine-grained fly ash generated by thermal power plants can also be a good substitute for sand as filling material in mines, as it possesses pozzolanic properties and also requires less water and energy for its transportation. In the recently completed PhD thesis, fly ash, fuming furnace slag (FFS), lead zinc mill tailing, and crushed fuming slags have been used as paste-back fill material for underground metalliferous mines

'The PhD thesis mainly focused on the design and optimization of paste backfill mix through lab experiments for backfilling in underground metalliferous mines, said Behera, adding that studies reveal that the utilization of tailing, flyash, slag, and other industrial wastes as cemented paste backfill material reduces the leaching risk compared to the usage of uncemented surface disposal techniques. "In India, presently, there are

four operating mines of Hindustan Zinc Limited in Rajasthan State adopting paste backfill technology, while two mines are under design implementation stage, including one of Hindustan Zinc Limited and another of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL)," revealed Prof.

"Globally, more than 100 underground metalliferous mines use paste backfill technology, so there is enough scope for applying paste backfill technology on a large scale in India," said Prof. Mishra, adding that though there are several cases of use of paste backfill in underground metal mines, the application of paste backfilling in underground coal mines is negligible.

"THOUGH THE PRESENT SHARE OF UNDERGROUND COAL PRODUC-TION IS A MEAGER 5% IN INDIA, FUTURE TRENDS INDICATE A GRADUAL RISE IN THE SHARE AND A RESULTANT INCREASE IN PASTE BACKFILL MATERIAL IN THE FUTURE," SAID MISHRA, ADDING THAT CONVENTIONAL BACKFILL TECHNOLOGY CAN'T MATCH THE HIGHER RATE OF PRODUCTION FROM UNDER-GROUND MINES.

Management

PNS: BOKARO

Bokaro Dalmia Cement head praises Budget for promoting infrastructure and employment

R SHARMA: BOKARO

As the Union Budget 2024-25 was announced, cement makers are betting on higher allocations to housing and infrastructure, which constitute more than 80 percent of the country's demand for the commodity.

Sharing his insights with a Pioneer representative, Priya Ranjan, the unit head of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, Bokaro unit, highlighted the government's commitment to boosting capital expenditure in infradevelopment. With an outlay of ?11.11 lakh crore, equivalent to 3.4% of GDP, the government is set to significantly infrastructure growth. This substantial



opportunities for the private sector, especially for cement companies, to participate in various infrastructure proj-

Ranjan emphasized the importance of investment in 12 industrial parks, rural ing, and road projects, combined with the overall infrastructure capital expenditure. These initiatives are expected to drive economic growth and development across the country.

Additionally, the budget's focus on employment and youth skilling is evident with a dedicated outlay of ?1.48 lakh crore. This initiative aims to empower and upskill an estimated 4 crore youths, creating a robust workforce for the future.

According to Ranjan, this year's budget is a significant step towards building a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), with its emphasis on infrastructure, employment, and various other measures designed to propel the nation forward.

Healthy citizens are foundation of a healthy society: Rajendra Singh

A free medical camp was organized at the headquarters of the Krantikari İspat majdur Sangh(HMS) in Sector 9 on July 26, in collaboration with the Union and Durgapur Mission Hospital. The camp was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Rakesh Kumar, General Manager of Coke-Oven and Coke Chemicals, Harimohan Jha, General Manager of Resources and Administration, Rajendra Singh, General Secretary of the Union and NJCS member, Babli Singh, President of the

along with specialists Dr. Saroj Kumar Mishra, Dr. Tarka Tarafdar from Mission Hospital, and Rajeev Singh, epresentative of Mission Hospital in Bokaro.

Addressing the media, Rakesh Kumar highlighted the significant turnout, reflecting increased public awareness about health. He emphasized the importance of regular health check-ups and stated that healthy workers are essential for quality production. He commended the Union's initiative as a positive step towards building a healthy society.

Harimohan Jha, General Manager Resources, praised the efforts of Mission Hospital and the Union. He urged everyone to remain aware and stay healthy

Rajendra Singh, General Secretary of the Union and NJCS member, stressed the necessity of regular health check-ups for all. He noted that, as per the regulations of the Bokaro Steel Plant, contract workers are also undergoing health checks at BGH for gate passes, although this rule has caused confusion and fear among them. To address this, the Union pro-

posed the organization of a free medical camp with spe-Mission Hospital. expressed gratitude to the doctors, administrative officers, and Rajeev Singh from Mission Hospital for their positive response and valuable time dedicated to the

people of Bokaro. The organizing committee of the medical camp included significant roles from Union members R.K. Singh, Ramesh Shambhu Prasad, Suman Paswan, Akhilesh Singh, Shashibhushan, Santosh Kumar, and Chandra

Twenty-five management trainees have joined the Bokaro Steel Plant and commenced their three-week training program organized the Knowledge and

Trainees contribute

at Bokaro Steel Plant

Development Department of Human Resources. The local induction program for the trainees was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Executive Director (HR and Additional Operations) Mr. Rajan Prasad, and Executive Director (Mines) Mr. Jaydeep Dasgupta. Chief General Manager (Knowledge and Development) Jalota, in his welcome address, congratulated the trainees on their achievements and welcomed them to Bokaro Steel Plant. The program began with a safety pledge, where all management trainees took the oath with Executive Director Mr. Rajan Prasad.

On this occasion, ED Rajan Prasad extended his best wishes for the trainees' bright future and stated that Bokaro Steel Plant is continuously reaching new heights, and the trainees are expected to play a significant role in this progress. He emphasized the importance of safety and environmental considerations, urging the trainees to lead in achieving the goal of producing zero carbon emission steel. In her vote of thanks, General Manager (Knowledge Development) Neeta Ba congratulated the trainees on their accomplishments, welcomed them to Bokaro Steel Plant, and wished them a

an organization like SAIL. The program was conducted by S. N. Mishra, Junior Officer (Knowledge and Development), and the success of the event was due to the significant contributions of all personnel from the New Trainee Cell.

bright future, assuring them

that their future is secure in



Jamshedpur FC to face Assam Rifles in Durand Cup opener Red Miners, are under the tutelage of Khalid

The city is all set for the grand opening of the 133rd IndianOil Durand Cup. The Jharkhand city makes its debut as hosts of the prestigious century-old tournament with the opening game featuring local side Jamshedpur FC against the Assam Rifles Football Team in a Group D opener at the JRD Tata Sports Complex. This first Super Sunday game kicks off at 4 PM IST. The second match, at Kolkata's Kishore Bharati Krirangan, will see former champions Mohammedan Sporting take on Durand debutants Inter Kashi in a Group B clash scheduled for a 7 PM IST start.

The crowd will be treated to a thrilling skydiving display and a flypast by Rotary Wing Aircraft from the Army Aviation Wing. A collage of cultural events will then commence before the Chief Guest, Shri Hemant Soren, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, opens the game with a symbolic kickoff of the match ball. Jamshedpur FC, popularly known as the

Jamil. With an opportunity to play at home in such a significant tournament, they will look to overwhelm Assam Rifles. Speaking ahead of the game, Khalid Jamil said, "We're on home turf, but that's no excuse to take things lightly. We must approach this game with utmost seriousness and respect for our opponents, Assam Rifles. A good start is crucial and every single player and staff member is focused and geared up for this match. We can't afford to underestimate them - it's time to put in the work and make our home advantage count."

On the other hand, Assam Rifles, who last participated in the 130th edition of the competition, will look to pull off an upset in the Group and make life difficult for the more accomplished teams.

In the second match of the day, I-League champions Mohammedan SC will hope for a winning start in front of their home fans at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan.

Grandparents' Day -Vatsalyam celebrated at SBPS

PNS: RANCHI

To honour the cherished role of grandparents in every individual's life, Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi organised a heartwarming event -Vatsalyam 2024 by students of KG II on the theme 'Pravahini- The river saga'. The event witnessed the presence of special guests from Apna Ghar, an old age home. Their presence made the day more memorable. The annual report of session 2023-24 was presented by the Vice Head Boy of the

school.The event included various programmes by the tiny tots which depicted the various stages of a river. All the stages were connected with the stages of human life. The stages portrayed how life originates, moving on to describing the joyful saga of childhood and just like a human being reaches maturity similarly a river also becomes calm and finally it reaches its ultimate destina-

tion. A special performance by the students to celebrate Raksha Bandhan was dedicated to the sacrifices made

by the frontline warriors. The performance was to honour the Indian soldiers listing the insights of the kargil conflict and the deeds of bravery of the other unsung heroes. A plantation drive was also organised for the parents and students who were present on the auspicious occasion to promote the importance of conservation of our nature. The tiny tots also tied rakhis around the trees with a pledge to protect them. The event culminated with the rendition of school song followed by the National

Anthem. School Principal, Paramjit Kaur, expressed her gratitude for the grandparents' and spoke about their invaluable influence on the present generation. She added that such events create lasting memories and strengthen family connections within the

school community.

Adalat held in Garhwa

Monthly Lok

NITYANAND DUBEY:

A monthly Lok Adalat was organized on Saturday in which five benches (including Nagar Untari Sub-Divisional Civil Court) were constituted for the execution of various cases in Lok Adalat.

Shivnath Tripathi, District and Additional Sessions Judge-III, Sangeeta, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Monika Prasad, Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Anulika Kumar, Judicial Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Civil Court, Nagar Untari and Arvind Kachhap, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate were present. Along with the Judicial Magistrate, one advocate each was also nominated for all the benches. Among them were advocates Praveen Kumar Sahu, Hanseshwar Pandey-Nagar Untari, Nityanand Dubey, Anita Ranjan and Uttam Kumar Bharti.

In this monthly Lok Adalat A total of 74 cases were disposed of including 01 cases from the bank, 33 cases from criminal compoundable, 38 cases related to electricity department, 02 cases from Motor Vehicle Act. In which a total revenue of Rs 4,34,000.00/- was recov-

On this occasion judicial officers, advocates, court staff, PLV and parties were present.

Mega camps for CMEGP organised in

PNS: DALTONGANJ

Chief minister employment generation programme is yet to gain public confidence like that of the Abua Awas Yojna, which is a craze here.

A loan scheme is always second to Awas (shelter) scheme. Here in Palamu efforts are on to take chief minister employment generation programme every panchayat. A personal initiative of the DC Shashi Ranjan saw 3,615 applications for the

Minister Generation Employment Programme (CMEGP) coming in at the recently conclude mega camps for it

It was held in all the 21 blocks here in a batch of 9,9 and 3 blocks of Palamu each one of the three day mega

Additional Kundan Kumar told this correspondent "This mega camp was purely the idea of the DC Shashi Ranjan alone. There has come no directive to it from the state.

CMEGP form is simple to be filled in but applicants just do it most casually.

Additional collectorKundan Kumar said the applicant gives self attested copy of the caste certificate but misses to give income certificate. Improper and

inadequate filled CMEGP forms are rejectable outright if done online and hence applicants have been given time to submit papers and documents properly for its online entries.

DC Shashi Ranjan during his visit to Sadar block mega camp too had asked for online entry for the offline applications

Following applicants not giving papers and documents 2561 applications for CMEGP

couldn't be entered online. Only 1054 applications out of 3615 were found duly filled with papers and documents. Their online entries were done. A guarantor for loan above 50,000 like 50 001 rupee restricts many from applying for the CMEGP. A perspective loanee finds it hard to have a guarantor. An applicant refusing to

be identified said guarantor is around but with a premium too. This is the major setback for the CMEGP as other provisions like rate of interest, moratorium period etc. are quite affordable

DC Shashi Ranjan and his team is determined to motivate the eligible and in n.ed of loan to choose CMEGP for benefits like easy processing, lower rate of interest and longer moratorium and subsidy with rider.

MECON Ltd and BEL forge strategic partnership with signing of MoA

MECON Limited, a premier engineering, consultancy and contracting organization under the Ministry of Government of India, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a leading Indian defense electronics product manufacturing company, under Ministry of Defense, Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to collaborate and work together on key projects and initiatives.

The MoA was signed by Amit Raj, Director (Technical), MECON and Bhanu



Prakash Srivastava, Director (Other Units), BEL on 04.07.2024 at MECON

Head Office at Ranchi. Sanjay Kumar Verma, CMD, MECON and Mukesh Kumar, Director (Finance) MECON, Sanjay Agrawal, GM, BEL and other sen-ior officials of MECON were also present during the occasion This Memorandum of Agreement

marks a significant milestone in paving the way forward for leveraging synergies between MECON's expertise in engineering & consultancy services and BEL's prowess in defense electronics and advanced technology solutions for contributing to Nation's technological and industrial advancement.

Orange alert for heavy rains in State's many districts

State stares at drought like situation due to rain deficit

PNS: RANCHI

ne State has been staring at a drought like situation due to less rainfall in the months of June and July this year is likely to get heavy showers in many districts in the com-

RANCHI | SUNDAY | JULY 28, 2024

Low pressure is likely to move towards Jharkhand in the next two days, due to which rainfall activities may continue for the next several days. Apart from this, an orange alert has been issued for heavy rains in Gumla, Singhbhum and Simdega

Lohardaga,



Ranchi, Khunti, Saraikela Kharsawan Singhbhum districts witnessed heavy to moderate Friday. Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rains in these districts.

Monsoon rains have picked up pace in Ranchi. 323.2 mm of rainfall has been recorded in 56 days of June and July, which is 31 per cent less than normal rainfall. However, 223.7 mm of rainfall has been recorded in 26 days of July, which is more than the 99.5 mm rain-June. Meteorological Department informed that the rain deficit is likely to be met in four-five

Heavy rains occurred in Ranchi in the last 24 hours, which made the weather pleasant. After light sunshine in the afternoon, it rained again in the evening. After sunshine and shade in the morning, strong sunlight and humid heat troubled me in the afternoon, but the weath-

days of this month.

er changed with the arrival of monsoon clouds and rain started in the evening. There were showers in different parts of the city and heavy rain occurred at night.

Monsoon activity increased in Jharkhand in the last 24 hours. The highest temperature in the state was recorded at 35.9 degrees in Godda and the lowest minimum temperature was 24.2 degrees in Chaibasa. Palamu received the highest rainfall of 95.5 mm. According to the Meteorological Department, the monsoon has become fully active in the state due to low pressure in the Bay of

New route to cause troubles for Auto/E-rickshaw drivers and public: Jaiswal

president Former Jharkhand Pradesh Professionals Congress and current state representative Aditya Vikram Jaiswal, today met with hundreds of auto and e-rickshaw drivers at OTC Ground near Pisca More on Ratu Road to understand the difficulties they will face due to the new route map.

During the meeting, the auto drivers expressed that the new route map would bring many challenges and other issues. They demanded new tempo stands and the continuation of the old permit system.

Jaiswal, after listening to the drivers, stated that they are highly agitated and distressed about the route map road permit system that the corporation is going to implement. He pointed out another significant issue where, in the absence of tempo stands



resorting to violence if the tokens are not paid. The drivers demanded that tokens should not be collected where there are no tempo stands as it severely affects their income. They requested the reimplementation of the pre-

radius, to prevent the public from frequently changing autos and to allow them to book an auto for any destina-Dr. Reema Khalkho, Anil

Pappu Singh, Baneshwar Munda, and others were present on the



vious system, which allowed

MoS for Defense Minister Sanjay Seth meets Bageshwar Dham Baba Dhirendra Shastri at Bageshwar Dham on Saturday. PNS

PMLA COURT SENDS KAMLESH KUMAR TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

ED to pray for Kamlesh's remand on Monday

The Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ranchi today sent land dealer Kamlesh Kumar to judicial custody after his arrest by the **Enforcement** Directorate (ED) on Friday. The ED will submit a request for his remand on Monday, with the court scheduled to hear the matter the same day. Until then, Kumar will remain in the Birsa Munda Central Jail.

Kumar is accused of accumulating huge wealth through fraudulent land transactions over the past decade. It has been reported that many individuals arrested in connection with the land scam have implicated Kumar, particularly concerning the land near Kanke.

The ED had arrested Kamlesh on Friday after interrogating him for over six hours at its Zonal office in

heavy vehicles

Extremists have once again

tried to spread terror in

Latehar. Late on Friday

evening, the extremists set

the vehicle on fire. In which

both the vehicles were com-

Extremist organization

TPC has taken responsibility

this, they have given a strict

warning. It is clearly written

in that pamphlet that if DVC

works without managing the

TPC organization, then mili-

tary action will be taken. The

police seized that pamphlet

on Nawada Path near the

Herhanj police station area

of Latehar. According to the

information, both the Hiva

were engaged in the trans-

porting work of DVC company on Nawada Path of

Herhanj police station area

TPC extremist organization

reached there. After this, the

driver and co-driver of both

the vehicles were taken out

of the vehicle and set it on

fire. Due to this, both the

Hiva were completely burnt to ashes. The local people

informed the police about

this. On Saturday morning,

the police reached the spot

and inquired about the mat-

ter. They also recovered a

pamphlet and started further

action. They have intensified

the campaign to nab the per-

petrators of the crime. Here, after getting information

about the matter, a crowd of

people from the nearby areas

gathered to see the burnt

TPC Naxalites set

fire to Coal

vehicles in

Transportation

The police have seized the

pamphlet from the spot.

Late night some people of

of Latehar district.

The incident took place

and started further action.

pletely burnt to ashes.

Extremists torch two

in Latehar

PNS: RANCHI

Ranchi. Sources said that Kamlesh was taken into custody at 8 p.m. for providing unsatisfactory responses regarding an alleged scam involving the transaction of a large piece of land in the

Kanke area of Ranchi. Kamlesh had previously ignored at least five ED sumbefore finally appearing for questioning on Friday.

On June 21, the ED conducted raids at various locaassociated with Kamlesh, seizing more than Rs 1 crore in cash and 100 live cartridges. Additionally, the agency found several incriminating documents at his residence in Astor Green and other locations in Ranchi. Following the raid, the ED sent a letter to the Director General of Police, calling for action on the case, and a case was filed against Kamlesh under the Arms Act at the Kanke police station in Ranchi. Kamlesh is accused of using fake documents to acquire land worth several crores and amassing significant property over the past decade. Sources suggest that he operated under the protection of high-ranking officials in both the administra-

tion and police. Another land dealer Shekhar Kushwaha, who was arrested by the ED on June 12 and is connected to a syndicate involved in land grabbing using forged documents, provided information implicating Kamlesh in the acquisition of land at various locations in the Birsa Agricultural University Kanke area.

Kumar previously worked as a photographer for a local newspaper in Ranchi. Over time, he became involved in the land business, acquiring interests in several disputed



Kamlesh Kumar appears before PMLA court in land scam case in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

ED has till date arrested over a dozen people in differ-

T obin Hembram has filed a

Lacase in Jharkhand High

Court (HC) against the

Speaker's decision to cancel

membership

Jharkhand Assembly. He has

appealed to restore his mem-

bership to get involved in

public interest issues in the

Former JMM MLA Lobin

the

Hemant

Jharkhand Assembly

PNS: RANCHI

Ranchi including IAS officer

BJP reacts sharply on Cong MLA's comparison of Biharis with Bangladeshi infiltrators



PNS: RANCHI

BJP's state spokesperson Pratul Shahdev has strongly reacted to the statement of Congress MLA Shilpi Neha Tirkey in which the MLA has Bangladeshi Muslim intruders with people from Bihar. Pratul said that the MLA should understand that Muslim intruders from Bangladesh have illegally come from other countries and settled in Santhal and other areas of Jharkhand. On the other hand people from Bihar have settled here under the law of their country. By comparing these two, she has introduced petty politics. Pratul said that Congress has a long history of appeasing Muslim votes and doing vote bank politics. The population of tribals in Santhal has decreased by 16 per cent and the population of Muslims has increased by 13 per cent. All Congressmen are silent on this. But as soon as questions are raised on Muslim infiltration, their irri-Pratul said that the forces

involved in appeasement for a long time have worked to get voter ID cards and government documents for these intruders. Pratul Shahdev wanted to know from Congress National President Rahul Gandhi and State President Rajesh Thakur

Hembram, who lost his whether they also consider assembly membership. the Muslim infiltrators from attacked Bangladesh and the people who have settled in Bihar to Government on Saturday. Raising the issue of Muslims be the same? dominating the State, he Pratul said that Congress accused the Hemant Soren has always done the politics of hatred and has been play-Government of creating a Muslim vote bank. He said ing into the hands of divisive that due to illegal intruders, forces. Pratul said that BJP the population of tribals in has been saying from the beginning that Bangladeshi the State has decreased by 10 per cent. Apart from this, he infiltrators have the status of son-in-law in this government. Despite the reprimand of the High Court, the work of identifying them is not progressing. These Muslim infil-

trators are directly encroach-

ing on the rights of the trib-

als. The Bharatiya Janata

Party will continue to fight to

save the soil, bread and

daughter and will keep rais-

ing its voice against the infil-

trators. After coming to

power in the state, BJP will

also show them the way out.

But today Congress has

shown its truth that in its

eyes, Bihar and Bangladeshi

Muslim infiltrators are the

Thakur on this cheap statement of the Congress MLA.



Lobin Hembrom knocks HC door

Former JMM MLA Lobin Hembrom during a residence in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

has filed a case in the Jharkhand High against the Speaker's decision to terminate his assembly membership. He has appealed to restore his

assembly membership. Hembram said

against Assembly Tribunal's order democracy has been murdered in Jharkhand. The people of the party have forcibly terminated my membership through the Speaker. He said, it is sad that along with him, Chamra Linda also contested the election as an independent, but no action was taken against him. Expressing his grief over this, he said that for the same crime, one person was hanged and nothing was

done to the oth Thursday, Jharkhand Assembly Speaker had disqualified JMM's Lobin Hembram and Congress's Jai Prakash Patel from the House under the anti-defection law. JMM and BJP had raised the demand to initiate action against Lobin Hembram and JP Patel

under the anti-defection law.

participants, which fosters

an environment of mutual

growth and understanding. Many colourful anecdotes

from his past lightened the

Following which the dis-tinguished chief guest was

Sachan. The ceremony con-

cluded with a heartfelt vote

Verma, expressing gratitude

to all attendees for their par-

ticipation in this momentous

occasion. The inaugural ses-

sion has set the stage for an

enriching educational jour-

of thanks by Prof. Rajeev

honoured by Prof. Amit

mood as well.

DWA Mela 2024 concludes



Doctors' Wives Association closed its resoundingly successful fair on Saturday The happy and smiling faces of the organisers, the customers and the vendors/gourmet

cooks/designers and boutique owners were testimony to the fact that each one of them felt she was a winner. The grand finale was the gifting of certificates of appreciation and an aparajita plant to each of the stall holders. The proceeds from the MELA will be used for Social Welfare, as declared earlier. The earnings of the last two years, amounting to five lakhs, have already been donated to PM CARES FUND. DWA thanks the citizens of Ranchi for stepping out in unpredictable weather and helping in the successful conclusion of DWA 2024.

CKPF celebrates its foundation Day

CRPF Jharkhand Sector IG Saket Kumar Singh on Saturday congratulated CRPF personnel and their families on the foundation day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). At the head office in Dhurwa, Ranchi, he paid tribute to



the martyred soldiers and officers and remembered their sac-rifice. CRPF Foundation Day is celebrated on 27 July since it was established on this day in 1939 as the Crown Preparatory Force. Later it was renamed as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). It is the largest paramilitary force in the country which works under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is deployed in different parts of the country.

IOB bags Orange Business Excellence Award



The Orange Business Excellence Award 2024 awarded to Indian Overseas Bank for its outstanding performance in the best financial practices in the Jharkhand region. The award was based on various surveys, interviews with the public, bank customers and senior government officials conducted by

Radio Orange. On this, Sarvesh Kumar, State Head, Indian Overseas Bank received the award from Nitin Gadkari (Minister of Road, Transport & Highways, India) at a function organized by Radio Orange in Delhi. The recognition demonstrates Indian Overseas Bank's high quality and dedication in

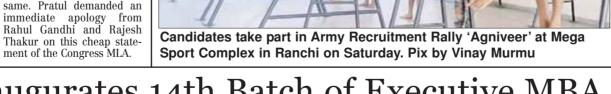
DPS Ranchi wins national Squash

Team DPS Ranchi emerged victori-

ous in the DPS National Squash Championship Open Category (Boys) 2024, held at DPS Surat from July 25 to 27. The championship witnessed fierce competition, culminating in DPS Ranchi's decisive victory over DPS R.K. Puram in the final match. The winning team from DPS Ranchi comprised Shivesh Kanoi (Class XII), Viraj Gupta (Class

XII), and Advit Taneja (Class VII). Their journey to the championship title included a remarkable win in the semifinals against the host team, DPS Surat, setting the stage for an intense final showdown. Shivesh Kanoi, a standout performer throughout the tournament, was honoured with the Best Player award, recognizing his exceptional talent and contribution to the team's success. Dr. R.K. Jha, the Principal Incharge of DPS Ranchi, expressed his pride and joy in the team's

Championship



Nitesh Kumar, now Senior

shared his insights, recalling

Manager, Tata motors,

IIM-R inaugurates 14th Batch of Executive MBA 24 executive MBA batch ship between educators and

PNS: RANCHI

IIM Ranchi inaugurated its 14th Executive MBA programme for the 2024-26 batch on 27th of July, 2024 in the august presence of chief guest Sandip Kumar Kar, Executive Director, RDCIS, SAIL Ranchi.

The event, attended by distinguished guests, faculty, and enthusiastic participants, began with an introduction from Prof. Amit Sachan, Dean Executive Education, who in his address emphasized the importance of personal growth and collaborative

learning Latehar on Friday Prof. Rajeev Verma, Chairperson Executive MBA



welcomed the participants, highlighting the diverse backgrounds of the 30 selected participants, who hail from various sectors, including notable organizations such as Maruti Suzuki Bombay Stock Exchange, Accenture, and SBI, and possess work experience ranging from 3.5 to 20 years. He

encouraged participants to engage in peer-to-peer learning, combining both online and offline modes of education for a comprehensive learning experience. Dean Academics, Prof. the importance of mutual learning among peers. An alumnus of the 2022

Tanushree Dutta, reinforced

his own transformative journey and congratulating the new batch on their bold decision to pursue further education. Another esteemed alumnus of 2023 25 batch, Vikas Kumar, currently deputy manager, ESL Vedanta reiterated the points mentioned earlier. He stressed the value of collaborative learning and the unique perspectives gained through class discussions.

The esteemed Chief Guest Sanjiv, stressed the signifiing and emphasized the

ney, equipping participants cance of cooperative learnwith the skills and knowledge necessary for their provalue of a two-way relationfessional growth.

night. PNS

Emergency a dark period: Dhankhar

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, Lalu 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



He said undignified behaviour during House proceedings to score a political point is a blow to the spirit of democra-

cy. 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.

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 hitand-run strategy," he said. Dhankhar said Parliament has been a citadel of constitution-

values and liberties. At times, there have been issues, but House leaders have shown the way using wisdom, he added. "But the situation now

Undignified behaviour is being used as a political weapon, which is a blow to the spirit of democracy," he told the mem-

Modi, Shah laud CRPF role on raising day

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

"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

Treatment meted out to Mamata Hepatitis B leads to severe illness, deaths due to liver cancer: Experts unacceptable, says Congress

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 incharge 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

Despite being preventable and treatable, chronic hepatitis B and C has 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

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 Gastroenterology Hepatology Department at Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, highlighted the local situation, saying, "Hepatitis B and C are among the most common 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

Dr Pande said hepatitis B infection is more prevalent in regions such as Ladakh (12.7 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh

water."

(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

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 meth-



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 repre-sentative 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

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

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

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.



Genetic, environmental factors influence T1D risk, says study

Children are nearly twice as likely to develop type 1 diabetes (T1D) if their father has the condition compared to if their mother has it, a groundbreaking research, the largest of its kind has said.

To be presented next month at the Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), this research uncovers significant insights into the genetic and environmental factors influencing T1D risk.

It suggests that exposure to T1D in the womb confers longterm protection against the condition in children with affected mothers relative to those with affected fathers. "Individuals with a family history of type 1 diabetes are 8-15 times more likely to develop the autoimmune condition - however, studies have shown the risk is higher if the affected relative is the father rather than the mother. We wanted to understand this more," said Dr Lowri Allen, Lead Researcher, Diabetes Research Group, Cardiff University.

He added, "Previous studies have suggested that maternal early life.

ative maternal protection from type 1 diabetes is confined just to childhood. We were also interested in what might be responsible for the effect."

To find out more, Dr Allen, Professor Richard Oram, of the Department of Clinical and

Sweden and US performed a meta-analysis of data from five studies (BOX, Better Diabetes Diagnosis, TrialNet Pathway to Prevention Study, Type 1 Diabetes Genetic Consortium and StartRight) that contained information about individuals with T1D and their parents.

The analysis involved 11,475

individuals with T1D who were

diagnosed when they were between 0 and 88 years old. The

results show they were almost

twice as likely (1.8 times more likely) to have a father with T1D as a mother with the condition. This was the case for individuals who were diagnosed with

type 1 diabetes is associated with relative protection against type 1 diabetes in offspring during We wanted to know if this rel-

Biomedical Sciences, University of Exeter Medical School, Exeter, UK, and colleagues in the UK,

T1D in childhood (=18 years) and as adults (>18 years). Individuals with mothers with T1D were diagnosed at a similar age to those with fathers with T1D."Taken together, our findings suggest the relative protection associated with having a mother versus father with type diabetes is a long-term effect that extends into adult life," said Dr Allen.The researchers also used a genetic risk score that takes into account more than 60 different genes known to be associated with T1D, to compare the inherited genetic risk of T1D in individuals with affectmothers fathers. Individuals with mothers withT1D had similar scores to

those whose fathers had T1D, suggesting their relative protection against T1D wasn't due to the genes they had inherited. However, the timing of the parent's diagnosis was important. An individual was only more likely to have a father, rather than a mother, with T1D, if the parent was diagnosed before the individual was born, said the

Indian astronaut will travel to International Space Station

PNS NEW DELHI

One of the four Indian astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyan 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

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



sion, India's first human space flight planned to take place next

"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

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,

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

liquid and cryogenic engine,

towards human rating of the

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 sledge The ground test programme

towards human rating of the Crew Module Propulsion System has been completed and the Service Module

gramme is nearing completion, the minister told Lok Sabha. He said characterisation of the

Propulsion System test pro-

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 liq-

uid 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 Kamala Harris officially declares in Gaza, killing at least 30

(GAZA STRIP)

sraeli 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-

At least 30 people sheltering at a girls' school in Deir Al-Balah were taken to Al Aqsa Hospital and pronounced dead after a strike that Israel's military said targeted a Hamas command and control centre used to store weapons and plan attacks. Gaza's Health Ministry said 11 people were killed in other strikes on Saturday.

Israel's military ordered the evacuation of a part of a designated humanitarian zone in Gaza ahead of a planned strike on Khan Younis on Saturday, as 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. The military said it planned an operation against Hamas militants in the city, including parts of Muwasi, the crowded tent camp in an area where Israel has told thousands of Palestinians to seek refuge throughout the war.

The planned strike comes a day before officials from the US, Egypt, Qatar and Israel are scheduled to meet in Italy and discuss the ongoing hostage and cease-fire negotiations. CIA Director Bill Burns is expected to meet Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani, Mossad director David Barnea

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. It's the second evacuation order issued in a week that has included striking part of the humanitarian zone, a 60square-kilometer (roughly 20square-mile) blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and have

limited access to aid. United

Nations and humanitarian

groups say. Israel expanded

the zone in May to take in peo-

ple fleeing Rafah, where more

than half of Gaza's population

and Egyptian spy chief Abbas

at the time had crowded. According to Israeli estimates, about 1.8 million Palestinians are currently sheltering there after being uprooted multiple times in search of safety during 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.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said it was increasingly difficult to know how many people would be affected by the evacuation order because those sheltering under there were constantly being displaced. "Referring to the orders as

evacuation orders don't do any justice to what this means," said Juliette Touma, the agency's director of communications. "These are forced displacement orders. What happens is when people have these orders,

they have very little time to

Republican Party's nominee Donald Trump.

Harris launched her presiden-

Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday official-

ly 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

Today, I signed the forms

officially declaring my candidacy for President of the United

States. I will work hard to earn

every vote," 59-year-old Harris,

who is of Indian and African

"In November, our people-powered campaign will win,"

the presumptive Democratic Party candidate said, referring

to her electoral battle with for-

mer president and the

November 5.

origin, said on X.

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.

candidature for US presidency

If elected on November 5 to succeed President Biden, Harris the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother would not only be the first woman, but the first Indian-American, the first Asian, the first Black woman and the first person of Jamaican descent to ascend to the office.

Meanwhile, no Democrats have announced their candidacy for the presidential race. Harris has secured endorsements from more than 40 state delegations, surpassing the number of delegates she will need to win the nomination and if that support holds,

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

Under new rules adopted by the Democratic National Committee on Wednesday, the nominee will be selected as soon as August 1, and the candidate has until August 7 to

party will meet for its convention in Chicago starting August 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. Her campaign said it raked in more than USD 130 million since she officially joined the White House race. The endorsement comes as 'Harris for President' kicks off a 'Weekend of Action' marking 100 days until Election Day (on

November 5). With over 1,70,000 volunteers and 2,300 events across the battleground states, Team Harris is making its case to the voters who will decide this election about the fundamental choice they will face this November at the ballot box.

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

"Europe has given up defending its own interests," Orban said in Baile Tusnad, a majority-ethnic Hungarian town in central Romania. "All Europe is doing today is following the US's pro-Democrat foreign policy unconditionally ... even at the cost of self-destruction.

"A change is coming that has not been seen for 500 years. What we are facing is in fact a world order change," he added, citing China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia as becoming the "dominant centre" of the world. Orban also alleged that the US was behind the 2022 explosions that damaged the Nord Stream gas pipelines built to carry gas from Russia to Germany, calling it "an act of terrorism carried out at the obvious direction of the Americans". He didn't offer any evidence to back up the

The far-right leader's remarks come amid growing criticism from his European partners after he embarked on rogue 'peace mission" trips to Moscow and Beijing earlier this month aimed at brokering an end to Russia's war in

Morari Bapu to

recite Ram Katha

at United Nations

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 scrip

The Ramcharitmanas carries a

global message, transcending

religious and cultural bound

aries, Morari Bapu, who has

been reciting Ram Kathas for

over sixty-five years drawing

from Vedic Sanatana Dharma

"It speaks to the universal val-

ues that are needed in today's

world-truth, love, and com-

"Recitation of Ram Katha at the UN is a divine grace and a step

towards global harmony," he

interview.

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Ukraine. Orbán is widely conrelations with the Kremlin among all EU leaders.

On Ukraine, Orbán cast doubt on the war-torn country becoming either a member of NATO or the EU. "We Europeans do not have the money for it. Ukraine will revert to the position of a buffer state," he said, adding that international security guarantees "will be enshrined in an agreement between the US and Russia"

Throughout Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine, Orbán has bro-ken with other EU leaders by refusing to provide Kyiv with weapons to defend against Russian forces and has routinely delayed, watered down, or blocked efforts to send financial aid to Kyiv and impose sanctions on Moscow. Orbán typically uses the annu-

Tusvanyos Summer University platform in Romania to indicate the ideological direction of his national government and to deride the standards of the EU bloc, which Hungary joined in 2004. Hungary currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, during which Orbán has made a Trumpian vow to "Make Europe Great Again" and has openly endorsed Trump's candential election. Orbán visited Trump twice this year at the former president's beachside compound in Mar-a-Lago. Orbán said on Saturday that

Trump's bid for re-election people back from a post-

AP MEXICO CITY

traffickers.

new era is coming for

Anew era is coming.

Mexico's powerful Sinaloa

cartel in the wake of the cap-

ture by US authorities of Ismael

"El Mayo" Zambada, the last of

the grand old Mexican drug

Experts believe his arrest will

usher in a new wave of violence

in Mexico even as Zambada

could potentially provide loads

of information for US prosecu-

Zambada, who had eluded

authorities for decades and

had never set foot in prison,

was known for being an astute state's capital.

nationalist liberal state to a sidered to have the warmest nation-state" and rehashed 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. And if that doesn't work, that's why they want to kill him," Orbán said, referring to an assassination attempt on Trump at a Pennsylvania rally this month.

> Orbán's remarks on Saturday aren't the first time he's used the festival in Transylvania to stir controversy. In 2014, Orban declared for the first time his intentions of building an "illiberal state" in Hungary, and in 2022, he sparked international outrage after he railed against Europe becoming a "mixed race" society. He doubled down on his long-held anti-immigration stance on Saturday, saying it is not an answer to his country's aging population.

> There can be no question of a shrinking population supplemented by migration," he said in his Saturday address. "The Western experience is that if there are more guests than owners, then home is no longer home. This is a risk that should not be taken?

The EU's longest-serving leader, Orbán has become an ulists for his firm opposition to immigration and LGBTQ+ rights. He has also cracked down on the press and judiciary in Hungary and been accused by the EU of violating aims "to pull the American rule-of-law and democracy standards.

Mexican kingpin's arrest likely to

operator, skilled at corrupting officials and having an ability

to negotiate with everyone,

Removing him from the crim-

inal 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

With that in mind, the Mexican

government deployed 200

members of its special forces

Friday to Culiacan, Sinaloa

traffickers, experts say

set off violent power struggle

including rivals

Jamaat-e-Islami's 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. The party for the second day on Saturday held the protest to hold a rally at the D-Chowk in Islamabad.

The JI drive was, however, stopped by police. The party later changed its plan and announced holding a sit-in at three places, including Murree Road and Chungi No 22 in Rawalpindi and H-8 Bridge Islamabad.

JI chief Hafiz Naeem addressed the participants camping on the Murree Road, the main artery of the garrison city connecting it with Islamabad, and vowed to continue the sit-in till the demands were accepted.

"Our demands are simple and we want the government to give relief to the masses," he said adding that the party was aware of difficulties but was sure that the issue of power tariffs could be addressed. He said the protest would continue until its key demands were met, elaborating that renegotiations be held with the Independent Power power companies considered the main cause of the exorbitant rise in the electricity bills. Naeem also expressed willingness

to talk with the government if the latter showed seriousness in addressing the issues highlighted by the II.

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 possibili-

ty that the even more vicious

(Ialisco New Generation cartel)

will rise to even greater impor-

For that reason, Zambada's

arrest could be considered a

"great tactical success", but

strategically problematic, Felbab-Brown said.

tance".

Trump continues to target Harris

PTI WASHINGTON

 $K^{
m amala\ Harris\ will}$ 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.

Vice President Harris, 59, is the new presidential candidate of the Democratic party after incumbent President Joe Biden, 81, withdrew from the race. Trump, a former US president and the 2024 Republican presidential candidate, painted Harris as an overly liberal on immigration and abortion and called her a "bum" in a speech to a gathering of religious conservatives. "She was a bum three weeks

ago. She was a bum. A failed vice president and a failed

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.

The 78-year-old former president called her the most incompetent, unpopular, and far-left vice president in American history "If Kamala Harris gets in, she

will be the most extreme radical liberal president in American history...As a Senator, Harris was ranked number one most far-left Democrat in the entire Senate, and that includes Bernie Sanders," Trump said, Harris will appoint hundreds of

extreme far-left judges to forcibly impose crazy San Francisco liberal values" on Americans nationwide, he alleged, invoking the spectre of

San Francisco — a liberal city long used as shorthand by 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.

Trump said Harris supports free government healthcare for illegal aliens, abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, decriminalising illegal immigration and mass amnesty for illegals, he said, adding she wants to outlaw private health insurance and defund the police.

"Border Czar Harris will let murderers, child predators, 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

In a statement later, Harris for President spokesperson James Singer said in his speech Trump couldn't pronounce words, insulted the faith of Jewish and Catholic Americans, and lied about the election (again). He plans to fill a second Trump term with more criminals like himself, Singer said.

"America can do better than the bitter, bizarre, and backwardlooking delusions of criminal Donald Trump. Vice President Kamala Harris offers a vision for America's future focused on freedom, opportunity, and security," he said.

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

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.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Blinken and Wang had had "an open and productive" discussion but had not reached any significant agreements on the issues that divide them most in the Indo-Pacific, Europe and the Americas

"The United States will continue to take necessary actions to safeguard our interests and values, and those of our allies and partners, including on human rights," Blinken told

Wang, according to Miller. Blinken "made clear that the United States, together with our allies and partners, will advance our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said, highlighting recently aggressive Chinese actions toward Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing claims as part of the mainland and has vowed to eign ministers before his meeting with Wang. "We applaud



The top US diplomat also scolded China for "destabilizing actions in the South China Sea" and "affirmed the United States' support for freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of disputes, consistent with international law," Miller said. However, Blinken also praised

China and the Philippines for concluding an agreement earlier this week that allowed the Philippines on Saturday to make a supply trip to the disputed area without having to confront Beijing's forces, the first such trip since the deal was concluded.

We are pleased to take note of the successful resupply today at the Second Thomas Shoal," Blinken told Association of Southeast Asian Nations forthat it continues going forward?

Prior to the deal, tensions between the Philippines and China escalated for months, with China's coast guard and other forces using powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers to prevent food and other supplies from reaching Filipino navy personnel.

Still, Blinken, who will be in Manila next week as part of his current six-country tour of Asia, also deplored China's escalatory and unlawful" actions taken against the Philippines in the South China Sea over the last few months." In his meeting with Wang, Blinken also re-raised deep US and European concerns about China's support of Russia's defense industrial sector that Washington and capi-

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 sanctions on more than 300 Russian and Chinese firms

engaged in the trade. Asked whether the Chinese had responded to those sanctions in the way the US and its allies would like, a senior State Department official replied: "Not enough. Not enough that our concerns have been put to rest." The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss the private diplomatic meeting.

Blinken's Asia trip was announced just hours after President Joe Biden said he would step down as a candidate in November's election in favor of Vice President Kamala Harris. Although the senior official said the shake-up had not come up in Saturday's meetings, he said Blinken had pointed out to Wang that Harris had experience with China and had met Chinese President Xi Jinping in

Bangkok in 2022.

The official said Blinken referred to the Biden-Harris administration's desire to keep relations with China on a positive track and noted that while "he has mentioned her before, obviously there's a different context now."

TikTok collected US user views on issues like abortion, gun control passion," he told PTI in an

AP WASHINGTON

said on the eve of the start of In a fresh broadside against one of the world's most popular technolthe nine-day recitation of Ram Katha at the Delegates Dining Room at the UN Headquarters in New York This is the first time that Ram Katha is being organised at the United Nations headquarters in New York, said Morari Bapu, noting that this is a dream

come true. Morari Bapu, 77, so far has conducted Ram Kathas in numerous cities and pilgrimage sites across the world, includ ing Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil, Australia, Israel, and

mation that has wound up being

the filing states, permits ByteDance and TikTok employees in the US and China to gather information on users' content or expressions, including views on sensitive topics, such as abortion or religion. Last year, the Wall Street Journal reported TikTok had tracked users who watched LGBTO content through a dashboard the company said it had since

The new court documents represent the government's first major defense in a consequential legal battle over 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.

tisan 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. The Justice Department warned, in stark terms, of the potential for what it called "covert content manipulation" by the Chinese government, saying the algorithm could be designed to shape content that

users receive. "By directing ByteDance or TikTok

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. Justice Department officials are asking the court to allow a classified version of its legal brief, which won't be

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."

In the redacted version of the court documents, the Justice Department said another tool triggered the suppression of content based on the use

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.

of certain words. Certain policies of

ogy 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 websuite 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, infor-

stored on Chinese servers and accessible to ByteDance employees in China, federal officials said One of Lark's internal search tools,

the future of the popular social media platform, which is used by

The measure was passed with bipar-

Govt to decide on sugar MSP hike in coming days: Food Secy

The government is likely to take a decision on decision increasing the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar within the next few days, Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said on Saturday.

Saturday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a conference organised by All India Sugar Trade India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA), Chopra said, "We are discussing the MSP (proposal). In the coming days, we will hopefully take a call"

coming days, we will hopefully take a call."
MSP of sugar has remained unchanged at Rs 31 per kg since 2019, despite annual hikes in the fair and remunerative price (FRP) paid to sugarcane farmers.

Industry bodies, including National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), have urged the government to raise the MSP to at least Rs 42 per kg to help mills sustain operations amid rising production costs.

Chopra noted that sugar production for the 2024-25 season (October-September)



evaluate water requirements

for ethanol production from

suggesting that ethanol from

sugarcane may require less

water than ethanol from

Meanwhile, G20 Sherpa

Amitabh Kant on Saturday advocated for a "long-term

predictability and consistency

policy" for the sugar sector,

which he said would be

crucial in making India a

developed economy by 2047.

Kant's comments come as the

industry presses for lifting a

sugar export ban and

findings

various feedstocks,

preliminary

maize and rice.

looks promising, with the area sown to sugarcane increasing to 58 lakh hectare so far from 57 lakh hectare during the same period last

For the 2023-24 season, sugar production is estimated at 32 million tonne, lower than 32.8 million tonne in the season, sufficient to meet the domestic demand of 27 million tonne.

Earlier, addressing the event, the food secretary also mentioned that agriculture ministry conducting research

increasing the minimum selling price of sugar in line with cane prices, among other demands.

"I totally agree that we need a long-term predictability and consistency of the policy. Otherwise, it will be difficult for the sector," Kant said at a conference organized by All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA). Highlighting the sector's importance, Kant noted that sugar contributes 1.1 per cent to the country's GDP and plays a pivotal role in and plays a pivotal role in reducing crude import bills, energy transition, promoting circular economy, achieving emissions.

"The sugar industry will be a major driver to make India a developed economy 2047," he added.

Kant urged the industry to diversification explore beyond ethanol and invest in research for developing high-yielding, low waterconsuming cane varieties, given India's limited water resources compared to the top producer Brazil.

India steel production to cross 300MT by 2030: Official

 $E_{\text{steel}}^{\text{expressing optimism in}}_{\text{demand amid headwinds, a senior central government official said on}}$ Saturday that the domestic production is likely to cross 300 million tonnes by 2030. The ministry also does not foresee any hurdles in capacity addition due to decarbonisation efforts in the steel sector and will soon release a draft roadmap seeking public opinion to reduce the carbon footprint in the steel sector, which accounts for 12 per cent of total emissions, Secretary Nagaendra Nath Sinha said.

'The current steel demand remains strong infrastructure push from the government and expecting a growth of about 10 per cent. The GDP is also growing robustly, and with continued emphasis on infrastructure from both government and private sectors, steel demand will continue to stay strong, Sinha said, while addressing members of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce



Finished steel output during 2023-24 was 138.5 million tonnes, up 12.4 per cent yearon-year. To achieve 300 million tonnes of installed capacity, a CAGR of 12 per cent would be required.

From January to April 2024, steel production was 49.5 million tonnes, a jump of 8.5 per cent, BCC president N G Khaitan said.

Sinha also stated that some steel makers were not reporting production and sales data accurately, and the ministry feels there are gaps. He urged companies to report correctly to support policy

The steel makers complain of several headwinds like iron ore shortage, cheap steel imports and

shortcomings. The steel makers of eastern India raised serious concerns about iron ore shortages in the sector and suggested several steps to address the 53 million tonne iron ore shortage in the Indian steel industry.

Asked about steel import concerns from the industry, Sinha said imports in quantity are only 5 per cent of consumption, but there are complaints about hot-rolled coil from Vietnam, which the

Directorate General of Trade Remedies, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has taken up.

about decarbonisation roadmap, Sinha said the government had set up 14 task forces on this and, after interministerial discussions, the report will be released for public feedback soon. The roadmap focuses on increased hydrogen use in the steel industry and carbon capture,

among others. The short-term target for the government aims at about a 20 per cent reduction in carbon intensity. Currently, the average carbon intensity is 2.5 tonnes per tonne of steel

production. consortium has been planned with labs, IITs primary and secondary steel makers, and equipment makers to develop indigenous

green technology. Sinha stated that the steel ministry has written to the Finance Ministry to support keeping Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd as a "going concern" during times of crisis so it does not lose its

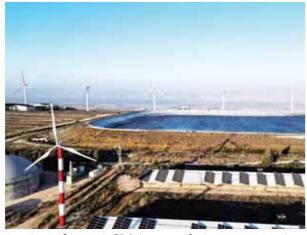
About 151 GW renewable capacity under implementation in India: Minister Pralhad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Renewable energy projects of about 151 GW capacity are under various stages of implementation in the country, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has said. The Minister for New and

Renewable Energy further said that around 76.42 GW of renewable energy capacity will be operationalized in next 3-4 years.
"The government is taking

several initiatives prioritise renewable energy. renewable projects are being implemented, and 76.42 GW will be operationalized in 3-4 years," he said addressing a session at 'Mercom India Renewables Summit 2024' in the national capital on Friday. The tendering process for 76.42 GW capacity of projects has already been



2.5 times from 76 GW in 2014 to more than 195 GW as of June 2024, Joshi said. The solar power capacity witnessed a steep jump from just 3 GW in 2014 to more than 85 GW now while capacity power increased from 21 GW to more than 46 GW, the minister added.

bidding recent completed, the minister trajectory has been a great of growth and becomes one capacity has increased over their targets and start added.

mandating through PPA/PSA signing, as a part of the trajectory, we will witness a significant increase in installations in the coming years," Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group said.

The installations are poised to take off in a big way starting this year as the market enters the next level initiative. If government of the top three solar

Pepsico India Holdings' revenue

April-December 2023 was at

Rs 5,954.16 crore and profit

operations during

revenue

Himachal to develop ₹350-cr medical devices park with own resources

PTI ■ SHIMLA

The Union government I would have no stake in Rs 350-crore Medical Device Park coming up at Nalagarh in Solan district as the state government has decided to construct the park from its own resources and return Rs 30 crore received from the centre, according to a release. The decision has been taken in the interest of the state.

The project would come up in over 265 acres of land and in case Rs 30 crore received from the centre was not returned. the land would have been provided to industrialists at the rate of Re 1 per square meter, electricity at Rs 3 per unit and water, maintenance and warehouse facilities, free of cost for ten years, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said.

The state government has so far spent Rs 74.95 crore for the project, a statement issued here on Saturday said.

bindings, the government has decided to build the Park by itself as the project when commissioned would accrue benefits amounting to Rs 500 crore from the sale of land and other resources in the next five to seven years, he

The state government will take a loan from SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) under the cluster development scheme for the construction of the medical device park and with restructuring of the project, 25 per cent of the land will be state and steering out of the medical device industries and statement added.

75 per cent for other strategic industries, he said.

The industrial park will be developed as a modern industrial hub which will become a perennial source of income for the along government economic development and better infrastructure in the coming years, he said.

also the state government had decided not to take help from any private agency in the Bulk Drug Park being built at Haroli of Una district and the government will provide Rs 1,000 crore

PepsiCo India revenue in April-December 2023 at ₹5,954 cr

GMDC Q1 profit falls 16% to ₹184 cr

Gujarat Mineral De velop ment Corporation (GMDC) has reported 15.8 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 184.05 crore for the quarter ended June 30,

The company had logged a profit of Rs 218.70 crore in the year-ago peri GMDC said in a filing. However, income during April-June FY25 increased to Rs 877.90 crore from Rs 826.77 crore in the year-

ago period. total lignite production during the quarter increased to 22.96 lakh tonne from 18.27 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. Revenue from thermal projects increased to Rs 28 crore as against Rs 17 crore in March quarter Revenue from wind of lignite.

to Rs 40 crore in Q1FY25 compared to Rs 24 crore

in Q4FY24. In a statement, GMDC Director Managing Roopwant Singh said April-June proved to be a

pivotal quarter for the company whose strategic initiatives paid off with a remarkable from operations. GMDC is the country's

second-largest ligniteproducing company and

PNB records its highest ever quarterly profit of ₹3,252 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $P_{(\text{PNB})}^{\text{unjab}}$ National Bank Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly standalone profit at Rs 3,252 crore in April-June FY25 helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income.

The state-owned bank had

posted a net profit of Rs 1,255 crore in June quarter FY24. This is the highest ever quarterly profit recorded by the bank on account of improvement in various parameters, including net interest income, recovery and CASA, Managing Director Atul Kumar Goel said.

Total income in the quarter rose to Rs 32,166 crore from Rs 28,579 crore in the same period a year ago.

The lender's interest income also increased to Rs 28,556 crore from Rs 25,145 crore in the same quarter a year ago,

as per a regulatory filing. Net Interest Income (NII) increased to Rs 10,476 crore in Q1 FY25 from Rs 9,504 crore earlier, showing an improvement of 10.23 per

Gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) declined to 4.98 per cent of gross advances by June 2024 from 7.73 per cent in the same quarter a year

Similarly, net NPAs declined to 0.60 per cent from 1.98 per

As a result, provisions for bad loans came down drastically to Rs 792 crore in April-June FY25 as against Rs 4,374



crore in the year-ago period. Provision Coverage Ratio improved to 95.9 per cent as of June 2024 from 89.83 per cent a year ago

On a consolidated basis, the bank reported a net profit of Rs 3,976 crore in the quarter under review as against Rs 1,342 crore a year ago.

The consolidated financial result of the bank comprises five subsidiaries and 15 associates.

The capital adequacy ratio of the bank improved to 15.79 per cent at the end of June 2024 compared to 15.54 per cent in the year-ago period. With improvement in capital position, Goel said, the bank has decided to cut the proposed share sale size through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to Rs 5,000 crore from an earlier estimate of Rs 7,500

Asked when the capital will be raised, he said the bank is evaluating the opportune time for that.

Besides, he said, the board has given approval to raise Rs 7,000 crore from Tier I bonds and Rs 3,000 crore from Tier II bonds to fund business



was Rs 217.26 crore, according to financial data business accessed intelligence platform Tofler. Total income, which also includes other income, was at Rs 6,094.70 crore in the nine-month period. The company has changed

its financial year from April-March to January-December, hence it has come out with three quarters results of 2023. It follows the calendar year as financial year from January 2024. During the nine months, its

publicly listed entity. Revenue from the snacks business in which it operates with brands including Kurkure, Lays, Doritos and

domestic market was at Rs 5.533.63 crore. Exports

contributed Rs 266.19 crore

Quaker was at Rs 4,763.29 Pepsico India's revenue from

pepsi revenue from sales in the the beverages business in which it operates with fizzbased drinks and juices with brands such as Pepsico, 7up,

to the total revenue of the company, which is not a Advertising promotional

Tropicana, Gatorade was at Rs 1,036.53 crore for the nine months.

expenses in April-December 2023 were at Rs 694.52 crore. On the results, a PepsiCo India Spokesperson said: "In this 9-month period compared to the earlier 12-

month period, PepsiCo India delivered resilient topline performance amid external challenging environment.

"Demand for our brands remained robust backed by strong marketing campaigns, marketplace execution, and consistent focus on end-toend productivity.

'We remain committed to our growth in India and continue to invest behind our brands and marketplace infrastructure to build scale while maintaining margins in what will remain a highdemand market for many

For financial year 2022-23, which was of 12 months, PepsiCo India's revenue from operations was at Rs 8,203.19

crore and its total profit was at Rs 267.43 crore. Total income was Rs 8,302.34 crore.

Earlier this month, during an investors' call, PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta said India is a "high demand market", where it is investing to scale up the infrastructure.

The company is investing in the brands to build up scale to capture the growth opportunity, he had said.

"We continue to see a lot of growth in many parts of the AMESA(Africa, Middle East & South Asia) region, in particular India is a big growth space for us and it's an investment area for sure," Laguarta had said. In the second quarter (AprilJune) of 2024, its global parent company PepsiCo logged double-digit growth in beverages volume and convenience foods unit volume in the Indian market. For the first quarter(January-March), the New York-headquartered

multinational reported a "high single-digit growth" in its beverage unit volume and a a "double-digit growth" in convenient foods business in the Indian market.

PepsiCo entered India in 1989 and has grown to become one of the largest MNCs engaged in the business of manufacture and trading of aerated and nonaerated beverage products, juice and juice-based drinks and packed food products.

Budget important step towards building new India: MoS Pankaj

Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Saturday said that this year's budget is an important step towards building a new India, and is dedicated to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chaudhary, who was in

Gorakhpur on Saturday, in a post on X in Hindi, said, "Addressed the media friends in a specially organized press conference on Budget-2024 in Gorakhpur. This budget is an important step towards building a new India. It is dedicated to the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji and building a new India."



Circuit House, Chaudhary emphasized that this year's budget has been crafted by keeping the interests of the citizens in mind. "GST has been reduced, and

significant relief has been provided in the tax slabs," he said. The 2024-25 budget aims to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, focusing on four key areas: women, the poor, farmers,

This budget is entirely dedicated to employment and business. It is designed to boost GDP growth and create job opportunities, while also further developing the education sector. This year's budget is inclusive of all regions and sections of society," he said.

On the comparison between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary criticized the opposition for not highlighting the positive aspects.

'The overall budget has been increased, including the Railway Budget. opposition should acknowledge improvements," he said.

He assured that Uttar Pradesh

has received a significant budget allocation when analysed department-wise. The Union minister reiterated

that the budget has been increased across various sectors, including agriculture, education, and the military, reinforcing the government's commitment comprehensive development.

MP Seven-time Chaudhary, who took oath as minister of state for the second time in the new BJPled NDA government, started his political career as a corporator of the Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation in Pradesħ. Uttar Chaudhary currently Maharajganj represents

constituency in the

Lok

IFB Industries Q1 revenue up 16.9%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IFB Indu Industries Ltd on LSaturday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 37.54 crore for the first quarter ended in June 2024, helped by the engineering and home appliances business. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 0.62 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from IFB Industries. Its revenue from operations

was up 16.87 per cent during the quarter under review. It was Rs 1,085.91 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses of IFB Industries in the June quarter were up 12.24 per cent to Rs 1,222.14 crore.

MANU SETS SIGHTS ON OLYMPICS GLORY, STORMS INTO 10M AIR PISTOL FINALS

PTI ■ CHATEAUROUX/PARIS

Manu Bhaker made a statement of intent by storming into the 10m air pistol finals on a day when most of her compatriots endured a forgettable outing at the shooting range before shuttler Lakshya Sen and paddler Harmeet Desai dazzled on debut in India's sedate start at the Olympic Games on Saturday.

Bhaker, who is competing in her second Olympics, seemed determined to wipe off the memories of her tearful past outing as she qualified third for the 10m air pistol women's final which will be held on Sunday afternoon at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre.

The shooters have drawn a blank at every Olympics after 2012 and the apprehensions began to set in early for this one too before Bhaker

decided to take control. The 22-year-old, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, shot 580 in the qualifications in Hungarian Veronika Major claimed the top spot with a score of 582. The other Indian in the field, Rhythm Sangwan, ended 15th with an underwhelming

Bhaker, who was in control for the major part of the one hour 15 minute session, will have to maintain the same composure in the allimportant final.

India has not won an Olympic medal in shooting since 2012 and Bhaker is well placed to end that lean run. Standing at a distance,

Bhaker's personal coach Jaspal Rana could not stop his tears before saying that the job was only half done. happened today

doesn't matter anymore. Tomorrow is when it counts. We start afresh," he told PTI before pointing out the heat factor at the range with the air conditioning not being the most effective.

"She needed to take time and drink a lot of water as it was hot," he added.

At the other end of the spectrum was Sarabjot Singh, who felt the pressure on his Games debut to narrowly miss out on a final berth in the men's 10m air pistol. Both he and Arjuna Singh Cheema showed promise before



finishing ninth and 18th with scores of 577 and 544 respectively.

Germany's Robin Walter, who also shot 577, grabbed the last qualifying

managing to shoot one inner 10 (X) more than Sarabjot's Coach Samresh Jung tried to

after 16, leaving the Indian console him but Sarabjot

opportunity of a lifetime. As many as 17 out of the 21 Indian shooters here are competing in the Olympics for the first time and are

bound to feel pressure despite the best possible preparation. "There are only two types of people who don't feel pressure. One are the dead and others are fools. He is neither dead nor a fool," said Jung who expects Sarabjot to bounce back in the mixed

At the rifle range, Indians were eliminated from the mixed qualifications.

team event.

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

SEN AND DESAI ADD SHEEN IN EVENING: Sen, who worked on his frontcourt alertness and closing stage composure, in the build-up to the Games, gave a demonstration of improvements in the match against Cordon.

The Indian was unnerved

in the second game and staved off four match points before sealing the deal against the reigning Pan American champion in 42 minutes.

The gold-medallist from the 2022 Commonwealth Games will face Julien Carraggi of Belgium on Monday in his

second group match. In table tennis, Desai had no trouble in getting the better of his opponent, ranked 538th in the world, in a onesided preliminary round match that lasted exactly 30

minutes. The 31-year-old from Surat, who was part of the side that clinched the team gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and 2022, is an established name in the

Indian TT circuit. He has been toiling for many years in his quest to compete at the Olympics, having played in all other top global

competitions.

PANWAR MOVES TO REPECHAGE IN ROWING: India's lone rower at Games, Balraj Panwar moved to the repechage after finishing fourth in heat 1 of the men's singles scull competition.



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

The Chinese were first on synchronized 3-meter springboard with 337.68 points on five dives.

They were followed by Sarah Bacon and Kassidy 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

 $R^{\text{emco Evenepoel was unimpressed by}} \\ \text{Rthe rough roads that Olympic cyclists} \\ \text{had to cover in the time trial through Paris} \\$ on Saturday, while Nino Schurter was just as critical of the gravel covering the manmade mountain bike course in nearby

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



"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 twotime 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 Défense and the forests around

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 manmade jumps and rock gardens with stretches of gravel-covered paths.

The women's competition is Sunday and the men cover the same course on

"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

"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)

Tatie Ledecky fired the first Asalvo 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, 2.19 seconds. Titmus, the Australian star known as "The Terminator," got off to a fast start but

couldn't hold off the hardcharging Ledecky on the final lap.

Titmus posted the second-

fastest time of the heats in 4:02.46, setting up a side-byside 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.

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.

Olympic organisers apologise for introducing South Korean athletes as North Korea

AP PARIS

South Korea's athletes as North Korea during the opening ceremony in Paris.

As the South Korean athletes waved their nation's flag on a boat floating down the Seine River Friday evening, they were announced in both French and English as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. South Korea is the

during th post on X in Korean.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry in an evening of so many Olympic Games organisers mistake that occurred when introducing the Korean team organisers and they "deeply apologise for the mistake that occurred when introducing the Korean team of the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made," Adams said in response to a question of the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was made, "Adams or the file "a strong government level complaint" with the mistake was

Korea's Olympic committee separately asked the organizers of the Paris Games to prevent the recurrence of similar

Adams on Saturday called the "clearly deeply

during a news conference on Saturday.

in 1945.

The blue sign on the boat carrying the South Korean



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

PTI ■ CHATEAUROUX (FRANCE)

Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema sparkled 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 Cheema shot 10 perfect 10s off of 628.7, while Elavenil his last 10 shots, which lifted Valarivan and Sandeep Singh him to the fourth position but he too lost the plot after promising much. The 23-year-old Cheema col-

lected 97 points from Series 2 (8, 10, 10, 10, 9, 10, 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

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

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.

American Abbey Weitzeil said last month at the U.S. Trials: "We're all A side has to get to the top four to enter the medal matches.

broadcast," the International Olympic Committee said in a

The South Korean Ministry of Culture Sports and Tourism Vice Minister Jang Mi Ran requested a meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach over the incident, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday. It said the ministry also asked

 $B_{\mbox{Olympic swim coaches pondered}}^{\mbox{efore Tokyo three years ago, the US}}_{\mbox{Olympic swim coaches pondered}}$

help fire them up before a race, given there were no family or friends or fans in the stands. They turned to clanging

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

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

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

"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"

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

show last year

Australians or others.

AP PARIS

IOC spokesperson Mark

error regrettable".

"An operational mistake was made. We can only apologize, name.

The Korean peninsula has been bitterly divided into South Korea and North Korea since the end of World War II

athletes did show the correct



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

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 ston being sore losers." sweeter beating America," she said.

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

Pormer 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

"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 thanking predecessor for the wise words "I don't get too emotional but I think this message actually

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

Dravid was certain that Gambhir, who carried a neversay-die attitude in his playing days, will bring his fighting qualities to the coaching job as

"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

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



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

Dravid hoped that Gambhir will have a fully-fit squad to work with, and will have the assistance of fortune in crunch

'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

"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

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

Kevin hopefully will play for US in | Great Britain rides strong effort of Olympic veterans its Olympic opener against Serbia | to early lead in men's gymnastics qualifying

 $T^{\text{here is hope that Kevin Durant will}}_{\text{play for the US in its Olympic opener}}_{\text{against Serbia on Sunday, which means}}$ the men's national team may have 12 players available for the first time this summer. That is unless something else

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 "Hopefully," Kerr said. Durant was on the

floor for practice, while presumed starting centre Joel Embiid was not because of

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 threebecome 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

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. 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

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

"Instant impact, Instant impact," U.S Forward LeBron James said when asked about what Durant would add to the mix when he returns.

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

'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 surged to an Gearly 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 Nedoroscik,

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 allaround at the 2023 world championships - is expected to advance, Juda's performance is a bit of a surprise. The 23-year-old - who unabashedly 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 and gold medal favourites Japan and China competing in second

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

AP ■ VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ (FRANCE)

Tock 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 3pointers, 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 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

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

ga 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 claycourt expertise. She wrapped up the victory by breaking at love when Begu doublefaulted 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: 15,000capacity Chatrier added one in 2020, and the secondlargest 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 Krejcikova 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.

play later Saturday were reigning French Open and Hady Habib in singles in the Among the other big names



from the sport scheduled to Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz - facing Lebanon's afternoon and pairing with Spanish teammate Rafael Nadal in doubles at night along with 24-time Grand champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia and fourtime major champion Naomi

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 drenched opening

ceremony Friday night.
Coco 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 September. Republic last month and the US Open singles trophy last

+Three years ago, Gauff right before sh missed the Tokyo Games after to fly to Japan.

testing positive for COVID-19 right before she was supposed



Tenders are invited for different works, whose date of publication on website will be 02.08.2024, availability of tender online for bidding is 02.08.2024 to 09.08.2024 upto 2.00 PM and tender will be opened on 10.08.2024 and onwards place of opening tender is e-procurement cell. Directorate of Works & Plant, Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi. The details of estimated cost, earnest money, cost of B.O.Q. and time of completion of the concerned works and other terms and conditions may kindly be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

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a Contract the pioneer of the pionee

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

— Henry David Thorea



Image Source: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on X post

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

BK SINGH

cientific 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 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.

.760C higher than the average for 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 tigerbearing 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, Ārmenia, 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.



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



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 firstever 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.

n increasing trend in tiger Anumbers 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

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 landuse 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

RICH LEGACY OF INDIA'S TIMELESS CUISINE

With global trends and multinational narratives challenging the nutritional value of traditional Indian dishes, it is crucial to preserve the unique flavours and benefits that define Indian cuisine, writes **ANIL RAJPUT**

ir, water, and food are essential for life, and in India, they have had a revered status from the beginning of civilisation. In this article, I will focus on the third—Indian Food and cuisine! The history and deep connection of Bharat with food are perhaps among the oldest in the world; it is actually timeless. The people of early Vedic civilisations in India were nomadic pastoralists who practiced elaborate rituals to placate their gods. Agni, the god of fire, was considered

through which the gods ate their sacrifices, and one of his favourite foods was ghee (clarified butter), which remains popular to this day. The Indus Valley Civilisation that spanned from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE was known for barley, millet, ragi, amaranth, wheat, sorghum, rice, as well as oilseeds such as sesame, linseed, and

the mouth

mustard.

The traditional Indian palate has evolved over centuries and includes the traditional Ayurvedic way of living, which is a 6000-year-old healthcare system and lays special emphasis on Ahara (diet) and Anna (food) as means of good life, health, and wellness. One of the fundamental teachings of Ayurvedic tradition is that everything in the universe is composed of five elements earth, water, fire, air, and ether (space)—and the tastes are no different; each taste contains all five elements, with each taste predominantly composed of two elements. There are six such tastes: Sweet (Madhura)—Earth and water, Sour (Amla)—Earth and Fire, Salty (Lavana)—Water and Fire, Pungent (Katu)—Fire and Air, Bitter (Tikta)—Air and Ether, Astringent (Kashaya)—Air and Earth. In addition, Ayurveda describes foods as sattvic (pure or balanced), rajasic (active or increasing the energy of the body), and tamasic (heavy or reducing the energy of the body).

The Sanskrit grammarian Panini, in his work Ashtadhyayi (6th–5th century BCE), describes three categories of food: meat, lentil-based soup, and vegetables. Chanakya's Arthasastra, a manual on how to run a kingdom that may date in part to the 4th century BCE, elaborately describes how certain foods are to be prepared, most of them

Foreign invasions have had a

profound impact on Indian food. When Alexander came to India in 350 BCE, several parts of the country were introduced to fresh herbs like mint, coriander, oregano, and essential oils like olive oil. The Turk-Mongol conqueror Timur brought the precursor of Biryani when he arrived at the

frontiers of India. The biryani, a celebratory meal made using meat, rice, yogurt, onion, and spices, originated in Persia but evolved in India during this era. Biryani now has multiple variants across the country, with the most popular ones credited to the Mughals and the nizams of Hyderabad. The Islamic conquest of India also introduced fruits such as apricots, melons, and plums, as well as a rich gravy style of cooking. Kebabs cooked over coals and pilaf became

popular during this
period and are still
classified as
Mughlai cuisine
in present-day
India.
To the east,
in West Bengal
and Odisha, the

amount of spice

used in cooking decreases, and the use of mustard oil is more common. There is much importance given in this region to 'Shadrasa' or the six basic flavours in Ayurveda, with particular emphasis on tikta (the bitter taste). The cuisine of northeastern India is ricebased—rice is grown on terraced fields in the region's hilly terrain—and freshwater fish appears in many dishes, as does

pork, mutton, and chicken. This

reflects the cohesive nature of

Indian regional cuisines, where

the use of local ingredients and



A Pillar of Corporate Leadership

ANIL RAJPUT'S leadership journey, marked by strategic roles and impactful projects, showcases his deep understanding of finance, policy matters, and stakeholder management

nil Rajput serves as a Member,
Corporate
Management
Committee and
Head of Corporate Affairs at
ITC Limited, a leading Indian
conglomerate with diversified
presence in FMCG, hotels,
information technology,
packaging, paperboards and
aeribusiness.

agribusiness.

Anil Rajput joined ITC in 1976, and in the course of last 48 years, he has held various positions in the organisation. Starting his career in the finance function, he was seconded to International Travel House Limited in 1983 as part of the start-up team. During his tenure with International Travel House

of dishes from different

perfection.

regions is done with

In southern

staple food, and it is

eaten with sambhar,

India, rice is the

a watery stew comprising lentils,

tamarind, and

vegetables. Many fruits and vegetables are pickled and

Limited, he assumed the charge of General Manager-Travel at the age of 27 and laid a strong foundation for its domestic network across India.

Upon completion of his secondment in International Travel House Limited in 1989, he was assigned the responsibility in ITC's Hotels Division as Divisional Project with the Hotels Division, he was tasked with the critical functions of finance, projects and development. He has been closely associated with iconic hotel projects like ITC Grand Maratha, Mumbai, ITC Sonar Bangla, Kolkata and ITC Grand Central, Mumbai. In the year 2003, he held the position of Vice-President – Project

consumed with meals, and

coconut oil and gingelly (sesame) oils are used as the mediums for

cooking. Seafood is common

along the coast, along with high

sugar and salt content, which is

scientifically supported due to the high humidity and the

excessive perspiration in these

regions. Within southern India,

there are also diverse cuisines-

resulting loss of body fluids from



Finance & Development, before he moved to ITC's Corporate Affairs function as Vice President, Corporate Affairs.

Anil Rajput has been heading the Corporate Affairs Division since 2007. He is the first corporate affairs chief of

ITC to be designated as its President. With a keen global perspective, clear and deep understanding of policy matters, he is highly attuned to the developments, nuances and impact of regulatory and policy issues. Over the years, he has forged effective and strategic relationships with key stakeholders in the government, public affairs, media and the industry

In his capacity as President, Corporate Affairs he also represents the organisation in all major industry Chambers of the country like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, PHD, and International Chamber of Commerce. He is on the Executive Committee of FICCI, ASSOCHAM, and PHD and he chairs/co-chairs various sectoral committees in these chambers. He holds the Membership of Academic / Professional organisations such as FMS and Skal International. He is a Non-Official Member of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society (Delhi Branch) and Secretary, Cuisine

India Society.

He is also a Non-Executive
Director on the Board of
International Travel House, a
subsidiary of ITC Ltd, engaged
in the Travel & Tourism
Business, since May 2000. Anil
Rajput is an alumnus of Faculty
of Management Studies, Delhi
University.



change within the state as well, and we find the increased consumption of millets and groundnuts in inland areas instead of rice and coconut. Further north, Gujarat is predominantly vegetarian, and most dishes have some sweetness due to the use of sugar. This is quite unique to the state and indicative of the sheer variety and changes.

Andhra, Tamil, Chettinad, Kerala, and Mangalore, among others. Each region cooks sambhar differently and uses different varieties of rice. Tamil cuisine classifies food into six

aspires to include each taste in every main meal. The west coast of India has its own distinct cuisines. In Goa,

tastes—sweet, sour, salty, bitter,

pungent, and astringent—and

rice and fish are staples. Goan Hindu cuisine is less spicy and includes many vegetables, though little onion and garlic. Portuguese cuisine in Goa includes meat and uses a vinegar-based gravy (vindaloo) for many dishes. The arrival of New World vegetables by way of the Portuguese in the 16th century resulted in further changes to Indian cuisines. They

introduced chilies, tomatoes,

potatoes, and peanuts, and brought beans, corn, cashews, peppers, and more from the Americas. Vinegar, which is used to season achaar and chutneys, was also introduced by them in

India.

In coastal Maharashtra,
fish and rice are quite
common, Mutton Kohlapuri is
famed, and then there is the
legendary Pav Bhaji. Things





Pawan SoniFood critic and founder of the
Big F Awards

A CULINARY SYMPHONY

CHEF PRATEEK SADHU and CHEF MANISH MEHROTRA Shine at Indian Accent Pop-Up

had long yearned to savor Chef Prateek Sadhu's cuisine, which I had heard so much about. However, during my brief visit to Mumbai, I only had time for lunch, and his ingredient-driven restaurant, 'Masque,' was only open for dinner. Later, I learned about his new restaurant. 'Naar'-meaning fire in Kashmirinear Kasauli, where all dishes are cooked over a wood fire, symbolising the

passion of the entire team to deliver something extraordinary. Chef Manish Mehrotra, a household name, has given

unique pop-up at
Indian Accent
featuring both
Chef Prateek
and Chef
Manish, I
immediately
said yes with
great excitement.
The event was
graced by many

India a strong contender in

with Indian Accent. So, when

Rohit Khattar, the media-shy

promoter of Indian Accent

restaurants, invited me to a

and other popular

Asia's 50 Best Restaurants

graced by many luminaries from the culinary world, including Vir Sanghvi, Rocky Mohan, Rocky Singh, and Sourish da, with whom I had the pleasure of sharing a table



and discussing each dish as it arrived.

While I could detail the 12 exquisite courses we enjoyed, I'll focus on a few standout dishes:

DIRTY TOAST BY CHEF SADHU: This fluffy fermented wheat bread topped with trout, flavoured with Kashundi and perhaps a



hint of ketchup, was both comforting and gourmet. GHEE LAMB BY CHEF MEHROTRA: This dish exemplified the principle that less is more. The best meat from the shank was cooked with just four ingredientsghee, salt, red chili, and garlic. The result was a flavour explosion, and I



better meat. LEMON CRAB BY CHEF

MEHROTRA: Cooked with

flavour without being overly

spicy, and was served with

dried shrimp poppadom for

PAHADI PORK BY CHEF

an added crunch

Karnataka's byadgi chili, it

boasted vibrant color and

with bakharkhani, white butter, and fermented bamboo shoot pickle, featured a perfect fat-meat ratio and was my overall favourite. The handmade noodles called sundar-kala were also delightful.

Each course was expertly paired with wine, and the

SADHU: This dish, served

Each course was expertly paired with wine, and the desserts, such as the classic Kashmiri shufta served like a pinwheel paneer, were

equally delicious.

Unfortunately, the pop-up is already over. It was priced at Rs. 9800 per person for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian offerings. The food was so exceptional that I am already planning a visit to Naar to enjoy a meal in its serene environment.









A DAZZLING DEBUT IN THE WORLD OF KUCHIPIINI

the pioneer

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

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

one steps into Reddy, Aadya's performance was a radiant showcase of her dedication and passion. Her recital not only highlighted years of rigorous training but celebrated 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

evening's celebration enhanced by a meticulous attention to detail in every aspect performance. The light design added a captivating depth to the 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 Khanda Chapu, a dynamic dance that showcased her precision and rhythmic mastery. One of the highlights evening's "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

display of virtuosity command over the dance form. Drs. Raja and Radha Reddy, along with Kaushalya Reddy, Kaushalya have played a pivotal role in promoting Kuchipudi globally. Their u n i q u e Their choreographic style and ability to blend tradition modern sensibilities have garnered them numerous

accolades. Natya

Tarangini

breathtaking

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

brilliance and emotional depth. The live orchestra's contribution added a magical dimension, making the evening an immersive experience beautifully highlighted the essence of Kuchipudi. overwhelming

of

technical

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





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



n a world where family moments meet unforgettable experiences, LM-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

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

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-tastics 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 motherdaughter duo buzzing with activity as children eagerly choose their favourite designs, reflecting the 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. Healthconscious 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.

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**

ejinder Kanda's latest ■ 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 thoughtprovoking 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 introspective. and deeply

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.

Kanda's versatility as an artist is evident in his wide range of influences and mediums. While this exhibition focuses on acrylic paintings, Kanda's artistic practice extends to vibrant silk-screen prints and ceramics, showcasing his ability to adapt and explore various forms of artistic expression. This diversity is a Kanda's monument to commitment to exploring the creative process in its many facets, providing a richer context for understanding his work. It also speaks to his broader artistic philosophy that art is not confined to a single medium or style, but is a continually evolving

dialogue between artist, material,

and audience.

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 The palette in "In-Within" is technique creates a dynamic notably varied, ranging from earthy tones of reds and browns tension in the artwork, allowing viewers to experience a range of to cool blues, purples and greens. emotions from calmness and This wide spectrum of color not only reflects Kanda's skillful use of contentment to intensity and excitement. color theory but also the emotional depth of his work. He

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 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 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 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.







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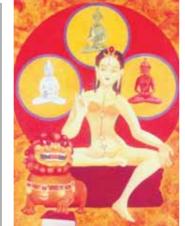




ARIES March 21-April 19

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

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



VIRGO 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 $% \left(x\right) =\left(x\right) +\left(x\right)$ 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.

.ucky number8 | Lucky colour Lilac



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 quide you in your social exchanges. helping you to strengthen your bonds with important people in your life.

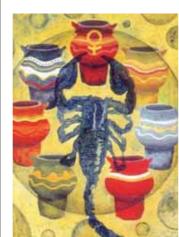
Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Red Lucky day Friday



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 cantered 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 tranquillity. 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 ucky day Monday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



m?' 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 selfconscious 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

Three dimensions of 'Om?'



thermodynamics, once there is entropy (disorder), it multiplies. So, following causal stress (disorder) at the primalsource, 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 hypothesise 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 formexistence 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.....

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com