



OPINION 6 ORWELL'S VISION REMAINS AS RELEVANT AS EVER

WORLD 9 STRIKE IN ISRAEL OVER HOSTAGE DEATHS REFLECTS POLITICAL DIVISIONS

MONEY 10 SENSEX, NIFTY HIT ALL TIME HIGH

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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KATHUNIYA BAGS PARALYMPIC SILVER IN MEN'S DISCUS THROW 11 SPORTS

CBI arrests Sandip Ghosh; Justice on its way SC: Why demolish houses of accused?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh on charges of financial misconduct before the September 5 hearing in the Supreme Court, sources said. He was later escorted to the CBI's Nizam Palace office in Kolkata which houses the agency's anti-corruption wing and was shown as arrested. Ghosh, an orthopaedic surgeon, is not only charged with financial misconduct and other illegal acts, including illegal sale of bio-medical waste, running organ trade and selling of bodies by his former colleague Akhtar Ali, but he has also been accused of controlling all the illegal syndicates that were active in most of the State-run medical colleges of West Bengal. In March 2023, Ali, a Non-Medical Assistant Superintendent at RG Kar Medical College wrote a letter to the authorities, including the vigilance commission and even the Chief Minister's office accusing the former principal of corruption that included illegal body trafficking and biomedical waste disposal. The Monday's arrest comes days after the CBI named Ghosh in the FIR in connection with its probe into alleged financial irregularities at the hospital during his tenure. The CBI arrested Ghosh after grilling him for more than 150 hours over days. The arrest of Ghosh comes in the midst of a movement against the rape and murder of an on-duty postgraduate lady doctor of RGMKCH.



Former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh after he was arrested by CBI in connection with the alleged financial misconduct at the establishment, in Kolkata, on Monday

He is the second person to be arrested in the rape and murder case. Earlier, a civic volunteer was arrested on charges of raping and murdering the lady doctor. Ghosh's arrest is significant given his close proximity to the State's political establishment. He had reportedly treated a top politician for leg injuries during the State election a few years ago. A few days after the rape and murder case surfaced, the State Government transferred Ghosh, who had resigned earlier, with a prize-posting to another medical college in Kolkata, leading to an outcry in the medical fraternity. There was a strong demand for his dismissal and arrest. More trouble awaits Ghosh as the Enforcement Directorate too has filed a money-laundering case to probe his alleged role in financial irregularities inside the RGMKCH. Recently, the Indian Medical Association had suspended his membership.

Protesting junior doctors, people and medical fraternity celebrated after news surfaced of the arrest of Ghosh. Meanwhile, the CBI is likely to submit a closed envelope before the Supreme Court on September 5 detailing its preliminary findings, sources said. The envelope may contain names not only of the prime suspects of RGMKCH who might have played a role in destroying evidence but also of some big guns in the political echelon who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the syndicate raj — that was plaguing the State-run medical colleges — but for which the rape and murder might not have taken place. According to sources the CBI officials who had subjected a number of people including prime accused Sanjoy Roy and former RG Kar principal Ghosh to polygraph tests are still in doubt about the truth that is being dished out to them.

"It is quite intriguing how the accused went up to the seminar hall on the third floor breaking the security rings. Getting inside the hospital area is difficult as even doctors' own relatives who are familiar to the security persons are not allowed in," said one source. The arrested accused in the alleged rape and murder of the woman medic would likely plead "not guilty" in the court since he was "framed" in the case, his counsel said on Monday. The accused, who is currently lodged in the Presidency Correctional Home, has told the lawyer that the doctor was not known to him, she added. "We will fight our case based on the documents produced by the prosecution lawyers before the court," she said, claiming that the accused has maintained his innocence during the polygraph test. His counsel also claimed that Roy had gone to the floor where the seminar hall of the RG Kar Hospital is located to find out the health condition of his friend's father who was operated on that day. "He went to the pulmonary department which is on the same floor where the seminar hall is situated. It was then when he saw the woman lying there," she said. The body of the post-graduate trainee, who was allegedly raped and murdered, was found in the seminar hall of the hospital on August 9. Roy, a civic volunteer of the Kolkata Police, was arrested the next day. The gruesome crime resulted in nationwide protests by doctors and citizens.

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Hearing pleas filed against "Bulldozer Justice", the Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on a trend of demolishing the houses or properties of those who are accused of crimes and said that it would issue guidelines to tackle such issues. "How can anybody's house be demolished only because he is an accused? Even if he is a convict, it can't be done without following the procedure as prescribed by law," a bench of Justices B R Gawai and K V Viswanathan said. The bench stated that no property can be demolished just because a person is accused of a criminal offence. The court, however, said it will not protect any unauthorised construction or encroachment on public roads. "We will not protect any illegal structure obstructing public roads, that includes a temple, but there should be guidelines for demolition," it added. The court also appreciated the stand taken by the State of Uttar Pradesh which said that demolition can be done only if a structure is illegal. The Bench requested that the suggestions be noted to Senior Advocate Nachiket Joshi, who was requested to collate them and present them to the Court. "Bulldozer justice", also known as bulldozer politics, refers to the practice of using the heavy-duty piece of machinery to demolish houses of alleged criminals, communal violence rioters and accused in criminal cases. Notably, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started the practice of instant "justice" using bulldozers to bring down



properties of accused to make an example of them and put pressure on those absconding. Later other BJP ruled states—Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and even Congress ones, have followed suit. Soon, Yogi earned the nickname of 'Bulldozer Baba', through which he attempted to convey his "no-nonsense" hard taskmaster style of working. Interestingly, in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, it became a part of the BJP's campaigning strategy to reiterate Yogi's 'bulldozer' credentials. However, the practice of using bulldozer has come under strong criticism, with many questioning how the action can be taken even before allegations against a person are proven. They have also questioned why the administration must punish the whole family for the crime of one. On Monday, the top court was hearing two pleas filed on the issue of such demolitions that were alleged to be taking place without notice and as a form of "revenge." The pleas were filed by Rashid Khan from Rajasthan and Mohammad Hussain from Madhya Pradesh. The application by Khan, a 60-year-old auto-rickshaw driver from Udaipur, said that his house was demolished by the Udaipur district administration on August 17, 2024. This was after communal clashes broke out in Udaipur, several vehicles were set on fire and markets closed following the issuance of prohibitory orders after a Muslim schoolboy allegedly stabbed his Hindu classmate who later succumbed to his injuries. Khan is the father of the accused schoolboy. Similarly, Mohammad Hussain from Madhya Pradesh has alleged that his house and shop were illegally bulldozed by the State administration. The two applications were filed in a case earlier filed by Jamiat Ulama I Hind against the demolition of Muslim homes in Haryana's Nuh, following the violence between Hindus and Muslims in the area. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, referred to an earlier affidavit filed by the State in the matter.

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Tragedy engulfs Vaishno Devi pilgrims

PNS ■ JAMMU

At least two Mata Vaishno Devi-bound pilgrims died and a minor child received injuries when they were hit by a massive landslide on the Himkoti track to the cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday. The incident took place near the Panchi colony in the Himkoti area around 2.15 p.m. The pilgrims were struck by the massive iron bar structure as it crumbled under the weight of the large tumbling stones. The pilgrim traffic was halted for some time to carry out rescue operations in the area. The disaster management teams of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) were pressed into action to carry out the rescue operations and shift the injured to the nearby health care center. However, the pilgrimage continued through the traditional route along the track. According to official sources deceased pilgrims have been identified as Sapna (27) of Dhanpur village in Punjab's Gurdaspur, and Neha (23) of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The injured girl — Sanvi, a resident of Kanpur — is undergoing treatment in the hospital. Her grandfather L Prasad said they were taking a break from trekking to the shrine when police started clearing the track due to a monkey scare.

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Cabinet announces big ticket reforms for farming sector

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to improve the lives of farmers and increasing their income, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday approved around ₹13,966 crore outlay for seven big-ticket programmes related to the farming sector, including a ₹2,817-crore digital agriculture mission and a ₹3,979-crore scheme for crop science. These programme will focus on harnessing public-funded digital infrastructure to research focussed on emerging challenges in the farm sector. The emphasis of these programmes would be on research & education, climate resilience, natural resource management and digitisation in the agriculture sector along with emphasis on growth of horticulture and livestock sectors. Addressing a press conference after the Union Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of ₹13,966 crore. The Cabinet has approved crop science for food and nutritional security programmes with a total outlay ₹3,979 crore. In this programme, six pillars have been included in the programme with a focus on



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs the media over cabinet decisions, in New Delhi, Monday

preparing the farmers for climate resilient crop sciences and food security by 2047. These six pillars are — Research and Education; Plant Genetic Resource Management; Genetic improvement for food and fodder crop; pulse and oilseed crop improvement; Improvement of commercial crops; and research on insects, microbes, pollinators. A part of the fund will be utilised for improving productivity of pulses and oilseeds, apart from plant-genetics management. India seeks to end its dependence on costly imports to meet local pulses demand by 2027, a key agriculture-sector priority.

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GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE: INDIA GLOWS AT PARIS PARALYMPICS



(From left to right) Indian para-badminton players Thulasimathi Murugesan wins silver medal, Kumar Nitesh gold and Manisha Ramadass bronze at the Paralympics 2024, in France, on Monday

RSS says, caste census important, but not for electoral gain

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PALAKKAD (KERALA)/NEW DELHI

At a time when the Opposition led by Congress is pressuring the NDA Government to conduct caste census across the country, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Monday said it has no objection to the census as it could be useful for welfare activities while cautioning against its exploitation for electoral gains. It also said no step in the direction of sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

should be taken without the consensus among the communities concerned. Making these assertions, RSS Prachar Pramukh (chief spokesperson) Sunil Ambekar said after a three-day conclave in Palakkad, "The RSS thinks that definitely, for all welfare activities, particularly those targeting such communities or castes which are lagging behind — for whom special attention is needed — for that, if sometimes the Government needs the numbers, it is a well-established practice. Earlier also, it (the

Government) has taken (such data), and so it can do it again. But it should be done only for the welfare of those communities and castes. It should not be used as a political tool for elections. So we put this forth with a line of caution for everyone." "As a Hindu society, caste and caste relations are sensitive issues. It is an important issue for our national unity and integrity. So, it should be dealt with very sensitively and not on the basis of elections or electoral practices and politics," he said.

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Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan during Enforcement Directorate's raids at his residence, in New Delhi, on Monday

Jail and bail for AAP

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in connection with a money-laundering case related to financial irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board. Khan was produced before Special Judge Rakesh Syal hours after he was arrested from his home by the ED who told the court that he was required to be confronted with other accused and evidence in the case. The ED has sought his 10 days custody. The counsel appearing for Khan challenged his arrest. The court has reserved its order on ED's plea and will likely pronounce it late night. He was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at 11.20 am after the agency conducted a search at his residence in Batla House earlier in the day. The ED told the court that some questions were put to Khan during the searches but he remained "evasive" and hence was arrested. The ED told the court that Khan was the main accused in the case. "The proceeds of crime have been used and laundered to buy property. Cash (is) also used. There was an attempt to misguide the agency," the ED told the court. The agency further accused Khan of non-cooperation, saying 14 summonses were issued to him, and he appeared only once, that too after a Supreme Court direction. The case against Khan stems from two FIRs: One filed by the CBI concerning alleged irregularities in Waqf Board appointments, and another by the Delhi ACB regarding an alleged case of disproportionate assets. The agency had earlier summoned Khan and questioned him for 13 hours.

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Govt summons Netflix India after IC-814 web series face backlash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has summoned the content head of OTT platform Netflix on Tuesday, seeking an explanation on the allegedly contentious aspects of the OTT series portraying the 1999 hijack of an Indian Airlines flight by Pakistan-based terror outfit Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. The depiction of hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Delhi has stirred controversy with a section of viewers objecting to the 'humane' projection of the perpetrators. "Nobody has the right to play with the sentiments of the people of this nation. Indian culture and civilisation should always be respected," another official source said. "Should we allow any foreign people to slipshod

over our cultural values," the source said without elaborating. The sources said filmmakers have to think before portraying something in a wrong manner. "You may be liberal, but you cannot portray institutions in a wrong manner," the source said. Using hashtags #BoycottNetflix, #BoycottBollywood and #IC814, several X users shared posts claiming the filmmakers changed the names of the hijackers to 'Shankar' and 'Bhola' to allegedly protect the terrorists who belonged to a certain community. BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya said the hijackers of the IC-814



flight were dreaded terrorists, who acquired aliases to hide their Muslim identities. "Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha, legitimised their criminal intent, by furthering their non-Muslim names. Decades later, people will think Hindus hijacked IC-814," Malviya posted on X. "Left's agenda to whitewash the crimes of Pakistani terrorists, all Muslims, served. This is the power of cinema, which the Communists have been using aggressively, since the 70s. Perhaps even earlier," Malviya said.

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Kejriwal's aide Bibhav gets bail in Swati assault case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the Swati Malawi assault case noting that he has been in custody for over 100 days. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also took into account that the prosecution has proposed to examine more than 51 witnesses and said the trial will take time to conclude.

Kanpur girl gang-raped in SUV, hotel room

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 23-year-old Kanpur resident was gang-raped allegedly by her social media acquaintance and his two friends in an SUV on the Lucknow-Barabanki highway and later at a hotel in Matiyari under Chinhat police station, police said on Monday. The victim identified the main accused as Vipin Singh, and his two friends as Himanshu Singh and Vinam Singh, they added. The victim suffered severe injuries, including wounds to her private parts, and she bled for two days before her parents admitted her to a hospital after noticing her abnormal behaviour and quizzing her, the police said. The accused allegedly threatened to disfigure and kill her to conceal their crime. DCP (East) Shashank Singh confirmed in a video statement that two of the accused had been detained and were being questioned. He said the incident took place on August 28 night. "We have launched raids to nab the third named accused after his location was disclosed to us by his accomplices in police custody," the DCP said without naming any of the accused. The police did not endorse whether the prime accused was an Instagram friend of the

victim, but said Vipin Singh had promised her a job in films and introduced her to a movie director. In the FIR, the victim recounted the events, stating that Vipin Singh called her to come to Lucknow, promising to get her a job in films by introducing her to a movie director. She reached Matiyari intersection in Chinhat around 8 pm on August 28. Vipin Singh came in an SUV and took her to Deva Road, his site office named Royal Construction. He introduced her to a person claiming to be a director and made her meet him to discuss the job. After that, Vipin Singh left the office to drop her at Matiyari crossing but drove the SUV to Barabanki Highway instead. On the way, two persons, Himanshu Singh and Vinam Singh, met Vipin and sat in the SUV. The trio made her smell something, and she fell unconscious. When she regained consciousness, she found herself in a hotel room in Matiyari. Vipin was in front of her, telling her to forget what happened and return to Kanpur quietly. The victim returned to Kanpur due to fear, with severe injuries and bleeding from wounds. She felt fragile and wanted to sleep, so her family members asked her the reason behind

her fatigue. It took her two days to open up and tell her parents about the gangrape. She identified the accused as Vipin Singh, Himanshu Singh, and Vinam Singh. Police registered a case on the complaint of the victim, and an investigation is underway. The incident exposed the lack of police alertness on highways, as the crime occurred in a SUV on the road without being noticed by authorities. Meanwhile, a 32-year-old woman, Aarti Rawat, was found hanging at her home in Para police station area on Monday. As per reports, one Indrapal of Bhaptamau locality in Para informed the police on Monday that his wife Aarti hanged herself from the ceiling fan. On this information, a police team was sent to the crime scene. The investigating officer told the newsmen that Aarti Rawat was a housewife. She is survived by her husband, who is a TB patient, and an eight-year-old son. "On receiving the information, the police team reached the spot and found that Aarti Rawat had hanged herself from the ceiling fan in her room. There was no visible injury on the body. Necessary legal action is ongoing," a spokesman said.

LMC House OKs key development proposals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation House unanimously passed all key proposals related to the city's development during its meeting on Monday. The House also decided to present financial proposals in the next session. In the meeting, held in the presence of Mayor Sushma Kharakwal and Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh, corporators raised several pressing issues, including waterlogging, overflowing sewers, illegal encroachments, and monkey menace. Corporator Shailendra Verma highlighted the poor condition of roads in the upscale Vibhuti Khand area, emphasising the need for repairs. He also noted the neglected state of Shaheed Path underpasses, and questioned the presence of animals in the Ismailganj protection house despite the release of captured strays after payment. The mayor instructed the zonal officer to address these concerns. Corporator Raghu Ram Tewari raised security concerns for colleagues, arguing that they should receive protection similar to MLAs due to their role in addressing civic issues. He also expressed frustration over the lack of attention to the monkey menace. However, Additional Municipal Commissioner Arvind Rao

explaining that this issue falls outside the LMC's purview due to the absence of relevant regulations. Corporator Ranjit Singh addressed the issue of encroachments on Daliganj Road towards IT Crossing and criticised the lack of LMC staff at the Gulala Ghat crematorium ground, leading to exploitation by traders. The municipal commissioner assured that action would be taken based on these complaints. Corporator Umesh voiced disapproval over the lack of serious action on previously raised issues and alleged corruption in the Jal Sansthan office in Zone 7. He called for the removal of corrupt staff and questioned the disparity in holiday entitlements between safai karmacharis and horticultural staff. Councillors expressed condolences for an unfortunate incident involving a 15-year-old boy, who died due to electrocution after he inadvertently came in contact with a high-mast light pole in Unity City Park in Zone 7 on Sunday. They demanded requested a Rs 10-lakh compensation for the victim's family. They also directed a survey of high-mast lights in city parks to ensure electrical safety and instructed a comprehensive park inspection by the additional municipal commissioner, zonal officers, and garden officers.

DNA test confirms rape charges against Samajwadi Party leader

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/KANNAUJ

The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded an apology from the Samajwadi Party after the DNA test report has confirmed the rape charges against Nawab Singh Yadav, the SP leader of Kannauj. A report has confirmed that the DNA of Nawab Singh Yadav belonging to the SP matched with the sample collected in the rape case of a 15-year-old girl in Kannauj, the Lok Sabha constituency of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. The SP had demanded DNA test of the rape accused. Nawab Singh Yadav, a former block head of the Samajwadi Party, used to manage a private education institute and is accused of raping the minor girl on the pretext of providing her a job. According to Circle Officer (Kannauj Sadar) Kamlesh Kumar, the DNA sample from Yadav matched with that found in the case. The sample collected from Yadav was sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Agra on August 17. Superintendent of Police (Kannauj) Amit Kumar Anand said, "The forensic evidence, which was collected from the spot, was sent to the FSL. The report from the FSL has come and rape has been confirmed." Further action is underway, he added.

A team of doctors on August 16 collected the DNA sample from Yadav following a court order. The sample was collected at the district jail. Kumar had earlier said that during a court hearing, Yadav agreed to provide his DNA sample. "Following his consent, a police team, accompanied by doctors,

visited the district jail in Anauhi to collect the sample. The sample was sealed and sent to the forensic lab for analysis," Kumar had said. The girl's aunt, who had brought her to Yadav's college on August 11-12 with promises of employment, has also been arrested in connection with the case.

PPGCL
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NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for "Supply of Carbon Steel Pipe for ETP Sludge Transfer Pipeline" for 3x600 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India
Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL-<https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 12th Sept' 2024.

SOUTH ASIAN ENTERPRISES LIMITED
REGD. OFF. :- ROOM NO. 1, 425 Gagan Deep, Triveni Nagar, Meerpur Cantt., Kanpur Nagar, Meerpur, Uttar Pradesh-208004
Corp. off.: 90, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020
Ph: 011-4665 6666, Website: www.sael.co.in,
CIN: L91990UP1999PLC011753, E-Mail: southasianenterprises@gmail.com
Notice of the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and e-Voting Information
Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of South Asian Enterprises Limited ("the Company") will be convened through two-way Video Conference ("VC")/ Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder, read with General Circular No. 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA"), Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 7, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") and other relevant notifications.
The schedule for the 35th AGM is as follows:

Day, Date and Time of Annual General Meeting	Tuesday, 24th September 2024 at 12:30 p.m. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")
Day and Date of Book Closure	Wednesday, 18/09/2024 to Tuesday, 24/09/2024 (both days inclusive)
Cutoff Date for entitlement of e-voting	Tuesday, 17th September, 2024
Date of remote e-voting	Saturday, 21st September, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. till Monday, 23rd September 2024 upto 5:00 p.m.
E-voting at AGM	Starting at Commencement of AGM and will end after 15 minutes of conclusion of AGM.

Kindly note that no physical copy of Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023-2024 will, therefore, be sent suo moto by the Company to the members either before or after the AGM and all communications from the Company relating inter-alia to AGM shall be made in electronic mode viz. emails etc. The Company has approached National Securities Depository Ltd. ("NSDL") for providing e-voting facility for the ensuing AGM. Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes its member after dispatch of the AGM Notice or whose email ID is not registered/updated with the Company and holding shares as on cut-off date may obtain the Login ID and Password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or to the Registrar and Transfer Agent ("RTA") of the Company at email ID: investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com or at their registered office address. For electronic voting instructions, Shareholders may go through the instructions stated in the Notice of 35th AGM and in case of any queries connected with electronic voting; Shareholders may refer the Frequently Asked Questions and e-voting User Manual for Shareholders available at the Downloads section of NSDL's e-voting website www.evoting.nsdl.com. Only a person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of beneficial owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cutoff date shall be entitled to avail the facility of e-voting or voting at the AGM. A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his/her right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The facility for e-voting will also be made available at the AGM and the members attending the meeting who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right to vote at the meeting through e-voting at AGM.
The e-copy of the Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023-24 of the Company is available on the website of the Company at www.sael.co.in, the website of the NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com, and on the website of the concerned stock exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com. The business to be transacted through electronic means have been set out in the notice convening 35th AGM.
Members holding shares in physical form are advised to convert their holdings in demat form as transfer of shares in physical form had been prohibited by the SEBI w.e.f. 01/04/2019. Further, they are also requested to register/update their Email ID, Bank mandate, contact number, change in address (if any) enclosing self-attested proof thereof, with the Company by writing to the Company at the registered/corporate office or its RTA in prescribed form. Above details along with requisite documents can also be sent electronically to the Company's designated investor services email ID: investor.desk.sael@gmail.com or RCMC Share Registry Pvt. Ltd. - the RTA at email ID: rdmshr@rcmcdelhi.com or investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com followed by physical documents. The up-dated Bank details will enable electronic credit of dividend without any delay to the members whenever declared by the Company besides compliance of SEBI's directive dated 16/03/2023. Also delinquent updation of PAN with the Company may result in deduction of tax at a higher rate on dividend and other benefits, as and when declared by the Company besides other implications as enumerated in Note no. 31 of the Notice convening the 35th AGM.
Members holding shares in dematerialized form are requested to approach their respective Depository Participants ("DP") for updating the Email ID, Bank Mandate, contact number, Address, bank details etc. The members are requested to periodically check the website of the Company for any updates.
It may be noted that in absence of email IDs, it would not be possible for the Company to send any communication relating to forthcoming AGM inter alia relating to the link to join the AGM to be held through Video Conference/OAVM to such member. For any clarification, please contact Shri R. C. Pandey-Company Secretary, (Ph. 91-11-4665 6666) or the undersigned at (91-11-4665 6666).
The above communication is intended for information and benefit of all members besides complying with applicable directives.

for South Asian Enterprises Ltd.
Sd/-
Vishesh Jain
Compliance Officer
M. No.: A68586

Place: New Delhi
Date: 02-09-2024

Thieves strike at MLA's flat, make off with wash basin taps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Blowing to the smithereens the tall talk of Lucknow police, thieves made off with taps of wash basins in the dining room and in the bathrooms from an MLA's flat in Butler Place Colony in Hazratganj on the intervening night of August 30/31. The MLA from Shohratgarh seat of Siddharth Nagar district, Vinay Verma, filed a complaint at the Hazratganj police station in this regard. In his complaint, Verma expressed concern over the security arrangements in a posh colony like Butler Place. He emphasised the gravity of the situation, noting that had he and his family been present during the theft, their lives and property could have been at risk. Verma urged the police to take

effective action by registering an FIR against the culprits and to keep him informed about the progress of the investigation. He explained that he resides in a government-allotted residence at B-1, Butler Place Colony, which is still under construction by the UP Estate department. Consequently, he does not live there with his family but visits occasionally to meet constituents and address their issues. On August 31 morning, Verma, who was scheduled to come to Lucknow, had sent Anurag Mishra to clean the residence. Mishra discovered the back courtyard door was broken, inner door locks had been forced, and the taps from both the dining room and bathroom washbasins were missing. Mishra immediately contacted the police by dialling 112.

Pathak orders dismissal of 26 docs over negligence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a move to address issues of negligence and misconduct within the state's healthcare system, Health Minister Brajesh Pathak has ordered the dismissal of 26 doctors across Uttar Pradesh. This action has come after investigations revealed widespread absenteeism and disobedience of higher authorities' directives. Pathak, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister, has directed the principal secretary of medical and health to issue a one-month notice to these doctors, with immediate dismissal to follow if they fail to rectify their conduct. Pathak, emphasising the government's commitment to high-quality healthcare, stated: "Negligence in medical duties will not be tolerated. We are determined to uphold the highest standards of service for the people of Uttar Pradesh." The dismissed doctors include a range of medical professionals from various regions, such as Dr Prashant Pathak from the Community Health Centre in Konch, Jalaun; Dr Imran Khan and Dr Surabhi Gupta under the Chief Medical Officer in Bareilly; Dr Anuj Kumar from Chillauna, Mainpuri; and Dr Yasmoon Akhtar Siddiqui from Siddharthnagar, among others. The crackdown extended to Dr Poonam Pal, a dental surgeon at the Community Health Centre in Payagpur, Bahraich, who was dismissed for repeated absences and disobedience. Additionally, six other medical officers were facing chargesheets for their negligence. These include Dr Pravesh Kumar Bhatia in Haroda,

Saharanpur; Dr Prashant Srivastava in Devidaspur, Bahraich; and Dr Rizwan Ahmed Khan in Shahjahanpur. The deputy CM has also demanded an explanation from Dr Neena Verma, Joint Director at the Directorate General of Health, regarding her failure to operationalise the Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Nautanwa, Maharajganj, during her tenure as CMO. In another disciplinary measure, the government has stopped two salary increments for two years for three medical officers—Dr Manisha Agarwal in Firozabad, Dr Sameer Gupta in Baghpat, and Dr Shilpi Sonkar in Kanpur Dehat—due to their failure to meet medical responsibilities. Dr Shilpi Sonkar has also received a censure entry along with the increment penalty.

Building material supplier loses Rs 55,000 in cyber fraud

Lucknow (PNS): A building material supplier from Mohanlalganj has been defrauded of Rs 55,000. The incident occurred on August 31, when the businessman, who deals in gravel, sand, and other construction materials, received calls from two different mobile numbers. The victim was identified as Anas, a resident of Mohanlalganj. As per reports, the callers claimed they wanted to place an order for building materials and assured Anas that payment would be made online. Initially, Anas insisted that he would only dispatch the goods after receiving full payment. One of the callers then suggested using a credit card for the transaction. Anas agreed and was asked to provide his QR code from the PhonePe app for payment. However, the scammer instructed him to open the PhonePe app on his mobile phone and wait for the payment confirmation. A small amount of Rs 40 was sent to Anas's account as a test transaction. After Anas confirmed receipt of this amount, the scammer sent him a link via the PhonePe app and instructed him to click on it and enter the remaining amount. Believing the payment was genuine, Anas followed the instructions and entered amounts of Rs 25,000 twice and Rs 5,000 once. To his shock, Rs 55,000 was deducted from his account, and the scammers disconnected the call. Realising he had been defrauded, Anas reported the incident to police.



NOTICE
I have changed my name from Farheen Naaz To Farheen Khan for all future purpose, Farheen Khan W/O Haidar Ali R/o 133/459,Dhakna Purwa, T.P.Nagar Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE
I have severed all kinds of relations with my brother Rohit Mishra and his wife Pratibha since January 2021. I will not be involved with any of their deeds, they themselves shall be responsible. Amit Mishra S/o Late Ram Bahadur Mishra R/o L-750 Keshavnagar, Awaz Vikas-1, Kalyanpur, Kanpur.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from TABAREJ AKHTAR TO TABREJ AKHTAR S/O KAYAYUM KHAN for future purpose. Add- 1529 LALAULI FATEHPUR.

NOTICE
I have changed my name Safia Jameel to Safiya Jameel all future purpose Safiya Jameel D/O Jameel Ahmed R/O 405/376A-6, Ashrafabad Jajmou Kanpur.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from KRISHN KUMAR TO KRISHNA KUMAR SACHAN S/O CHHOTELAL for future purpose. Add- GRAM GURGAON KANPUR DEHAT.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Shri Ram To Shri Ram Pal S/O Kanhai Lal R/o 200, Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Nagar, Panki Pankabahadur Nagar Kanpur.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from BALWAN TO BALWAN SINGH S/O DULI CHAND for future purpose. Add- WARD No. 10 SANDHU COLONY MOHAN NAGAR KURUKSHETRA HARIYANA.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Narendara Hirwani To Narendara Kumar for all future purposes, Narendara Kumar S/O Kishan Chand R/o122/493, Sindhi Colony, Shastri Nagar Kanpur.

NOTICE
Father's name in my High School Marksheet year 2012 Roll No. 5194468 CBSE Board is S.K. Gupta and in my Intermediate Marksheet & Certificate year 2014 Roll No. 5692452 CBSE Board is Surendra Gupta while the name of my father in his Aadhar Card is Surendra Kumar Gupta. All the three names are of same person, my father. For all future references, my father's name be recorded as Surendra Kumar Gupta.

NOTICE
I am Suman Pal w/o N/ub Arvind Kumar Pal Army No- JC735273N State that correct Date of Birth and Name of me as per Aadhar card and Other document is Suman Pal, and the date of birth is 12/08/1980 but in my Husband service records it is Suman Pal, 01/12/1980 which is incorrect. Suman Pal w/o Arvind Kumar Pal R/o - 587A/752 Gandhi Nagar, Telibagh, Lucknow Pin-226029-UP.

S-I caught taking bribe

Lucknow (PNS): Sub-Inspector Ram Dev Gupta, incharge of the Doctor Kheda outpost under Para police station, was apprehended on Monday by a team from the Vigilance Establishment in Lucknow while accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000. The arrest followed a complaint from Dinesh Kumar Patel of Pratapgarh, who reported that Gupta was demanding Rs 20,000 in exchange for filing a final report (FR) in his case. According to a press release from the superintendent of police, UP Vigilance Establishment, the complaint led to a confidential investigation. The probe confirmed the allegations, prompting the vigilance team to set up a trap. Gupta was caught red-handed receiving the bribe. Legal action is underway, with a case being registered against him.

Police recruitment candidate booked for impersonation

Lucknow (PNS): In the direct recruitment exam for constable and equivalent posts in Uttar Pradesh, held in October 2018, it was discovered that a candidate had arranged for someone else to take the exam in his place. This was revealed during biometric verification at the physical test stage. Subsequent forensic analysis confirmed the fraud, leading the recruitment board to file an FIR against Sachin Kumar from Jamalipur Nagata Khangar, Shikohabad, at the Hussainganj police station in Lucknow. The police are now preparing to take legal action against the accused. According to the FIR lodged by the recruitment board, Sachin Kumar initially took the written exam at KK Degree College in Mathura's Mahaban Bangar village on January 28, 2019. After passing this exam, he appeared for the physical test on January 15, 2020. During the biometric verification at the physical test, discrepancies were

noted between the biometric data of the candidate who took the written exam and the individual who appeared for the physical test. A thorough investigation revealed that Sachin Kumar had arranged for someone else to sit the written exam in his place. When the biometric data did not match during the physical test, all related documents were reviewed. Forensic analysis confirmed that the biometric and photographic evidence from the written exam did not align with those taken during the physical test. Following these findings, the Hussainganj police have initiated further legal proceedings. The FIR was registered based on a complaint from CO Ambrish Singh Bhadoria of the Police Recruitment and Promotion Board. The complaint underscored that the fraud was uncovered through biometric verification, which compared data from the written and physical tests.

मध्य प्रदेश लघु उद्योग निगम मर्यादित
कार्यालय संपदा एवं निर्माण संभाग
आई.आई.डी.सी.प्लाना, 39 सिटी सेंटर, ग्वालियर (म.प्र.)
दूरभाष: 0751-2439024
क्रमांक : लउनि./निर्माण/सं.नवा./2024-25/03 दिनांक : 02.09.2024

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निम्न कार्य की निविदा ई-ट्रेंडिंग पद्धति (Online System) से वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। 1. कम्पोजिट उद्योग भवन ग्वालियर जिला ग्वालियर (म.प्र.) का निर्माण कार्य अनुमानित लागत रु. 11,23,17,743/- निविदा की बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 17.09.2024 सायं 5.30 बजे। निविदा की समस्त जानकारी उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो उसकी जानकारी मात्र उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर दी जावेगी, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा, बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा को स्वीकृत अथवा अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार निगम के पास सुरक्षित है।
म.प्र. माध्यम/116218/2024 महाप्रबंधक (सं./नि.)

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Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
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POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)
Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:

S. No.	Loan No/Borrower(s), Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Date of Affixation
1.	OLKW2201000005043227, Rakesh Pandey, Reena Pandey	Rs. 9,93,823/-	21-06-2024	House No.355/242- KA, Situated At Alam Nagar, Ward- Alam Nagar Tehsil & District-Lucknow Uttar Pradesh-226023	30-08-2024
2.	OADR2204000005046738, & OADR2206000005048419, Umesh Kumar Prajapati, Malli	Rs. 8,27,891/- & Rs. 3,21,680/-	21-06-2024	Plot No 3A, Part of Gata No. 84 Min, Situated At Mirzapur Pargana, Lucknow, Tehsil Bakshi KA Talab Dist.- Lucknow Uttar Pradesh-226021	30-08-2024
3.	OGKP2302000005058138, Mohammad Shakeel, Muskan Khatoun	Rs. 14,40,101/-	21-06-2024	Arazi No- 438GA, Mauza- Mirzapur, Tappa- Khuthan, Pargana- Haveli, Tehsil -Sadar, Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh- 273013	30-08-2024
4.	OALB2307000005065621, & OALB2308000005068162 Vivek Khare, Ruchi Srivastava	Rs. 11,92,933/- & Rs. 6,64,409/-	21-06-2024	Part of Kharsa No- 29/2, Situated at Village - Keshavpur, Pargana & Tehsil - Sadar, Dist.- Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh - 210102	30-08-2024
5.	OLKQ2307000005065598, Jilendra Kumar Sharma, Medha Singh	Rs. 24,93,942/-	21-06-2024	House built on Plot No 26A Kharsa No 205, Situated at Village Sarakpur, Pargana Mahona Tehsil BKT Lucknow Uttar Pradesh-226201	30-08-2024
6.	OLKW2311000005072488, Vikas Gupta, Komal Gupta	Rs. 22,57,209/-	21-06-2024	Plot no A-07, Part of kharsa no 385, Buhara Lalabagh, Pama city Dubbagha Tehsil and Dist. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226017	30-08-2024

PLACE:- GURGAON, DATE :- 02-09-2024
Authorized Officer,
SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD.

Yogi asks cops to be tech-savvy, move towards smart policing

PNS ■ MORADABAD

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, said that the Uttar Pradesh Police force had played a key role in shaping the state as a model of good governance. Speaking at the passing out parade of 74 deputy superintendents of police at the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Police Academy in Moradabad, the chief minister said, "Today, through the implementation of the rule of law, Uttar Pradesh has transformed its image." He highlighted that the newly appointed officers in the Uttar Pradesh Police, recognised as the world's largest civil police force, must embrace smart policing in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath takes salute during the passing out parade of Deputy Superintendents of Police at Dr BR Ambedkar Police Academy, in Moradabad on Monday. PTI

"We have to move towards smart policing, which is tech-savvy and trendy, which is strict but also sensitive, modern but also mobile, alert but equally accountable towards its work, reliable as well as responsive," he stressed. Chief Minister Yogi expressed satisfaction with the appointment of 18 women as deputy superintendents of police and noted that with the recruitment of 1.60 lakh personnel in the police force over the past seven years, there has been a significant increase in resources available to the force. "We have also achieved considerable success in tripling the capacity of police training," he added. Chief Minister Yogi honoured Shrishti Akanksha Pandey for excelling in classroom training and Udit Narayan Paliwal for outstanding performance in outdoor training. Prakhar Pandey was awarded the Sword of Honour for his excellence in both indoor and outdoor subjects. During the training, these 74 deputy superintendents of police received specialised instruction in law, human disorder, cybercrime, language and three new laws. The chief minister emphasised the adage often associated with the police force: "The more you sweat in training, the less blood is shed in the field. Congratulations on joining the ranks of the world's largest police force — this is a remarkable accomplishment!" He also noted: "The law is offering us continuous and clear direction for future reforms. Shifting from traditional methods of investigation and punishment to modern forensic technology and evidence is not only more effective for delivering justice but also helps prevent the misuse of justice. To support this approach, the State Institute of Forensic Sciences has been established in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh." The chief minister underscored the significance of the new recruits' new roles as police

officers, urging them to approach their duties with unwavering dedication, discipline and integrity. "In addition to controlling crime, you will play a significant role in delivering justice to victims by upholding law and order. We expect each of you to contribute fully to protecting the public, ensuring peace and harmony in society, and preserving the image of a friendly police force. While performing your duties, it is essential to balance strictness with politeness," he said. Emphasising that challenges in police service are ongoing, Chief Minister Yogi stated that the police force must always remain steadfast in its duties and be prepared to sacrifice for the cause. The presence of a police uniform should instill a sense of security and trust in the public and it is your responsibility to uphold that trust, he added. "You must ensure their safety. Only through your efficiency and dedication can you alleviate the suffering of victims and bring smiles to their faces. A sensitive police officer has ample opportunities to excel. By meeting public expectations through your conduct, you can faithfully fulfill your duties," he said. Chief Minister Yogi further noted that the foundation of good governance in any state is built on crime prevention and the maintenance of law and order. This foundation is solidified when the state has a responsible policing system and a professionally skilled, sensitive police force, he added. "Strong law and order is a top priority for our government. We have a zero-tolerance pol-

icy towards criminals, which has proven effective. To enhance the police system, our government has implemented numerous reforms and modernisation. Over the past seven years, there has been a significant increase in resources for new police recruitments, with 1,60,000 personnel added to strengthen the force," he said. The chief minister added, "Recently, you may have observed that the written examination for more than 60,200 positions has been successfully conducted in Uttar Pradesh. Over the last seven years, we have tripled the capacity of police training. Additionally, under Mission Shakti, the establishment of women PAC battalions in Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Budaun for women empowerment has progressed rapidly." Chief Minister Yogi emphasised that these efforts are part of the Uttar Pradesh police reform and modernisation campaign. Over the past seven and a half years, Uttar Pradesh has seen no riots, and festivals and celebrations are being held peacefully, with no room for anarchy or hoodliganism. As a result, Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a model of good governance, largely due to the contributions of the Uttar Pradesh Police force, the chief minister added. He noted, "Today, Uttar Pradesh has transformed its image through the rule of law. We had set a benchmark for having about 20 per cent women personnel in the police force. I am pleased that, following the selection process by the Uttar Pradesh Public

Service Commission, 18 daughters of the state have become deputy superintendents of police. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them and their families. I am confident that your training will be invaluable in establishing a police force that is efficient, justice-oriented, transparent, accountable, dedicated to public service, and sensitive to the needs of the community." The convocation ceremony at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Police Academy in Moradabad began with the national anthem, followed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath taking the salute during the parade. The newly appointed deputy superintendents of police took their oaths during the ceremony. The parade showcased the skills of the newly appointed deputy superintendents of the Uttar Pradesh Police. The police band played various parade tunes, including the patriotic song 'Saare jahan se achha Hindustan hamara.' The parade was led by Udit Narayan Paliwal. Various groups of the newly appointed deputy superintendents also participated in the parade, demonstrating their skills under the leadership of Ayushi Singh, Prakhar Pandey, Rohan Chaurasia and others. The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Deepak Kumar, Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, Director General (Training) Tilottama Verma, Additional Director General Rajiv Sabharwal, along with other senior police officers, selected deputy superintendents, their families and other public representatives.

CM: Those who have divided society in name of caste bow down to rioters

PNS ■ MORADABAD

In a scathing attack on the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Monday that these parties have torn apart the social fabric of both the country and the state by exploiting caste, opinion and religion for petty political ends. He urged the public to remain vigilant against divisive forces, noting that before 2017, those who divided society along caste lines would often bow and submit to rioters. The chief minister made these remarks while addressing a district-level mega employment and loan fair at Aryabhata International School. At the event, 100 companies offered over 15,000 job opportunities to the youth of Moradabad. Additionally, Chief Minister Yogi distributed loans totaling Rs 175.50 crore and tablets to 2,500 youths. During the programme, Chief Minister Yogi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 292 development projects worth Rs 401 crore. He highlighted the significant strides Uttar Pradesh has made in development over the past seven and a half years. He noted that the state's credit-deposit ratio, which was 44 per cent before 2017, has now risen to 60 per cent, with a goal to reach 65 per cent. The chief minister emphasised that Uttar Pradesh has become a key driver of national development and that Moradabad is

emerging as a crucial growth engine within the state. Highlighting the achievements of the double-engine government, Chief Minister Yogi noted that over 1,60,000 police personnel have been recruited, with 20 per cent of these positions filled by women. He noted that the recent police recruitment process for more than 60,200 posts has been completed, and plans are underway to issue recruitment notices for an additional 40,000 posts once appointment letters are distributed. Chief Minister Yogi also outlined plans for the future, stating that within the next two years, two lakh youths will secure government jobs. Additionally, he emphasised that investments in the state will create employment opportunities for one crore people. Describing Uttar Pradesh as the second-largest economy in the country, Chief Minister Yogi projected that in the next 3-4 years, the state will surpass others to become the leading economy in India. He assured that this economic growth will significantly boost per capita income, potentially increasing it three to four times. Chief Minister Yogi mentioned that before 2017, when government jobs were available in Uttar Pradesh, the 'chachabhatija' duo would engage in "extortion". "Chacha bhatija ki jodi aisi khurafat karti thi ki nyayalok no naukri par rok lagani padti thi (The uncle-nephew pair was involved in

such mischief that the courts had to intervene and halt job appointments). Government jobs fell victim to their extortion, leaving youth unemployed and forcing many to migrate to other states in search of employment," he said. He added that today, law and order in Uttar Pradesh has strengthened. The success of the double-engine government's zero-tolerance policy toward corruption and crime has significantly enhanced Uttar Pradesh's reputation across the country. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reflected on the state of Uttar Pradesh before 2017, noting that riots were common before festivals and neither women nor businessmen were secure. He emphasised that in the past seven and a half years, Uttar Pradesh has been free from riots, with festivals being celebrated peacefully. Chief Minister Yogi highlighted improvements in safety and respect for businessmen, stating that traders are now provided with life insurance coverage of Rs 10 lakh. Additionally, job opportunities have been created for the state's youth, he added. He asserted that a government with vision can fulfill the dreams of its people, and with determination, even seemingly impossible goals can be achieved. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted that among the projects that were inaugurated and whose foundation stones were laid during the programme, 156 were dedicated to

the Kundarki assembly constituency. He praised Moradabad for aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision by enhancing air connectivity. He praised the handicraftsmen and artisans of Moradabad, noting that their craftsmanship has gained international recognition. "Today, goods worth approximately Rs 15-20 thousand crores are being exported both nationally and globally," he remarked. Chief Minister Yogi assured that the development process will continue without interruption. During the programme, the entrance of the Moradabad Development Authority was named in honour of former MP Kunwar Sarvesh Singh. Additionally, the foundation stone for a park dedicated to him was laid. A statue of Kunwar Sarvesh Singh will be installed there. Along with Chief Minister Yogi, Bharatiya Janata Party state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister Dharampal Singh, Cooperation Minister JPS Rathore, Secondary Education Minister Gulab Devi, Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal, Parliamentary Affairs and Industrial Development Minister of State Jaswant Saini, Minister of State for Agriculture Baldev Singh Aulakh and other dignitaries were present in the programme.

CM: Government to provide best infrastructure to sportsperson

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sports and sports activities have rapidly advanced in the country over the past decade. Modi's Khelo India initiative has propelled sports programmes forward and inspired by this, Uttar Pradesh has joined the movement, providing a new direction. As part of this initiative, the state is constructing a sports ground in each of its 57,000 gram panchayats. Additionally, mini-stadiums are being built in all 825 development blocks, and one stadium per district is under development across all 75 districts. The state will also develop 1,000 football grounds, in line with the expectations of the All India Football Federation. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made these statements on Monday at KD Singh Babu Stadium before the Mohun Bagan vs. East Bengal football match.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a football match between the country's leading football clubs Mohun Bagan and East Bengal at the KD Singh Babu Stadium in Lucknow on Monday. PTI

Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the players and spectators, mentioned that the football federation had requested dedicated football stadiums in each district and 18 divisions. He said the UP government

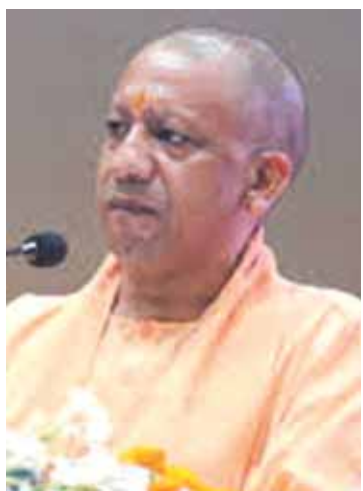
was committed to advancing sports and sports activities in the state. He highlighted that UP has always played a significant role in sports history, citing hockey legends Major Dhyani Chand and KD Singh

Babu as prominent figures from the state. The state has also contributed to the football world. The chief minister said that the government had provided direct recruitment to over 500 athletes who won medals in Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian, and World Championships and this practice would continue. He noted that during the Paris Olympics, Uttar Pradesh's players made significant contributions to the Indian hockey team. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, one of the players, was appointed as a deputy superintendent of police in the UP Police last year, and Raj Kumar Pal is also set to receive a similar appointment. Present at the event were state minister Girish Yadav, All India Football Federation President Kalyan Chaube, Uttar Pradesh Sports Board President and MLC Avneesh Kumar Singh, and UP Sports Director Dr RP Singh, among others.

Take effective steps to check human-wildlife conflict: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath convened a high-level meeting with Forest department officials on Monday to address the recent surge in incidents of human-wildlife conflict in several districts of Uttar Pradesh. He directed the forest minister and officials concerned to take decisive action to prevent and monitor such incidents. The chief minister also asked the Forest department officials to analyse the causes behind the increase in such conflicts to curb them effectively. Following the chief minister's directives, several district magistrates swiftly mobilised teams, initiating combing operations in affected areas and launching public awareness campaigns in villages. Chief Minister Yogi highlighted the recent reports of attacks by wolves in various state districts. He emphasised the urgent need to control such incidents by taking effective steps to capture the wolves. The chief minister directed the administration, police, Forest department, local panchayats and revenue officials in the affected districts to launch extensive public awareness campaigns and educate people on safety precautions. Following the meeting, the forest minister and officials concerned promptly took action. The forest minister ordered the immediate deployment of additional Forest department personnel in Bahraich, Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit,



Bijnor and other affected districts, along with increased joint patrolling. Senior officials were instructed to camp in these districts, coordinate with public representatives and arrange for Petromax lamps in rural areas facing lighting issues. It is noteworthy that Uttar Pradesh is the first state to declare human-wildlife conflict as a disaster, ensuring comprehensive support to families affected by wild animal attacks or untimely deaths. The district magistrates of Bahraich, Sitapur and Lakhimpur Kheri, Monica Rani, Abhishek Anand and Durga Shakti Nagpal, respectively, are at the helm of districts grappling with human-wildlife conflict. They have issued crucial directives to the police, Forest department, local panchayats,

and Revenue departments, underscoring the urgency of the situation. These guidelines, while emphasising the role of forest personnel in daily patrolling and awareness meetings, also stress the importance of villagers in managing the conflict. Villagers are advised to work in groups when going to their fields, making noise to scare off wild animals, thereby actively participating in their own safety. As per the guidelines, extensive public awareness campaigns should be conducted in sensitive areas, with hoardings placed at public locations like temples, gurdwaras, mosques, schools, local markets, sugarcane purchase centers, block development offices, and tehsils. Posters should be displayed on roadsides and in public spaces within wildlife-affected areas, and pamphlets distributed to villagers to increase their awareness. In the event of a human-wildlife conflict, local and range staff must immediately rescue the victim and notify higher authorities. While patrolling wildlife-affected areas, all available resources at the range level should be utilised with additional support from local self-help groups, intellectuals, village heads and those concerned about wildlife. Local staff should carry out continuous patrolling and anti-snare use on rural boundaries and trails near reserved forests. Forest personnel should maintain regular contact with village heads in areas bordering forests through mobile communication.

2-yr-old girl killed, woman injured in wolf attacks

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A two-and-a-half-year-old girl was killed and a 65-year-old woman injured in separate wolf attack incidents in Bahraich district's Mahsi division, with similar reports emerging from neighboring Sitapur district. The tragedy unfolded early Sunday morning when Anjali, daughter of Kamal from Gerathi village in Mahasi tehsil, was snatched from outside her home where she was sleeping with her mother. In another attack on Sunday night, Achla, a 65-year-old woman from Kheraniya village, was injured in the neck while sleeping inside her house with the doors open. The recent fatal attack on the child has prompted the Forest department to reassess their strategy for capturing the wolves responsible for the attacks. In a bid to catch them the Forest department here has initiated an innovative effort of using colourful teddy dolls soaked in children's urine as a bait to capture them, a senior forest official said. Of a pack of six wolves that have terrorised the region over the past month and a half, four have been captured. Chief Wildlife Warden and PCCF (Forest) Sanjay Srivastava announced that a new strategy is in place and pledged to capture the remaining wolves within the next two days. "Operation Bhediya" will continue until all the wolves are caught," he stated. A new team has been formed to address the situation. Two additional PCCFs have been despatched to Bahraich, and teams from the four surrounding divisions, including Gonda and Shravasti, will join the efforts. Four DFOs, two SDOs, and four range officers are set to arrive and begin a fresh operation supported by advanced technology. The strategy involves locating and encircling the wolves with nets, boats, and personnel to safely tranquillise them. Srivastava admitted that the task is challenging. The wolves have been carrying out attacks at intervals of one to two

Leopard rescued in Rampur

Rampur (PTI): A leopard, spotted near the human population in the Maswasi area here, was rescued by the forest department on Monday, officials said. Earlier on Sunday, the department had captured and rescued another leopard near the Jauhar University campus of the district. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rampur Rajeev Kumar said for the last 10-15 days, the department had information about the presence of a leopard around Jamuna Jamuni village, which is the area of Maswasi of Swar.

days, making them difficult to track and capture. "The wolves are cunning and have become shrewd," he said, adding: "In a recent incident, a vigilant mother saved her son, but the wolf managed to abduct the child in the next attack." The chief wildlife warden noted that the attacks are concentrated in Mahasi tehsil, where the wolves appear to be relying on these incidents due to a lack of natural prey. "The wolves are attacking every two to three days. If villagers followed the advice to avoid sleeping outside, the risks would be significantly reduced," he explained. Despite repeated warnings from the forest minister, many villagers continue to sleep outside, which has increased the risk of attacks, he added. Srivastava advised that those without doors should block passages with charpoys, chairs, and tables to make it more difficult for wolves to enter. He clarified that the problem involves a female wolf and a lame male wolf, which are more challenging to capture due to their nocturnal behaviour and keen senses. "While these wolves are not 'man-eaters' like tigers or leopards, they are causing significant harm," he said.

FORM No. 1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW
(Area of Jurisdiction - Part of Uttar Pradesh)
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
DRC No. 743/2023/R.O.I

NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993.

INDIAN BANKC.H. Bank
Branch Hazratganj, Lucknow, Old Building, Ashok Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

VERSUS

MRS. RUMI RAHIL & ORS.Credit Debtors To.

1. **MRS. RUMI RAHIL** W/o Shri Rahil Akhtar R/o 633/24, Gulzar Colony, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226028
2. **MR. RAHIL AKHTAR S/O MR. Syed Mohd. Ayyub** R/o 633/24, Gulzar Colony, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226028
3. **M/S. AASHYANA INFRAPROPROMOTERS PVT. LTD** Registered under the Companies Act, 1956 having its registered Office At 2nd Floor, Dube Chambers, 1 Sapru Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow - 226001
2nd Address: 001, Parque-9, Omakhe Heights, Vibhuti Khand, Gombi Nagar, Lucknow- 226010.
3rd Address: Flat No. 112, Block-B, 1st Floor, Multi Storied Apartment Known as "BLUE MONARCH" at Plot No. 11/GH-02, Sector-11, Vrindavan Yojana, Rae Bareilly Road, Lucknow-226029.

.....Certificate Debtors.

This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 46,45,451.92 (RUPEES FORTY SIX LACS FORTY FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY ONE AND PAISE NINETY TWO ONLY) together with pendentelites and future interest @7.00% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing of the Original Application i.e. 21.07.2022 till the loan is fully liquidated and cost succeeds jointly & severally and is hereby allowed against you the addressees as per order dated 10/03/2023 passed by Hon'ble Tribunal in O.A. No.720/2022, titled "INDIAN BANK Vs. MRS. RUMI RAHIL & ORS"

You are hereby directed to pay the aforesaid mentioned amount within 15 days of receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993.

You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of assets on or before 30/09/2024.

You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 30/09/2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Details of cost:

Application Fee : Rs. 49,005/-
Advocate's Fee :
Clerkage :
Publication Charges :
Expenses suit filing & others :

Given under my hand and seal on this 28 day of August, 2024.

Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow.

DM hears complaints of people

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam heard the complaints of the general public during the Janata Darbar (public hearing) in his chamber at the Collectorate here on Monday. After listening to the grievances, the DM instructed the officials concerned on phone to ensure quality disposal of the complaints as per the wishes of the government. He said whatever problems



are coming during the public hearing, their quality disposal should be done on time. Senior district and police officers were also present.

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E-Tender Enquiry No.: 203/MM-4/TGM-346(V)/O&M/GHTP/2024 dated 29-08-2024.
Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites e-tender for "Removal of old ceramic pads, application of old/new ceramic pad insulation & supply of new ceramic insulation pads/quilt for HP Turbine Module & IP turbine Module of 210 MW Unit-II of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat". For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 29-08-2024 at 18:30 Hrs onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-74/24

76155/12/3382/2023/37228 Dated CHD :- 9/2/2024

PuVVNL MD suspends SDO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Managing Director (MD) of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) Shambhu Kumar has suspended Dhruv Kumar Singh, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), Electricity Distribution Sub-Division, Manda (Prayagraj) with immediate effect here on Monday.

The MD found the SDO under Chief Engineer (Distribution), Prayagraj Region-II, Prayagraj prima facie guilty of not doing effective work of 100 per cent billing, preventive maintenance to protect the transformers from damage, removing beyond time pendency on Jhatpat Portal and PTW Portal and for gross laxity in discharging his departmental duties and responsibilities as well as for disobeying the orders of higher officials. During the period of suspension, the suspended SDO will remain attached to the office of Chief Engineer (Distribution), Varanasi Zone-I, Varanasi and during the period of suspension, he will be entitled for subsistence allowance as per rules.

Nutrition Month campaign starts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The National Nutrition Month campaign has been started from Monday to make the children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women of the district well nourished. Under the campaign which will run till September 30, public movement and community participation will be promoted through nutrition, health and education related activities. Under the direction

of Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, nutrition and health related activities will be organised on a large scale with all convergence departments and developing institutions. District Programme Officer (DPO) Dinesh Kumar Singh said that since the year 2018, every year the month of September is celebrated as National Nutrition Month. This is the seventh Nutrition Month campaign, whose main theme has been kept as 'Samagra Poshan that is all essential elements related to nutrition'. In the campaign, public awareness activities related to nutrition, health, education, public movement, environmental protection etc will be organised. With the coordination and integrated efforts of all the convergence

AD (S) will ensure NDA's win in assembly bypoll: Anupriya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

National president of Apna Dal (Sonela) and Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said in the by-elections to be held on 10 assembly seats in UP, the workers of Apna Dal (S) will come together with full force and make the NDA candidates victorious. Whatever the symbol is and whoever gets the ticket, the workers of Apna Dal will be with the NDA candidates in the elections with full loyalty.

Anupriya Patel, who came to Prayagraj on Monday, held a meeting with party workers. She had programmes at many places in the district. She said the birth anniversary of Apna Dal founder Sonela Patel will be celebrated with great pomp and show on October 17. Its outline has been prepared in meeting. When journalists asked how many seats Apna Dal workers would contest, she avoided the question and said that only NDA candidates would contest the elections. Her party will work hard to make the candidates win with full strength and loyalty.



Union Minister Anupriya Patel being garlanded by party workers during Patel Maha Sammelan meeting in Prayagraj on Monday

Cabinet minister in the Uttar Pradesh government Ashish Patel also said the NDA leaders will sit together and decide who will get the ticket in the by-election. However, Apna Dal workers will put in all their strength to make the NDA candidates win. NDA is going to win all the 10 seats, he said. Union minister Anupriya Patel joined the district level workers conference of Prayagraj Apna Dal (S) at Prayag Sangeet Samiti. It is believed that Anupriya showed her strength in view of

the by-election to be held on the Phulpur assembly seat. More than 20,000 workers reached here. Anupriya answered media's questions at the Circuit House. The Apna Dal S has made it clear that their party will contest the election in support of the NDA candidate, she said. Patel said that Apna Dal is aware of the fact that their party did not have any seat in the 10 assembly seats for which this election is going to be held, so it does not have any basis to claim like RLD and Nishad Party.

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Notice Inviting Tender

e/Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head office, Chandigarh Hiring of milkpowder plant having conversion capacity in the range of 2.00 to 4.00 LLPD for conversion of liquid milk into standard grade SMP and VMP for Verka Dairies.	Annual
2.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy Hiring of commercial insulated/ refrigerated vehicles for transportation of packed milk and fresh milk products.	1.7 Ton-03 No's 3.0 Ton-05 No's 4.0 Ton-04 No's
3.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Notice inviting expression of interest to run the Verka Milk booths location in Bathinda city & Bathinda Army Cantt. Area:- i. Nai Basti. ii. Ajit Road, Street No.17 iii. Mehna Chowk iv. P.A.U Research Station v. Partab Nagar vi. Shopping Complex No.1 (Army Cantt.) vii. Abdul Hamid Enclave (Army Cantt.) viii. Badlu Singh Enclave (Army Cantt.) ix. Gurnam Singh Enclave (Army Cantt.) x. Shopping Complex No.06 (Army Cantt.)	Three Year
4.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Outsourcing of Milk Booths at:- i. Civil Hospital, Phillaur. ii. Nagar Council, Kartarpur iii. Civil Hospital, Sultanpur Lodhi iv. MCC Lasara v. Civil Hospital Nakodar vi. Municipal Corp., Jalandhar vii. Civil Hospital Kapurthala viii. MCC Khari Kar Kalan ix. Shalimar Bagh Kapurthala x. Kemra Bagh Kapurthala xi. Lalpat Nagar, Backside Petrol Pump (Rose Park) Jalandhar xii. Rail Coah Factory, Kapurthala xiii. Jang E-Azadi, Kartarpur xiv. Adarsh Nagar Chaupati, Jalandhar	Three Year
5.	For Verka Faridkot Dairy Hiring of insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from BMC's to various Milk Chilling Centres/Milk Plants in Punjab etc. on rate contract. Cap.10000 Kg.	01 No.
6.	For Verka Ferozepur Dairy Hiring of:- a) Insulated road milk tankers for transportation of milk from:- i. MCC's to various Milk plants in Punjab or to any other destination etc. Capacity 15000 Kgs (Double Chamber). ii. BMC's to Verka Ferozepur Dairy (Malwal, Ghalu, Jalandhar, Zira) Cap. 10000 Kgs (Double Chamber). Cap. 6000 Kgs b) Mahindra Pickup/ Balero camper / Max Pickup etc, to lift the Cattlefeed to MccMalwal, Jalandhar, Ghalu, Zira	Annual Rate Contract For:- 2 year/08 No's 03 No's 02 No's 01 year/02 No's

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/25125/2023/37207 Dated CHD :- 9/2/2024

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Criminal carrying ₹25K reward held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The City police arrested a criminal, carrying a cash reward of ₹25,000, involved in theft in a jewellery shop, in an encounter with him on Monday. During the exchange of fire, he sustained bullet injury on his limb and was admitted to the LLR (Hallet) hospital. After treatment, he will be produced in the court and sent to jail. DCP (West) Rajesh Kumar Singh said Anuj Tewari of Shatabdi Nagar, Panki, runs a shop by the name Shri Banke Behari

Jewellers & Ratn Kendra in Panki. On August 8 miscreants had stolen about two kg silver ornaments and gold jewellery worth lakhs of rupees by dismantling the shutter. After lodging a first information report (FIR) in this connection police had launched raids to nail the thieves. At the same time, police had announced a cash reward of ₹25,000 on notorious criminal Anmol Singh involved in the theft. During wee hours on Monday, on a tip off that Anmol Singh was going to commit crime along with gang members,

Panki police spotted him on the bike during vehicle checking. On being cornered, he opened fire on police party. During exchange of fire, Anmol Singh sustained bullet injury on his limb and was arrested with a countrymade pistol and live cartridges. At his behest police later recovered the stolen jewellery. Raids were on to nail other gang members, he said. **INSTALLED:** The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) has reached a significant milestone in the Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section of

Corridor-1 (IIT-Naubasta) of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project as the final 348th U-girder was successfully installed near Baudh Nagar station on Sunday. With this achievement, the Kanpur Metro has now completed the erection of all pre-cast structures, including U-girders, double-T girders, I-girders and pier caps. With the erection of the final 348th U-girder in the Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section, the casting of 264 double-T girders, 64 I-girders, and 186 pier caps is now fully complete.

Devotees take holy dip

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On the occasion of Somvati Amavasya Snan on Monday, a large number of devotees took a holy dip at Lakhshagrih Ganga Ghat under Handia tehsil. Devotees started congregating in huge numbers to take a holy dip in the mythological site Lakhshagrih Ganga Ghat since morning. Devotees took a holy dip in the Ganga in Brahma Muhurta (auspicious time) itself.

Youth meets watery grave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A youth from Kanpur drowned in the river at Ramghat, Chitrakoot, on Monday morning. He had gone there with friends to take bath on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya. Police sent the body of the deceased for an autopsy. Sitapur outpost cops informed the kin of the deceased who had left for the destination in a private vehicle. Gangadin Sahu of Kushmanda Nagar, Ghatampur, said he was employed in a private company in Chhattisgarh. His wife Malti lived with son Himanshu Sahu here. On Sunday Himanshu had gone to Chitrakoot with friends for 'darshan'. When he was bathing in the Mandakini river at Ramghat, he started drowning into it. When his friends raised an alarm people rushed to the spot and found him drowned. Karbi (Chitrakoot) Station House Officer (SHO) Upendra Kumar Singh said the body had been sent for autopsy. On the basis of autopsy report, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said. Meanwhile a youth of Auraiya drowned in the Ganga at the Pathar Ghat under Bithoor police station area on Monday morning. He had arrived here for bathing on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya. He drowned in the river immediately after he crossed the barricading put up with a rope to warn people of the danger point. The Bithoor police pressed divers into service to

Dairy owner commits suicide

Kanpur (PNS): An elderly dairy owner allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his house in Shivrajpur on Sunday night. The incident came to light on Monday morning when the family members woke up. Police rushed to spot and started a probe in the matter. Reports said that Subhash Katiyar (76), son of Sukhdeo Prasad of Ishapur, Shivrajpur, presently lived near railway crossing on Sheoli Road in Barrajpur Ward No 3. He owned his milk dairy and cold drink shop near his house. The elder of his two sons, Sonu Katiyar is a lawyer and the younger one is preparing for SSC. After dinner on Sunday, he went to sleep in his room. On Monday morning, kin found him hanging from

a hook in the ceiling. Police sent the body for autopsy. Kin informed that despite their protest, Subhash often consumed liquor and quarrelled debate with family members. On Sunday evening also, he held a dispute with his son over some petty issue. Station Officer (SO) Shivrajpur said prima facie it appeared to be a case of suicide. The body had been sent for autopsy and on the basis of its report, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said. **MISHAP:** A bike-borne school manager was fatally knocked down by a speeding dumper near Bingawa under Sen Pashchimpara police station area late on Sunday evening. Dumper driver escaped with the vehicle.

Rohit brings laurels to BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rohit Yadav has brought laurels to the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) by winning the bronze medal in 63rd National Open Athletic

Championship-2024 held in Bengaluru, (Karnataka) from August 30 to September 2. Rohit Yadav, an employee of BLW, won the bronze medal by throwing the javelin 79.29 meters. Rohit was congratulated by BLW's officiating General Manager SK Srivastava, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Production) and BLW Sports Association General Secretary Sunil Kumar, Deputy General Manager Anuj Katiyar, Senior Sports Officer Bahadur Prasad, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar and others.

Interests of all employees will be taken care of: Pandey

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The IFFCO Employees' Sangh organised the first general body meeting of employees after the elections at the main gate of IFFCO plant here on Monday. In the meeting, Employees' Sangh President Pankaj Pandey said that after the elections, the public representative is for everyone. He said that he will take care of the interest of all the employees and help in case of need. General Secretary Vijay Kumar Yadav expressed his gratitude to all those who directly or indirectly helped in winning the elections. He said he will always stand for the self-respect of the employees. The programme was conducted by treasurer Gaurav Srivastava. Vice-President Dharam Singh Patel, Joint Secretary



(Organisation) Salik Ram, Joint Secretary (Publicity) Abhay Raj Yadav, Assistant Secretary Ram Chandra Gautam and Abhishek Patel, Executive Members Vinod Kanojia and Manoj Kumar Patel, nominated members Santosh Kumar and Rajiv Kumar Singh, Santaj Ali, Ambuj Kumar Shukla, Shiv Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Arvind Kumar Vishwakarma, Shivani Gupta and a large number of IFFCO employees were present.

Eight employees of NER's Varanasi div retire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the leadership of Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, eight employees of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) retired on August 31 were paid their final amount of ₹3,87,54,119 in a simple ceremony organised in the Premchand Auditorium Room of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Office here on Monday. On the occasion Divisional Finance Manager (DFM) NN Pandey, Assistant Finance Manager Arvind Pandey, Assistant Personnel Officer (APO) Ramesh Upadhyay, Assistant Divisional Personnel Officer Anirudh Prasad along with inspectors and employees



Farewell ceremony for retired employees being held at DRM Office in Varanasi on Monday.

of Accounts and Personnel Department were present. On the occasion DFM NN Pandey congratulated the retired employees and said that railway employees have an important role in train operation and management. He advised them to do regular exercise, yoga etc to stay healthy and spend the remaining time in fulfilling their social and moral obligations. Along with this, he said in the

past years all the employees retiring from Varanasi division are paid their dues on the day of their retirement and this is possible due to mutual coordination and hard work of the officers and employees of the Accounts and Personnel departments. The divisional railway manager gave service medals to all the retiring employees and wished them a good life ahead and expressed gratitude for their long and remarkable services. Before this, APO Ramesh Upadhyay honoured all the retired employees by garlanding them. While wishing the retired employees, the APO told them in detail about all the documents related to I- card, service certificate and PPO and

explained to them that they should use their receipts very thoughtfully and should not give it to an inappropriate person by getting influenced or influenced by any person or organisation or by getting carried away by emotions. He said that many people are in search of such opportunities and trap money by giving all kinds of temptations. "Be cautious, this is the capital of your life, spend it only when it is very necessary, try to keep your receipts safe as much as possible", he said. The eight retired employees are Chandradev Yadav, Vinay Kumar, Vijay Kumar Yadav, Krishna Ram, Umesh Chandra Yadav, Dhananjay Singh, Dilip Kumar and Havildar Yadav.

Shambhu border stir: SC forms panel to address farmers' issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that farmers' protest should not be politicised, the Supreme Court on Monday constituted a high-powered committee headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh to amicably resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the five-member committee to convene its first meeting within a week and reach out to the agitating farmers to persuade them to immediately remove their tractors, trolleys etc. From the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana to provide relief to commuters. Both the Punjab and Haryana Governments will be free to give suggestions to the committee, it added. The farmers are agitating over a plethora of demands including legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their produce. "We hope and trust that one of the major demands of the agi-

tating farmers regarding constitution of a neutral high-powered committee having been accepted with the consent of both the States, they will immediately respond to the request of the high-powered committee and will vacate the Shambhu border or the other roads connecting the two States without any delay. "This gesture will provide huge relief to the general public who are facing extreme hardships due to the blockade of the highways. It will also facilitate the high-powered committee and both the States to consider the farmers' genuine and just demands in a dispassionate and objective manner," the bench said. The committee also comprises retired IPS officer B S Sandhu, Mohali resident Devinder Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman and Dr Sukhpal Singh, agricultural economist from the Punjab Agriculture University. Asking the panel to formulate the issues for consideration, the bench also directed its chairperson to invite professor B R Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural



University, as special invitee as and when his expert opinion is needed. "The chairperson may appoint a Member Secretary to the High-powered Committee for the purpose of coordinating amongst the members of the Committee, convening the meetings and maintaining records, etc," it said. The Member Secretary of the committee shall place on record the proposed issues for which the committee may also consider the scope of its delineation, it added. It also advised the protesting farmers to distance themselves from political parties, political issues, and to not insist on demands which are not feasi-

ble to be accepted outright. "In other words, all their issues will be considered in a phased manner by this court after taking into consideration the recommendations that may be made by the committee," it added. The top court said the issues facing the farmers should not be politicised and be considered by the committee in a phased manner. Noting that both the state Governments have identified alternative sites for peaceful agitations, the apex court said the farmers shall be at liberty to shift the venue of their protest there. The bench said there is a sizeable population of people in

Punjab and Haryana who are associated with agriculture, belong to the marginalised sections of society and live below the poverty line. "Most of them are the strength and backbone of agricultural activities in their villages/areas. We acknowledge their contribution towards the agricultural growth and are of the view that their legitimate aspirations, if not enforceable rights, also deserve empathy and due consideration by the committee, while examining the larger issues which are confronting the farming community in the States of Punjab and Haryana," the bench said. It also directed the chief secretaries and police chiefs of the two States to provide all logistical support to the committee. "The ancillary issues like honorarium to be paid to the chairperson and members of the high-powered committee, keeping in view the volume of the work entrusted to them or the apportionment of the expenditure between the two States, will be considered by us in consultation with the chairperson and members of the committee and both the state Governments," the bench said

while posting the matter for further hearing on October 14. The member secretary of the committee shall, meanwhile, place on record the interim status report, the bench said. The court was hearing the Haryana Government's plea challenging the high court's order asking it to remove within a week the barricades erected at the Shambhu border near Ambala where protesting farmers have been camping since February 13. On August 22, the bench had asked the Punjab and Haryana Governments to convey to the agitating farmers that the court as well as the two States are concerned about their issues and a forum is being constituted for redressing their grievances. The Haryana Government had set up barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February after the 'Samyukta Kisan Morcha' (Non-Political) and 'Kisan Mazdoor Morcha' announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of their demands, including legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their produce.



PM Modi's Singapore visit after six years to strengthen ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Building on "new anchors" of Bpartnership identified under the India-Singapore ministerial roundtable framework, the relations between the two countries is poised for an even bigger take-off, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore. He is slated to visit Singapore on September 4-5 at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong. Prior to that he is scheduled to visit Brunei on September 3-4 which seeks to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all existing sectors. Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar, at a media briefing here said India and Brunei are working towards setting up a "joint working group in defence". He said Prime Minister Modi is visiting Singapore after nearly six years. His last visit to Singapore was in his first term. And an early visit on his third term is something that has been "welcomed by the Singaporean side". "Also, this comes at a time when a new leader is in Singapore and this is an opportune time to set the stage for the next stage of our vibrant bilateral relations," Mazumdar said. The Secretary (East) said India-Singapore ties have "evolved" and there is a "dynamic strategic partnership" encompassing various areas from shared history and people-to-people ties which form an important link between the two countries. "Our trade and investment flows have shown a steady growth, we have a robust defence cooperation and growing exchanges in culture and education.

We have identified new anchors of our partnership under the India-Singapore ministerial roundtable framework," he said. Four Indian ministers had participated in the recently-held second India-Singapore ministerial roundtable. During the roundtable, the ministers from both sides sat down and discussed "new thrust areas that we can identify in futuristic areas of cooperation," he said. "A number of new, forward-looking futuristic areas of cooperation were identified in digitisation, sustainability skill, health, advance manufacturing and connectivity, and we are likely to exchange a number of MoUs during the forthcoming visit of the prime minister," Mazumdar added. Singapore is India's sixth largest trade partner worldwide and it was the largest source of FDI during the last financial year valued at USD 11.77 billion, he said. "We also expect the visit (to Singapore) to give thrust to the cooperation in the field of semiconductor," the top official of the MEA said. "India-Singapore relations are poised for an even bigger take off, than what it has been in the last 10-15 years or so. That is because, we have gone to the next level of identifying areas of bilateral cooperation whether it be in food security, renewables, green hydrogen, semi-conductors. These are areas where we have great complementarities," said Mazumdar. He said that he could see the relationship between the two sides taking off to the next stage. For Singapore, India presents tremendous opportunities and for India, Singapore presents with many options, whether it is value chain, digital technology and semiconductor, he added.



Cabinet committee approves ₹18,036 cr Mumbai-Indore rail line

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Monday approved a 309 km new line project providing the shortest rail connectivity between the two major commercial hubs of Mumbai and Indore, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The total cost of the project has been pegged at Rs 18,036 crore and it will be completed by 2028-29, the Minister said. The project will generate direct employment for about 102 lakh man-days, or what Vaishnaw described as "human days", during the construction. An official statement later said the project is a result of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which has been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services. The project covers six districts in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 309 km. It will promote tourism in the region by providing a shorter route between western/south-western parts of the country and central India. This will increase the tourist footfall to various tourist/religious places in the Ujjain-Indore region, including the Sri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple. The project will provide direct

connectivity to Pithampur Auto Cluster (which houses 90 large units and 700 small and medium industries) from the gateway port of JNPA and other state ports. It will also provide direct connectivity to the millet-producing districts of Madhya Pradesh and onion-producing districts of Maharashtra which will facilitate the distribution of the same to the northern and southern parts of the country. This is an essential route, the statement said, for transportation of commodities such as agriculture products, fertiliser, containers, iron ore, steel, cement, petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL). The capacity augmentation work will result in additional freight traffic of a magnitude of about 26 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). "The Railways being environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimising logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (18 crore litres) and lower CO2 emissions (138 crore kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 5.5 crore trees," it said. With this project, 30 new stations will be constructed, providing enhanced connectivity to the aspirational district of Barwani. The new line project will provide connectivity to approximately 1,000 villages and about 30 lakh population.

Kangana decries non-clearance of her film 'Emergency'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Monday said it's "hugely demotivating and unjust" that censorship is only for her film "Emergency", which is yet to receive a certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), putting its September 6 release in jeopardy. Drawing parallels between "Emergency" and Netflix series "IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack", Ranaut said censorship is only for those who make films based on historic facts while violence and nudity can be shown on streamers. "Law of the land is that one can show unimaginable amount of violence and nudity on OTT platforms without any consequence or censorship, one can even distort real life events to suit their politically motivated sinister motives, there is all the freedom for communists or leftists across the world for such anti national expressions..."



"...But as a nationalist no OTT platform allows us to make films that revolves around the integrity and unity of Bharat, it seems censorship is only for some of us who don't want tukde of this nation and make films on historic facts. It's hugely demotivating and unjust," she wrote on the microblogging site. Anubhav Sinha's show on the 1999 hijacking has courted controversy for allegedly giving the hijackers names like 'Bhola' and 'Shankar'. Kangana had also spoken about facing censorship issues to Shubhankar Mishra in a

podcast where she said an emergency has been imposed on her film. "It's a very hopeless state. I'm quite disappointed in our country and whatever the circumstances are... How much will we keep getting scared? I've made this film with a lot of self-respect which is why the CBFC can't point out any contention. They've stalled my certificate, but I'm determined to release an uncut version of the film. I'll fight in court and release an uncut version," she said. According to a source, "Emergency" isn't releasing on

Friday because the makers are yet to receive the certification from the CBFC. On Monday, the Madhya Pradesh High Court is slated to hear a Sikh body's plea seeking directions to stop the release of "Emergency", which has now been postponed multiple times. Last week, Ranaut — also the director, writer, and co-producer of "Emergency" — said her film is still stuck with the censor board contrary to rumours that it has been cleared for release. She had also said she is under pressure to not show the assassination of the former prime minister by her security guards. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday sent a legal notice to CBFC seeking to prevent the release of Ranaut's film, claiming it may "incite communal tensions" and "spread misinformation". It alleged the trailer of the film depicted "erroneous historical facts that not only misrepresent the Sikh community but also promote hatred and social discord".

Haryana JJP MLA Devender joins BJP ahead of Assembly elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana MLA Devender Singh Babli, who was elected on the ticket of the Jannayak Janata Party, joined the BJP on Monday, as the ruling party looks to bolster its ranks in the State ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls. The Tohana MLA was a Minister in the Government headed by former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and might be fielded by the BJP in the polls. Babli said the BJP is driven by the mindset of development. He exuded confidence that the party will return to power in Haryana for a third term. Two other leaders, Sunil Sangwan, whose father Satpal Sangwan is a former Haryana Minister, and Sanjay Kablana, also joined the BJP. Sunil Sangwan is in the Government service and has put in his papers, an indication that he will be contesting the polls as well. Kablana, too, was in the JJP. They joined the BJP in the presence of its general secretary Arun Singh, former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Haryana



Former JJP leader Devender Singh joins BJP at the party's headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. Photo: RANJAN DIMRI/ THE PIONEER

BJP slams Cong for expelling Kerala leader after her casting couch remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday slammed the Congress for expelling a Kerala leader from the party after she alleged a culture of casting couch in the organisation, accusing the Opposition party of paying lip service to women's issues publicly but silencing their voices in reality. BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Kerala Congress leader Simi Rosebell and John had alleged a culture of exploitation and casting couch in the party and was summarily dismissed. In the Press Conference, he also noted that the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is looking into the issues related



to the OTT series, 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack', following its criticism by a section of people. Nobody should have any doubt that the hijackers of the plane were from the ISI, the Pakistani spy agency, he told reporters. Raising the issue of the Congress's treatment of its Kerala leader, he said if a woman raises the issue of harassment in the workplace, it is the organisation's duty to probe and ensure justice. The Congress does not believe in that and has instead chosen

to silence and remove her from the party, Chandrasekhar said. He noted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have often spoken about issues facing women but maintain a studious silence when it comes to the atrocities against women, be it in Kolkata, Kannauj or Kerala. John said after her expulsion that there is no place for upright people in the Congress, he noted. He also attacked the Left Government in Kerala over the Hema Committee report which spotlighted the harassment of women in the Malayalam film industry, saying it was forced to release the findings several years after it was submitted.

Drug to treat kidney disorders panacea for heart attack survivors, says study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Drug empagliflozin used to treat kidney diseases can be safely administered to patients who are hospitalised for acute myocardial infarction heart attack, an international team of researchers, led by one of Indian origin, has said. The team led by Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital demonstrated that the drug empagliflozin can reliably lower heart failure episodes in individuals who have had a heart attack, regardless of the patient's pre-existing renal function. By demonstrating the safety and efficacy of empagliflozin in this challenging clinical context, the research opens doors to more effective treatment strategies and offers hope for better long-term recovery and quality of life for heart attack



survivors globally. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death globally, and heart attacks are a major contributor to this. Acute heart attack patients are particularly vulnerable to acute renal injury because of prolonged exposure to kidney stressors, such as diuretics or contrast agents used during cardiac catheterisation. Because of this danger, doctors are hesitant to start empagliflozin soon after a heart

attack because there is little data regarding this class of drug's safety in this particular clinical setting. The drug can block the sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 protein that aids in the kidneys' ability to reabsorb glucose from the blood. The results were presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in London. Deepak L Bhatt, Director of the Hospital said the finding will contribute to closing a significant knowledge gap on the clinical application of Empagliflozin in heart attack survivors. The trial randomised 6,522 patients with acute heart attack and increased heart failure risk to empagliflozin or placebo. Empagliflozin reduced hospitalisation and adverse events of heart failure, with consistent risk reductions across baseline kidney function. Adverse event rates were similar in both groups within 30 days after drug intake, regardless of baseline kidney function, systolic blood pressure, or other medical therapies. The team noted that the study has significant implications for treating a very vulnerable population of patients with cardiovascular disease globally by reassuring doctors of the safety and effectiveness of empagliflozin early after a heart attack.

Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft to participate in Exercise Varuna in France



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A P-8I aircraft of the Indian Navy has reached France to participate in 'Exercise Varuna' with the French Navy, an official said adding it marked the first-ever deployment of the aircraft in Europe. The 2024 edition of Indo-French bilateral naval 'Exercise Varuna', scheduled from September 2 to 4 in the Mediterranean Sea, will include advanced tactical exercises underscoring the deepening synergy and interoperability

between the two navies, a spokesperson of the Indian Navy said in a statement. The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft touched down at Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube, France, marking its first-ever deployment in Europe, it said. This deployment comes 63 years after the Indian Navy's Alize aircraft, operating from the erstwhile INS Vikrant, last flew at Hyeres Airbase, the spokesperson said. INS Tabar, which had earlier arrived in Toulon will also be participating in the exercise.

SC dismisses WB Govt's plea against HC bail to protest organiser

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the West Bengal Government's plea challenging the Calcutta High Court's order granting bail to one of the organisers of the August 27 march to the State Secretariat to protest against a trainee woman doctor's rape and murder. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said "prima facie" a case for bail was made out in the case. The Calcutta High Court on Friday granted bail to Paschim Banga Chhtra Samaj leader Sayan Lahiri. Paschim Banga Chhtra Samaj, an unregistered student group, was one of the two organisations that gave the call for the August 27 'Nabanna Abhijan'.



Lahiri was arrested on August 27 evening for playing an active role in leading the rally which, the police said, turned violent, causing destruction of public and private property and attacks on police officers. Acting on a plea by Lahiri's mother Anjali seeking quashing of proceedings against him and grant of bail, the Calcutta High Court had on Friday ordered his release from police custody by 2 pm on Saturday. The Kolkata Police released Lahiri from his custody on Saturday.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India's special China problem

S Jaishankar has highlighted India's 'Special China problem,' one that is deeply rooted in the unresolved border disputes

India-China relations have long been fraught with challenges, but recent remarks by India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar have brought the depth of these issues into sharper focus. Jaishankar has said that India has a "special China problem," which he emphasized is distinct from the more general concerns that the rest of the world, including Europe and the United States, has with China. Jaishankar's comments come at a time when countries globally are grappling with what he termed the "general China problem." This problem, characterised by economic and national security debates, is not unique to India. Across Europe and the United States, policymakers are increasingly preoccupied with China's growing influence and the challenges it poses. From trade imbalances to concerns about Chinese technology in critical infrastructure, these issues have sparked widespread scrutiny of China's global role. However, India's situation is further complicated



by its unique geopolitical and economic circumstances. India shares a long and contested border with China, which has been the site of several military standoffs over the years, the most recent and severe of which began in May 2020 in eastern Ladakh.

India's "special China problem" goes beyond the broader concerns of the international community. It is rooted in the unresolved border dispute between the two nations, which has led to a prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The ongoing border tensions have necessitated the deployment of approximately

50,000-60,000 troops by both sides, creating a volatile situation that has yet to see a lasting resolution. Diplomatic efforts to resolve these issues continue, with the 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) taking place on August 29 in Beijing. However what is interesting is that despite tensions and border skirmishes India China trade has flourished and many importer in India make regular rounds to source stuff from China to sell in the Indian market. But Jaishankar's remark could mean a shift in the official policy vis a vis China. If Govt changes its policy, Chinese goods and investments may have to face more barriers dissuading the Chinese investors. Jaishankar also highlighted the economic dimensions of India's relationship with China, pointing out that the trade deficit and the nature of Chinese investments are areas of significant concern. Indeed security is non negotiable and must be implemented in letter and spirit. But at the same time the commerce should not be thought of as an impediment. If one thing that can improve the relations between two countries, it is trade. However, India could restrict Chinese investment in security-sensitive areas such as telecommunications and digital cyber space.

PICTALK



Clouds hover over the Delhi as vehicles pass by the Vikas Minar, in New Delhi

Orwell's vision remains as relevant as ever



SANTHOSH MATHEW

In an era where "post-truth" and "Big Brother" have transcended fiction to become disturbing reality, Orwell's vision stands as relevant as ever

In his seminal work "1984", George Orwell posits that "those who control the present control the past; those who control the past control the future." This powerful assertion underscores the terrifying consequences of manipulating history and truth. In the dystopian world of "1984", the ruling Party wields absolute power by constantly rewriting history to align with its agenda, erasing inconvenient truths, and ensuring that its version of reality is the only one that exists. This manipulation of truth is key to maintaining the Party's unchallenged dominance, as it keeps the population ignorant and compliant.

As we examine contemporary international politics, it is impossible to ignore the striking parallels between Orwell's dystopian vision and our current reality. Concepts such as "Big Brother," "doublethink," and "post-truth" have transcended Orwell's novel and become disturbingly relevant in today's world. The manipulation of truth, pervasive surveillance, and the rise of populist authoritarianism are phenomena that closely mirror the dangers Orwell warned against.

The term "post-truth" has become a defining characteristic of modern political discourse, echoing Orwell's portrayal of a world where objective truth is malleable. In "1984", the Ministry of Truth constantly altered historical records to match the Party's shifting narrative, keeping the populace in a state of ignorance and making it impossible for them to challenge the Party's authority. Today, the concept of post-truth is equally relevant. In 2016, the Oxford Dictionary even named "post-truth" the Word of the Year, highlighting its prevalence in contemporary discourse. In this post-truth era, emotional appeals and personal beliefs often overshadow objective facts, making it easier for those in power to manipulate public opinion. Politicians and media outlets selectively present information, distort facts, or even fabricate narratives to support their agendas. This erosion of truth creates a divided society, much like the world Orwell depicted, where



consensus on basic facts becomes increasingly elusive. Orwell's concept of "Big Brother" — the omnipresent surveillance state that monitors every aspect of citizens' lives — is also frighteningly relevant today. In "1984", the Party uses telescreens and hidden microphones to ensure that no dissenting thought or action goes unnoticed, fostering a climate of fear and paranoia that effectively silences opposition. In our contemporary world, mass surveillance has become a reality on a global scale, with governments implementing extensive surveillance programs under the guise of national security.

The revelations by Edward Snowden in 2013 exposed the extent to which governments were spying on their citizens, collecting vast amounts of data on phone calls, emails, and internet activity. The boundaries between state and corporate surveillance are increasingly blurred as tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon collect vast amounts of data on users' online behavior, often with minimal transparency. Today's populist leaders have mastered the art of doublethink, often making contradictory promises or statements that their followers accept without question. They may decry the "elite" while simultaneously benefiting from elite

THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN STATE AND CORPORATE SURVEILLANCE ARE INCREASINGLY BLURRED AS TECH GIANTS LIKE GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, AND AMAZON COLLECT VAST AMOUNTS OF DATA ON USERS' ONLINE BEHAVIOR, OFTEN WITH MINIMAL TRANSPARENCY

status themselves or champion "freedom" while implementing policies that curtail personal liberties. This ability to manipulate and distort reality is a hallmark of populist rhetoric, much like it was for Orwell's Party.

The rise of populism in the 21st century has also brought a resurgence of authoritarian tendencies. Leaders who once espoused democratic values increasingly resort to autocratic measures to consolidate power. Whether it's the undermining of judicial independence, the suppression of the free press, or the erosion of checks and balances, these actions mirror the totalitarian regime depicted in "1984". Orwell's "Animal Farm", while serving as an allegory for the Russian Revolution and the subsequent rise of the Soviet Union, offers themes that are universally applicable. The story of the farm animals' rebellion against their human oppressors, only to find themselves under the tyranny of their fellow animals, is a powerful commentary on the cyclical nature of power and corruption. In contemporary politics, the concept of "Snoogate" — a term used to describe politically motivated surveillance scandals — is reminiscent of the betrayal and manipulation seen in "Animal Farm".

Orwell's dystopian novels were

products of their time, reflecting the anxieties and political realities of the 20th century. However, their relevance has only grown with time, as the themes they explore have become increasingly pertinent today. The rise of surveillance states, the erosion of truth, the manipulation of language, and the rise of authoritarianism are all issues that transcend national borders.

In China, for example, the government's use of technology to monitor its citizens has created a digital dystopia reminiscent of Orwell's vision. The implementation of a social credit system, where citizens are scored based on their behavior and loyalty to the state, is a chilling example of how technology can be used to enforce conformity and suppress dissent. Similarly, in Russia, the government's control over the media and its use of propaganda to shape public opinion is a textbook case of Orwellian doublethink. The global reach of Orwell's ideas is a testament to the universality of his concerns. Whether in the context of a liberal democracy or an authoritarian regime, the themes of "1984" and "Animal Farm" resonate deeply with those who value freedom and truth. (The writer is an associate professor, views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP THE DEMOLITION DRIVE

Madam — This refers to 'Demolition notices leave the poor along Boin Lake dazed' (Sept 1). The news of HYDRAA demolition drive operations in and around Hyderabad came like a bolt from the blue. Demolition drive operations is creating havoc all over the Telangana. The Telangana state government is hell-bent on demolishing houses, buildings in the name of illegal structures by HYDRAA. Demolition drive operations and the orders issued by the Revenue Department of Medchal-Malkajgiri district to vacate their houses in a couple of days dazed the residents is extreme tyranny and sheer inhumane. People living near Boin Lake in Hasmathpet, are panic-stricken. They are at their wit's end what to do? whom to approach? They are being displaced and being rendered homeless without prior eviction notice is quite unconstitutional, unjustified, undemocratic and unwarranted. Despite possessing and retaining the relevant registered documents their houses are being pulled down and demolished is most distressing and unfortunate. The demolition drive operations are in full swing all over Telangana. The Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy must stop this demolition drive operations on the humanitarian grounds.

People have been living and residing for many years as some of their properties belong to ancestors they got their properties registered in their names. Demolition drive operations started all over Telangana. Mahabubnagar demolition drive operations is shocking and heart-rending sparked outrage and widespread condemnation where the houses belonging to the poor, physical challenged and visual impaired individuals pulled down and demolished. The government must ponder over the poignant plight of the physical challenged, visually impaired individuals and the poor and desist and refrain from demolishing their houses near nalas or lakes areas without providing alternative on the humanitarian grounds.

Zubair Khan | Hyderabad

Prioritising security over trade



In reference to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement regarding India's unique challenges with China, it is evident that security concerns in regions such as the Northeast,

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Madam—This is not the first time MP Kangana Ranaut has indulged in controversy. Earlier too, a couple of months ago, after a CISF officer allegedly slapped Ranaut at Chandigarh airport, the officer was reportedly heard saying that her mother participated in the farm agitation and had defamed the women who joined the protests by alleging they were paid to do so. This time again she used the irresponsible and malicious statements like "dead bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place during the 2020-21 farmers' agitation". In a recent interview with a Hindi daily, the actress turned BJP MP described the farmers' movement as an anti-national force engaged in destabilizing India with the help of "external forces". Kangana's remarks are unacceptable as the farmers during their agitation lost more than 700 of their comrades. She needs to tender an unconditional apology from the farmers for her utterances.

S.K. Khosla | Chandigarh

Ladakh, the Indian Ocean, and neighboring countries like Pakistan and the Maldives far outweigh trade considerations. China's aggressive posturing with the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and its dominant trade practices with European countries and Australia do little to alleviate our issues with them. The Indian Ocean has become a battleground for global superpowers, largely due to Chinese threats and aspirations for supremacy. It is clear that security and trade issues with China cannot be addressed simultaneously.

Reducing our reliance on China for semiconductors, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, and the operation and maintenance of Chinese-imported machinery is far more crucial than foreign direct investment from China. While the EAM is undoubtedly well-equipped to handle these multiple concerns, it is imperative to set clear priorities to effectively address them.

Vinod Johri | New Delhi

A G NOORANI IS NO MORE

Madam — In the passing of Abdul Ghafoor Noorani, the country has lost a towering legal luminary, a scholar, a political analyst, and a public intellect. His passing at the age of 93 marks the end of an era—one defined by a relentless pursuit of justice, profound intellectual rigour, and a commitment to the principles that fortified modern India's democratic framework. The prolific author made indelible contributions to legal scholarship and political discourse in India for over six decades. As a relentless defender of justice and the Constitution, Noorani will always be remembered most by the marginalised and those who seek to challenge the structures of power and exclusion. Unlike many others in his profession who would have sought high positions or rewards in the later years of life, Noorani never did.

Ganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A journey from corporate grind to personal fulfillment

There are countless opportunities for personal growth and creative fulfillment that we often set aside in our pursuit of material success

I was having dinner with a friend on a recent visit to Mumbai. He quit a high-profile corporate job a few years back. As he settled into a new unknown routine, he started experimenting. He wrote articles on the relevance of festivals in the modern world, moderates a talk show, has started learning Sanskrit to read the scriptures in original, participates in marathons, and loves to cook.

Not surprisingly, his life mirrors mine. We got around to discussing another mutual ex-colleague, who was recently in the hospital due to a medical scare which could be attributed to a life spent on a stress-inducing work schedule. He has recently crossed the age of retirement but has accepted an extension. I told him rather bluntly that he should stop working, a sentiment that his wife reciprocated. The response was an expected lines, "What will I do if I take retirement?" I immediately listed the number of things that he could do, the chief among them being to take care of his health, and



many other activities that he had wanted to indulge in but could not, caught up in the daily grind of living life and earning. This incident struck an immediate chord with the Mumbai friend, who had a similar experience with yet another mutual friend. Many do not have the luxury of taking retirement. They must necessarily work till the end for the next meal on their table. There is a smaller population, though not insignificant, which can do something different. These are the people, who like me, were provided the best by their parents within the limited resources that they

could earn. Even those limited means were better than what most had, and which helped us to dream and create a list of things that we wanted to do. We pursued a few of these with a single-minded devotion particularly the ones related to materialistic possessions, ignoring others that were mostly related to our creative side that we tried to suppress. Many of us have now reached a level of comfort that enables us to have a relook at the ones that we missed.

A friend has started learning the keyboard. Another friend started taking flying lessons and was looking forward to completing the hours necessary to earn a license. Now in the reverse count of my life, I realise that I wish to travel, I want to write, I have the urge to make friends, and I want to help others to dream. Many like me wish to alleviate the drudgery of the majority so that at least the coming generations can look forward to creating their bucket list. We have seen many initiatives taken by the government over the past few

decades to create an ecosystem to help the less fortunate. Corporations also earmark part of profits in a separate fund as social responsibility. There are individuals from certain communities who donate a percentage of their annual earnings for the purpose. There are faiths actively involved in the betterment of many. I have often wondered about the miracles that we can achieve if all these agencies and individuals come together to ensure that future generations have an option. There is always an answer to the query, "What will I do?" We need to look within and then look around. There is so much to do, and so little time. Mark Twain summed it up well, "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones that you did do."

(The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant and conducts workshops on creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA



FIRST COLUMN

REVITALIZING THE WORKPLACE

Yoga and meditation can light up the dull and often tense atmosphere at workplaces



SAKSHI SETHI

In today's fast-paced, high-stress work environments, organizations are increasingly seeking ways to support the well-being of their employees. Among the most effective and holistic approaches are the practices of yoga and meditation. These ancient techniques, rooted in mindfulness and physical wellness, have transcended their spiritual origins to become powerful tools for enhancing mental and physical health in modern workplaces. Incorporating yoga and meditation into the daily routine of employees not only benefits individual well-being but also significantly impacts organizational productivity and culture.

The modern workplace is often characterized by high levels of stress, tight deadlines, and the pressure to constantly perform. A study published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology found that employees who participated in the workplace yoga program experienced significant reductions in perceived stress levels. Participants even reported reductions in musculoskeletal pain, particularly in the lower back, neck and shoulders, areas commonly affected by prolonged sitting. The study found that employees who practised yoga reported higher levels of emotional well-being and lower levels of psychological distress. Another study published in the Journal of Managerial Psychology examined the effects of workplace yoga on organizational culture.

It found that yoga contributed to a more positive and supportive work environment by fostering better communication, teamwork and a sense of community among employees. Many office workers spend long hours sitting at desks, which can lead to a range of physical issues, includ-



ing poor posture, back pain and repetitive strain injuries. Over time, these physical ailments can decrease productivity and increase absenteeism. Yoga addresses these issues by improving flexibility, strength, and posture. The various poses and stretches in yoga help to relieve tension in the neck, shoulders and lower back, common problem areas for office workers. Additionally, the emphasis on breathing exercises improves circulation and oxygenation, leading to increased energy levels and overall vitality. This can strengthen workplace relationships, improve communication, and foster a sense of community and mutual support.

A positive work environment, where employees feel valued and connected, leads to higher morale, reduced turnover and a more cohesive and productive team. The benefits of meditation in the workplace are well-documented. Regular meditation practice has been shown to reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, lower blood pressure and improve sleep quality. Employees who meditate regularly are more likely to exhibit improved focus, emotional intelligence, and the ability to manage stress. This not only enhances individual performance but also contributes to a more harmonious and collaborative work environment. Mentally, yoga promotes relaxation and reduces stress by regulating the autonomic nervous system, which governs the body's stress response. The mindful breathing techniques and meditative aspects of yoga help calm the mind, reduce anxiety and enhance mental clarity.

For employees, this means better focus, improved decision-making and greater resilience in the face of workplace challenges. The cumulative effect of these benefits is a more productive, engaged, and satisfied workforce. The modern workplace is often characterized by high levels of stress, tight deadlines, and the pressure to constantly perform. Moreover, prolonged stress can have severe consequences on employees' mental and physical health, leading to issues such as anxiety, depression and chronic illnesses. Therefore, investing in employee well-being through practices like yoga and meditation is not just a trend but a strategic move that can yield substantial returns.

(The writer is an educator, views expressed are personal)

E-commerce giants versus mom-and-pop stores



UTTAM GUPTA

Amazon's aggressive pricing strategies could lead to a massive e-commerce expansion, capturing half of India's retail market within the next decade



At the launch of the Pahle India Foundation's report 'Net Impact of E-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India' on August 21, 2024, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal took pot shot at the world's biggest e-tailer Amazon, for selling products directly to consumers and indulging in "predatory pricing" that could lead to massive growth of e-commerce capturing half of Indian retail market ten years from now. This would adversely impact an estimated 100 million small retailers across the country and in turn, lead to "social disruption".

E-commerce, put simply, is the practice of buying and selling goods or services using the Internet. Predatory pricing involves setting prices for a product at an unrealistically low level to undercut the competition and gain market share. Generally practised by a new player in the market, predatory pricing violates antitrust laws even as it seeks to create a monopoly. Goyal opines that Amazon is selling products on its e-commerce platform at unrealistically low prices which results in heavy losses estimated to be about a billion dollars annually. To fund these losses, it brings the money from its parent but camouflages it as foreign direct investment (FDI). Any FDI in the country is normally welcome given its contribution to capital formation, accelerating economic growth and adding to the foreign exchange kitty. But, the dollars brought by Amazon don't serve this purpose.

In 2020 also, he had taunted the Amazon boss for the latter's claim to bring a few billion dollars into India. Then, he had charged that Jeff Bezos was bringing money to make up for the huge loss the company was incurring in its operations in the country. He also voiced concern over the harm it was causing to millions of small retailers. Amazon essentially operates the "market-place" model of e-commerce - a special dispensation carved out by the Narendra Modi Government under which 100 per cent FDI is permitted.

The "market-place" is a platform where vendors sell their products to consumers even as its owner (say, Amazon) merely

acts as a facilitator. The marketplace owner books orders, raises invoices, arranges deliveries, accepts payments, handles rejections, warehousing and so on but can't undertake "direct selling." Considering that the operator is only expected to provide services instead of a fee, there is no question of any loss.

Yet, Amazon is incurring huge losses. The losses incurred by Amazon are due to huge discounts on the products sold on the platform as well as expenses on promoting exclusive brands. But the discount is normally given by the seller; this is also true of money spent on promotion. The service provider can't do it unless he is also masquerading as the seller. Do the rules permit direct selling?

E-COMMERCE, PUT SIMPLY, IS THE PRACTICE OF BUYING AND SELLING GOODS OR SERVICES USING THE INTERNET. PREDATORY PRICING INVOLVES SETTING PRICES FOR A PRODUCT AT AN UNREALISTICALLY LOW LEVEL TO UNDERCUT THE COMPETITION AND GAIN MARKET SHARE

Under the 2016 guidelines (Press Note PN issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade or DPIIT in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries), the permission for 100 per cent FDI in the "market-place" is subject to two main riders viz, "The entity cannot permit more than 25 per cent of total sales on its platform from one vendor or its group companies. Further, it can't directly or indirectly influence the sale price." Sans any specification as to "who the vendor is", a firm connected with the "market-place" (either its subsidiary or a joint venture (JV) with an Indian company) is eligible.

In other words, each such entity could control up to 25 per cent of sales on the platform. So, you have companies like Cloudtail - an Amazon venture in partnership with a firm owned by Narayan Murthy - operating as lead sellers on the platform. Thus, contrary to the real intent of the policy which disallowed the e-commerce platform owners from direct selling to individual consumers, the fine print permitted them to do so, albeit through a subsidiary or JV. This is precisely what the e-commerce

merchants have been doing. They were operating as direct sellers, controlling inventory, giving discounts and so on. A clarification issued by the DPIIT on December 26, 2018, said that "the owner of the marketplace or its subsidiary or its joint venture (JV) with an Indian company can't have ownership of the seller."

Further, "a seller on the platform can't source more than 25 per cent of its inventory from a firm connected with the latter." Foreign investors can circumvent the first rider by having less than 50 per cent shareholding in the seller firm and arguing that they have no control (majority) over the latter. The marketplace owner can also sell his "own" product through its wholesale arm on the platform. All that the wholesale arm needs to ensure is to restrict supplies to the seller within the 25 per cent threshold. Thus, the clarification hasn't helped much in diluting their role as dominant sellers. No wonder, small traders, whom the e-commerce platform was intended to help have suffered heavily.

This is because the business that should have gone to the former was appropriated by the latter i.e. the dominant seller owned by itself. The small retailers haven't got relief from the court. In 2019, Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM) complained to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) alleging anti-competitive behaviour by Amazon Seller Services (ASS) and Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL).

It argued that ASS and FIPL had entered into exclusive sales agreements with smartphone makers to sell certain phones through a small number of preferred sellers and offering to pay for part of the discount that such sellers would offer during key sales periods such as Flipkart's big bullion day and Amazon's Prime Day. Prima facie, the CCI agreed with DVM's contention and ordered a probe by the

Director General (DG) - Investigation.

ASS and FIPL went up to the Supreme Court (SC) to get the order quashed. In August 2021, dismissing their appeal, the SC ordered "the CCI - DG will complete the probe. In its recent findings, the CCI-DG has charged ASS and FIPL with indulging in 'predatory pricing' and violation of antitrust laws. The latter will appeal against this starting a fresh round of never-ending litigation. In the end (if at all the result comes), Amazon et al will get away with paying some penalty. How can the government get out of this mess? It could further tighten the rules to say that platform owners can't hold even one per cent equity in the seller. Further, the former's wholesale arm must not supply even one per cent of stocks of the latter. This is an abhorrent idea. It can't be implemented.

Besides, it will be a retrospective change of policy and send a wrong signal. The way forward is to make obvious and straightforward what the bureaucrats had already done in a 'subtle' way. The government should say that '100 per cent FDI is allowed in retail in all forms, single brand or multi-brand retail (MBR), online or offline (currently, while FDI in MBR online is completely barred, in MBR offline, 51 per cent foreign investment is allowed subject to riders which tantamount to completely barring it. All these distinctions should go). With this, even as Amazon et al can continue with direct selling to consumers alongside running a marketplace model, Indian retailers including the millions of mom-and-pop stores will also have 'unrestrained' access to foreign capital thereby ensuring a level playing field.

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

Envisioning a feminist world: Building a just and inclusive future

The 4th Asia Pacific Feminist Forum seeks to challenge the patriarchal systems that dominate the world today, writes SHOBHA SHUKLA

The 4th Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) is set to take place next month in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the theme "Feminist world-building: Creative energies, collective journeys." This theme highlights the importance of uniting people of all genders who are dedicated to defending human rights and promoting gender equality. The forum aims to collectively resist the patriarchal, militarized, and greed-driven world we currently inhabit, envisioning instead a feminist world order. What is a Feminist World Order?

A feminist world order envisions a different kind of development model, one rooted in sharing and caring rather than power and violence. Unlike the

patriarchal systems that dominate today, where power is concentrated in the hands of a few through violence and exploitation, a feminist system emphasizes care, solidarity, and the equitable redistribution of power. This system aspires to be socially just and ecologically sustainable, ensuring justice and sustainability for everyone, everywhere. At its core, this vision is grounded in the principles of development justice.

Abia Akram, founder and CEO of the National Forum of Women with Disabilities in Pakistan, describes a feminist world as a place where women and all diverse genders can fully realize their strength and contribute meaningfully at the grassroots level. In her view, such a world would bring

about systematic changes through transformative laws and legal practices that are aligned with human rights. Migrant rights activist Eni Lestari, Chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, shares her perspective on the feminist world order based on her decades of experience in feminist movements. She observes that neoliberal globalization has exacerbated structural exploitation, with each new crisis worsening poverty, displacement, and unemployment. Having migrated from Indonesia during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Eni highlights that migration has become an integral part of the economic development strategy for many capitalist countries, with nearly 300 million people now liv-

ing as migrants worldwide. Eni envisions a feminist world as one where economic and political environments treat everyone with fairness and equality, eliminating the need for migration or displacement as a means of survival. In such a world, women would lead and ensure that justice and equality are upheld for all members of society. **Feminist World: A Joyous and Inclusive World** Ivy Josiah, a women's rights activist and former President and Executive Director of Malaysia's Women's Aid Organisation, describes a feminist world as a joyous and inclusive one, where no one is left behind-not just as a tagline, but in reality. She believes that if feminists lead the world, it would be a peaceful one, as



war is a choice, and so is peace. **Feminist World: Anti-Capitalism** A feminist world would stand in stark opposition to capitalism, which prioritizes profit maximization for a tiny elite while subjecting the majority of people and the planet to unbridled exploitation. Ivy argues that a feminist world would not serve the interests of the wealthy few but would instead be characterized by equitable resource distribu-

tion. **Shrinking Spaces for Civil Society:** Abia Akram raises concerns about the shrinking spaces for civil society organizations under the current political systems. She argues that creating an enabling environment where everyone has equal rights and opportunities is missing from the agendas of many countries. Budgetary allocations often fail to include a gender perspective, resulting in inadequate resources and opportunities for women and girls with disabilities, transgender individuals, and LGBTQI-AP+ communities. Abia asserts that meaningful engagement and equitable representation from feminist movements are essential for ensuring justice for all. **The Present World Order:**

The present world order, driven by patriarchy, fundamentalism, militarism, and corporate capitalism, stands as the anti-thesis of a feminist world order. This model has transferred wealth, power, and resources from the working people to the rich, and from developing countries to wealthy ones. The resulting financial, environmental, food, and energy crises have devastated the lives of women, particularly in the Global South. **Transformative Shifts of the Development Justice Model** The current world order urgently needs to be replaced with a development justice model that addresses the inequalities of wealth, power, and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women

and gender-diverse communities. This model is grounded in five transformative shifts: redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice, and accountability to the people. The Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) plays a crucial role in advancing the vision of a feminist world order. Organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), this tri-annual event brings together feminists and women's rights activists of all genders from across Asia and the Pacific. (Shobha Shukla is the founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of CNS. Views are personal)

Many parties example of what happens when organisations don't follow internal democracy: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a swipe at opposition parties, saying many of them are examples of what happens when political organisations do not follow internal democracy. Speaking at the launch of the BJP's membership drive, he said the 33 per cent reservation for women in assemblies and Lok Sabha will get implemented when the BJP build itself further through this campaign. During the BJP's membership drive held every six years, existing memberships are renewed and new members are enrolled into its fold. BJP president J P Nadda enrolled Modi as the first member, marking the launch of the drive.

The prime minister asked BJP members to think innovatively and make border villages fortresses for the party. PM Modi said the new generation is not aware of headlines about scams 10 years ago, and asked party leaders to target the 18-25 year age group during the membership drive. Addressing the event, PM Modi outlined the distinctiveness of the BJP in the Indian political landscape, underscoring its adherence to democratic values and internal democracy. "From the days of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh to the present, we have strived to bring a new political culture to the country," PM Modi stated. He highlighted that for any political organization entrusted with power by the people, it is essential to embody and

nurture democratic values internally. "BJP is the only party that expands its work by following democratic processes in letter and spirit, as per the constitution of our party, continuously making itself capable of living up to the hopes and aspirations of the common people," said PM Modi. Reflecting on the historical journey of the BJP, PM Modi recalled the early days when party workers, with unwavering dedication, would paint lotus symbols on walls, signifying their commitment and belief. "We are those people who painted lotus on the walls with devotion because we believed that the lotus painted on the walls will someday be painted on the hearts too," said PM Modi. Even today, in some states, Bharatiya Janata



Party workers live the same life and fight for their ideals, he added. Mentioning the 33% reservation for women in assemblies and Parliament, PM Modi also suggested that the Sadasya Abhiyan should focus on including individuals who can help maximize the success of women candidates in the Party. While concluding his address, PM Modi underscored the commitment and emotion behind the 'Sadasya Abhiyan', and said, "This 'Sadasya Abhiyan' isn't just a ritual. It's an expansion of our family. It

isn't a game of numbers. It doesn't matter the numbers we achieve. This membership drive is an ideological and emotional movement. Speaking on the occasion, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that the BJP's membership drive will again launch the campaign of "Bharat Vijay" and "Bhajapa Vijay". Speaking at the launch of the party's membership drive, he said the programme will reinvigorate the organisation. The home minister said the BJP will work to enrol people from every age group, caste and religion during the drive. Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India made a new mark in every sector and resolved long-pending matters such as the Ram Janmabhoomi issue.

He lauded Modi for institutionalising the party's membership drive and recalled the prime minister's work as its senior organisation leader in Gujarat. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended the credibility crisis in politics and the BJP is seen as the most credible party. The party has consistently followed its ideology and works to build society, he said. Party president J P Nadda said the BJP is the only political organisation which is run democratically and follows its constitution. Taking a swipe at the rivals, he said the BJP does not work from home in a clandestine way but follows a transparent process. With the party set to

renew membership of its existing members and enrol new members in line with its constitutional requirement, Shah echoed Nadda, saying no other party follows its membership process in a truthful and democratic manner like the BJP. The BJP is nourished by its members, Shah said, asserting that the party's lively organisation spawns its brimming enthusiasm. Both Nadda and Shah expressed confidence that the party will cross the milestone of 10 crore members in the drive as it did for the first time in 2014. During a similar membership drive in 2014 and afterwards, the BJP went on to form governments in several states, including in some for the first time.

Time for uprising, not grief: Protesting Docs

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Ar kobe chitto bhoi shun-no hobe ... (How long before the mind shakes off fear) These lines from singer Arijit Singh dedicated to "Abhaya" the victim lady doctor of RG Medical College Hospital became the leitmotif of Bengal's ongoing protest movement against what they called a "rotting system where sleaze and rape are as inseparable as the Siamese Twins." This, even as Kolkata continued to erupt from tip to the toe with celebrities, and the common citizenry joining hundreds, maybe thousands of doctors in marches, in sit-in demonstrations, in forming kms-long human chains and night dharnas demanding justice for the lady doctor who was on August 9 raped and murdered inside Asia's one of the leading medical colleges. Within days of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee advising



her party men from a public meeting to "at least hiss at ... if not bite" the detractors large posse of doctors on Monday took out a grand rally marching towards the Lal Bazaar Police Headquarters demanding resignation of Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal for not only failing to protect one of their colleagues at her work place but for allowing his team to destroy evidence allegedly at the behest of his handlers.

few days ago. Immediately the busy BB Ganguli Street --- where the doctors were sitting in dharna till reports last came in on Monday evening --- became loaded with emotive slogans some of which read: "Spines are for sale" and "No more grief ... it is time for uprising." A few miles away the celebrities from the film and theater fraternities jammed Esplanade --- one of the busiest crossings of the country --- demanding "justice for RG Kar." The cine stars had spent the entire Sunday night awake on the streets. Down South-eastern part of Kolkata citizens and doctors joined hands in protest forming a miles' long human chain. "As the days are passing the demand for justice for Abhaya is turning into a demand for justice for the entire society ... if the powers that be do not come to senses and continue to tough talk and act coer-

cively then this demand will turn into a bigger demand for Change and those in power are well aware of what that term implies," said Ushashi a Bengali film actress. The rallying doctors who carried replicas of "Erect Spines remained firm on their desire to gift some of those to the police bosses even as they said, "why are the police afraid ... are we carrying knives or guns ... we are carrying some spines and roses for them ... because we want an end to this rape and kill culture ... we want an end to this syndicate raj in the medical education where the students are forced to pay to pass their exams," said one of the junior doctors. Elsewhere the BJP workers too held protests at many places in Cooch Behar, Malda, Birbhum and other places where they gheraoed the offices of the district magistrates and submitted deputations.

Indian soldier succumbs to bullet injuries in firing incident inside Sunjwan army camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A soldier of the Indian army succumbed to his bullet injuries in the firing incident inside the Sunjwan army camp on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday. According to official sources, a few rounds were fired at Sunjwan Military Station at around 10.50 a.m. in which one soldier received critical injuries. Sources claimed the soldier had received a gunshot injury on his forehead. Following the incident, a joint team of security forces immediately rushed to the spot to conduct search operations in the area. House-to-house searches were conducted to rule out the presence of terrorists in the close vicinity of the Sunjwan Army camp. The army camp is surrounded by residential areas on all sides. High alert was also sounded in

the entire Jammu city and traffic was diverted to prevent injuries to the common citizens. Several security checkpoints were activated to enhance the general vigil in crowded places. After thorough investigations, the Indian army late Monday evening clarified, "Initial investigations by the Indian Army suggest that the incident in which a soldier lost his life in the morning is not a terror attack. The cause of the death of the soldier is being investigated". The deceased soldier has been identified as Naik Kuldeep Singh from Punjab. Earlier on 10 February 2018, JeM terrorists attacked the Sunjwan military camp in Jammu, which led to the killing of six soldiers, a civilian, and three terrorists. Around 20 people, including soldiers and civilians, were also injured in the attack. In a separate search operation

launched by the Border Security Force (BSF), Police Component Jammu, and Samba Police, three pistols were recovered suspected to have been dropped by a drone from across the border in Ramgarh Sector of district Samba. According to a police spokesman, "On creditable input regarding the drone activity in the Mallu Chack area, a joint ambush by BSF, PC Jammu and Samba Police was laid in the area. On hearing the humming sound of the drone coming from the Pak side, security personnel fired some rounds towards the direction of the humming sound and pushed the drone back to the Pak side". After spotting suspected drone movement, a thorough search operation was launched in the general area of Mallu Chack and three pistols were recovered suspected to be dropped by the drone.

CCS chaired by Modi approves procurement of 240 aero-engines worth ₹26K crore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further enhance operational capabilities to meet threat from China, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday approved procurement of 240 aero-engines for IAF's Su-30 MKI aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) worth Rs 26,000 crore. Giving details, the defence ministry said here the CCS approved the proposal for procurement of 240 aero-engines (AL-31FP) for Su-30 MKI aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) under Buy (Indian) category from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at a cost of over Rs 26,000 crore inclusive of all taxes and duties. The delivery of these aero-engines would start after a year and complete over one period of eight years. The engines will have indigenous content over 54%, enhanced due to indigenisation of some key components of aero-engines. These would be manufactured at Koraput division of HAL. Su-30 MKI is one of the most powerful and strategically significant fleet of IAF. The supply of these aero-engines by the HAL would meet the fleet sustenance requirement of IAF to continue their unhindered operations and strengthen the defence preparedness of the country.

RSS says, caste census important, but not...

From Page 1 Rahul Gandhi has been a staunch supporter of a nationwide socio-economic caste census, which was also part of the party's manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections. Calls for a national caste census crystallised after Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), the ruling party in Bihar, published the results of a statewide caste survey. Released in October last, it revealed that over 80 per cent of the state's population belongs to extremely backward classes. The RSS had clarified its stance on the issue

saying it was not opposed to the government conducting a nationwide exercise. "Recently, a discussion around caste census has started again. We believe it must be used for all-encompassing progress of the society, and while doing so all sides must ensure that social harmony and integrity is not disturbed," Ambekar had said. The RSS's clarification came after Shridhar Gadge, an RSS functionary, sparked controversy by calling the caste census a "futile exercise" that would serve only certain individuals. "A caste census will quantify caste-wise populations. But it is not going to be in the interest of society or the nation," Gadge had said. Following the release of the Bihar caste survey report, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said the BJP had never

actually opposed a caste census. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking direction to the Centre for conducting a socio-economic caste census for the welfare of backward and other marginalised sections, saying the issue falls in the domain of governance. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti allowed the petitioner P Prasad Naidu to withdraw his plea in which he had sought a direction for expediting the enumeration of data for census. "What can be done about this? The issue is in the domain of governance. It is a policy matter," the bench told senior advocate Ravishankar Jandiyala and advocate Sravan Kumar Karanam, appearing for the petitioner.

Jail and bail for...

From Page 1 Khan has claimed that the Enforcement Directorate officials have arrived at his house in Okhla in the national capital to arrest him. In a post on X at 7.43 am, Khan said, "ED people have just arrived at my house to arrest me." In a self-made video, the AAP MLA said that the investigative agency has been continuously harassing him for the past two years. "It is seven in the morning, and the ED has come to arrest me in the name of a search warrant. My mother-in-law has cancer, and she is currently at my home. I have written to them, and I have also replied to each of their notices. These people have been harassing me continuously for the last two years. Their only aim is to break our party. We are not going to bow down, and we are not going to break," Khan

said. "I am hopeful that the way we got justice in the court earlier, this time too we will get justice. This is a case that is completely fake," he added. In another video, an elderly woman was seen lying on the bed as Khan asked a man at his door why the officials were there when he had sought four weeks to appear before the ED. Visuals showed, Khan telling officials: "I want four weeks' time. My mother-in-law has been operated upon." The man outside the gate replied, "Why do you believe we are here to arrest you?" The legislator replies, "Why else have you come?" A woman, apparently Khan's wife, was heard saying, "What do you need to search at a three-room house. Why do you have to turn my home upside down every time?" She has cancer and she has been

operated upon. I will take you to the court if anything happens to my mother. She can't even stand," the woman further said. Significantly, in another video from inside the residence of AAP MLA has also emerged where the officials from the ED and Delhi Police can be seen working over some documents. While, disgruntled AAP MLA can be seen sitting in next room near his ailing mother-in-law. Earlier in April this year, the Rouse Avenue Court granted bail to Khan in connection with the Enforcement Directorate's recent complaint filed against him for alleged non-attendance of the summons in the Delhi Waqf Board money laundering case. ED recently moved a complaint against him for not appearing before the agency

and not joining the probe in the case related to the alleged irregularities in appointment in Delhi Waqf Board and leasing of its properties. The ED had alleged that Khan has elevated his role from witness to accused by filing an anticipatory bail plea and running away from the investigation. ED's lawyer further stated that they were never able to conclude the probe against him because he was not presenting himself before the agency. A charge sheet has already been filed against four accused persons and one firm. It has been alleged that Rs 100 crore Waqf Properties were given on lease illegally. It is also alleged that 32 contractual employees were appointed in the Delhi Waqf Board during the chairmanship of Khan, who flouted the rules.

Tragedy engulfs Vaishno Devi...

From Page 1 "Suddenly, there was a landslide and the debris fell on the tin shed which collapsed," he said. On New Year's Day in 2022, a stampede at the shrine left 12 pilgrims dead and 16 injured.

Govt summons Netflix...

From Page 1 "This will not just weaken/put in question India's security apparatus in the long run but also shift the blame away from the religious cohort, that is responsible for all the bloodshed," he added. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said it was really amusing to see the people who took movies like 'Kashmir Files' as the gospel truth having a meltdown at the way the events of IC814 are depicted in the Netflix show. "Now suddenly they want accuracy and nuance packaged in the script," Abdullah said in a social media post.

SC: Why demolish houses...

From Page 1 He said the affidavit states that merely because a person was alleged to have been a part of some offence can never be a ground for demolition of his immovable property. Mehta said the state has said that demolition of an immovable property can take place "only for violation of and in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the respective applicable municipal law or law governing development authorities of the area." He said no immovable property can be demolished solely on the ground that the owner or occupant of such property was involved in a criminal offence. "If you are accepting this position, we will record and issue guidelines for all the states," the bench said. "We are not going to protect any unauthorised construction or encroachment in public roads. Not even the temples on public roads," the top court said. Mehta said the issue will be discussed with states in order to find a solution. "Though it is a question of law, it is seen that it is followed more in breach," the bench observed. The solicitor general said the petitioners have projected the issue as if houses were demolished only because some people committed an offence. Mehta said he can show that authorities had issued notices well in advance before demolition was carried out. "This controversy can be put to an end by my (Uttar

Pradesh) affidavit which I had filed long time back," he said. Stressing on the need for formulating guidelines on the issue, the bench said it was necessary to ensure that neither an individual takes advantage of a loophole nor authorities rely on lacunae. "As they said, a pious father can have recalcitrant son and vice-versa, but this is no way to go about it," the bench said. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for one of the petitioners, said, "Let a statement be recorded that across the country, bulldozer justice will not be meted out to people". He said almost every state was now indulging in this and demolishing properties. Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for some applicants, referred to demolition of properties in some other states. "We will lay down guidelines for across the country," the bench said. The top court noted that these petitions have raised grievances about immovable properties of people accused of crime being demolished. It said this position has been disputed by Uttar Pradesh and an affidavit has been filed by the state which says immovable properties can be demolished only in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law. "We propose to lay down certain guidelines on a pan-India basis so that the concerns with regard to the issues raised are taken care of," the bench said.

Cabinet announces big ticket reforms for farming...

From Page 1 In the financial year ended March, imports went up 84% year-on-year to 4.65 million tonne, the most in six years. In value terms, the country's spending on imports rose 93% to \$3.75 billion. India largely imports from Canada, Australia, Myanmar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sudan and Malawi. Extreme weather linked to the climate crisis has dented farm output in Asia's third largest economy, hurting crops such as wheat and stocking prices. The Cabinet also approved an outlay of Rs 2,291 crore for strengthening agricultural education,

management and social sciences. This programme will be under Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The aim is to modernise agri-research and education in line with New Education Policy 2020. The use of latest technology like Digital DPI, AI, big data, remote, etc will be promoted and the programme includes natural farming and climate resilience. "Under AgriStack, farmers will be given a digital identity (Farmer ID) similar to Aadhaar, which will be a trusted 'Kisan ki Pehchaan'" the statement said. This 'Farmer ID' will be linked

dynamically to the State's land records, livestock ownership, crops sown, demographic details, family details, schemes and benefits availed etc. Crops sown by farmers will be recorded through mobile-based ground surveys i.e. Digital Crop Survey to be conducted in each season. For the creation of Farmer IDs, pilots have been conducted in one district each across 6 States: Uttar Pradesh (Farrukhabad), Gujarat (Gandhinagar), Maharashtra (Beed), Haryana (Yamuna Nagar), Punjab (Fatehgarh Sahib), and Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar). "It is targeted

to create digital identities for 11 crore farmers: six crore farmers in FY 2024-25, three crore farmers in FY 2025-26, and two crore farmers in FY 2026-27," the statement said. The third project worth Rs 1,702-crore has also been cleared for sustainable livestock health and their production. The scheme aims to increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy. Under this scheme, the focus will be on animal health management and veterinary education; dairy production and technology development; animal genetic resource management; and

improvement; and animal nutrition and small ruminant production and development. The Cabinet also approved the Digital Agriculture Mission with a total investment of Rs 2,817 crore. There are two foundation pillars in the project -- Agri Stack and Krishi Decision Support System. A major component of DAM mission is the creation of an Agri Stack, which includes a Farmers Registry, Village Land Maps Registry, and Crop Sown Registry. The Agri Stack will serve as a comprehensive database through detailed records of

farmers, land usage, and crop patterns. Another crucial aspect of the mission is the Krishi Decision Support System. This system will leverage geospatial data, drought and flood monitoring, weather and satellite data, and groundwater availability information to assist farmers in making informed decisions. Additionally, the system will include modeling tools for crop yield and insurance, helping farmers to better plan their activities and mitigate risks. A project worth Rs 1,702 crore has also been cleared for sustainable livestock

health and their production. The scheme aims to increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy. Under this scheme, the focus will be on animal health management and veterinary education; dairy production and technology development; animal genetic resource management; and improvement; and animal nutrition and small ruminant production and development. Another major scheme cleared by the Cabinet relates to sustainable development for horticulture. "With a total outlay of Rs 860 crore

the measure is aimed at increasing farmers' income from horticulture plants." The programme comprises of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate horticulture crops; root, tuber, bulbous and arid crops; vegetable, floriculture, and mushroom crops; and plantation, spices, medicinal, and aromatic plants. Other decisions taken by the Cabinet pertain to strengthening Krish Vigyan Kendra (Rs 1,202 crore), and Natural Resource Management (Rs 1,115 crore). There are more than 700 KVKs across the country.

General strike in Israel reflects political divisions

AP ■ TEL AVIV

A rare call for a general strike in Israel to protest the failure to return hostages held in Gaza led to closures and other disruptions around the country on Monday, including at its main international airport. But it was ignored in some areas, reflecting deep political divisions. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis poured into the streets late Sunday in grief and anger after six hostages were found dead in Gaza. The families and much of the public blamed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying they could have been returned alive in a deal with Hamas to end the nearly 11-month-old war. But others support Netanyahu's strategy of maintaining military pressure on Hamas, whose October 7 attack into Israel triggered the war. They say it will force the militants to give in to Israeli demands, potentially facilitate rescue operations and ultimately annihilate the group. A labour court ruled that the strike must end by 2:30 pm local time, accepting a petition from the government saying it was politically motivated. The head of Israel's largest trade union, the Histadrut, said it would abide by the court decision and instructed members to return to work. Arnon Bar-David had called for the general strike, the first since the start of the war. It aimed to



shut down or disrupt major sectors of the economy, including banking and health care. Airlines at Israel's main international airport, Ben-Gurion, halted outgoing flights between 8 am and 10 am. Those flights either departed early or were slightly delayed. Arriving flights continued as usual, according to the Israel Airports Authority. "There's no need to punish the whole state of Israel because of what is happening, overall, it is a victory for Hamas," said one passenger, Amrani

Yigal. But in Jerusalem, resident Avi Lavi said that "I think this is fair, the time has come to stand and to wake up, to do everything for the hostages to come back alive." The Histadrut said banks, some large malls and government offices had joined the strike, as well as some public transit services, although there did not appear to be major disruptions. Municipalities in Israel's populated central area, including Tel Aviv, partic-

ipated, leading to shortened school hours. Other municipalities, including Jerusalem, did not participate. The demonstrations on Sunday appeared to be the largest since the start of the war, with organizers estimating that up to 500,000 people joined nationwide events and the main rally in Tel Aviv. Israeli media estimated that 200,000 to 400,000 took part. They are demanding that Netanyahu reach a deal to return the remaining roughly 100 hostages held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead, even if it means leaving a battered Hamas intact and withdrawing from the territory. Many Israelis support this position, but others prioritise the destruction of the militant group over freedom for the hostages. Netanyahu has pledged "total victory" over Hamas and blames it for the failure of the negotiations, which have dragged on for much of this year. Israel said the six hostages found dead in Gaza were killed by Hamas shortly before Israeli forces arrived in the tunnel where they were held. Three were reportedly scheduled to be released in the first phase of a cease-fire proposal discussed in July. The Israeli Health Ministry said autopsies had determined the hostages were shot at close range and died on Thursday or Friday. Netanyahu blamed Hamas, saying "whoever murders hostages doesn't want a deal."

Netanyahu not doing enough to reach deal, says Biden

AP ■ TEL AVIV

President Joe Biden says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not doing enough to reach a deal to free hostages and reach a cease-fire in its war with Hamas in Gaza. Biden spoke to reporters on Monday, two days after six hostages, including one Israeli-American, were found after being killed by Hamas. Protests rocked Israel over the government's handling of the negotiations. Asked if Netanyahu was doing enough, Biden responded, "No." Biden was arriving at the White House for a Situation Room meeting with advisers involved in negotiating a hostage deal and cease-fire. He insisted that negotiators remain "very close" to a deal, adding, "Hope springs eternal."

Dhaka court debars 17 ex-ministers from leaving B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A court in Bangladesh Monday debarred 17 former ministers, including ex-foreign minister Mohammad Hasan Mahmud, and nine lawmakers of the ousted Sheikh Hasina government from leaving the country after an anti-graft body filed petitions, accusing them of involvement in corruption, a media report said. Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Mohammad Ash-Shams Jagul Hossain's court gave this order after hearing the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) applications on Monday, Bengali language newspaper Prothom Alo reported. ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam and Mahmud Hossain Jahangir confirmed the travel ban on these former ministers and members of parliament. Those banned from leaving the country include ex-foreign min-

ister Hasan Mahmud; former minister of state for power, energy and mineral resources Nasrul Hamid; former minister of state for shipping Khalid Mahmud, former minister of state for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak and former state minister for primary and mass education Md Zakir Hossain, the paper said. Former minister of state for local government, rural development and cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee; former commerce minister Tipu Munshi; ex-law minister Anisul Huq; former religious affairs minister Faridul Haque Khan; former textiles and jute minister Golam Dastagir Gazi; former minister of state for youth and sports Md Zahid Ahsan Russell; former water resources minister Anwar Hossain and former information minister Hasanul Haq Inu were among those banned from travelling, the paper added.

Russia fires a barrage of drones, missiles at Kyiv

AP ■ KYIV

Russia launched an overnight barrage of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, officials said on Monday, as children prepared to return to school across Ukraine. Some pupils found classes cancelled because of damage from the attack. Several series of explosions rocked the Ukrainian capital in the early hours. Debris from intercepted missiles and drones fell in every district of Kyiv, wounding three people and damaging two kindergartens, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said. City authorities reported multiple fires. After more than 900 days of the war, Russia and Ukraine show no sign of letting up in the fight or moving closer to the negotiating table. Both sides are pursuing ambitious ground offensives, with the Ukrainians driving into Russia's Kursk region and the Russian army pushing deeper into the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine that is part of the industrial Donbas region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Ukraine's Kursk assault won't prevent Russian forces from advancing in eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian forces haven't achieved their goal of diverting Russian troops from the fighting there, he said. "The main task that the enemy set for themselves — to stop our offensive in Donbas — they haven't achieved it," Putin told school students during a trip to southern Siberia. However, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last month that the aim of the Kursk incursion is to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border. Putin predicted that Ukraine's Kursk offensive, which began August 6, will fail and that subsequently Kyiv officials will want "to move to peace talks." Russia launched 35 missiles of various types and 26 Shahed drones at Ukraine overnight from Sunday to Monday, the Ukrainian air force said. Nine ballistic missiles, 13 cruise mis-



Firefighters extinguish a fire after a rocket hit a building of a higher education institution in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on Monday. AP/PTI

siles and 20 drones were downed, it said. Residents of the capital hurried into the city's bomb shelters. Oksana Argunova, an 18-year-old student at a Kyiv high school, said that she was still shaking after the nighttime scare. "I woke up, my neighbour was shouting: Let's go down (to the

shelter), there are big explosions! We all ran," Argunova told The Associated Press. Monday was the first day back at school after the summer vacation. In Ukraine, the day involves ceremonies and rituals. Students of all ages and often teachers or parents wear traditional costumes.

Celebrations include concerts and dances. Small groups of children and parents gathered outside a damaged Kyiv school as firefighters put out flames and removed rubble. One 39-year-old mother turned up at the school with her 7-year-old daughter, Sophia, unaware it had been hit. It was Sophia's first day at what for her was a new school, her mother said, after a frightening night. "Of course, the child was scared. We hid in the bathroom, where it was relatively safe," said the mother, who provided only her first name, Olena. "Today is one of the most important days of the year for millions of our Ukrainian children, families and teachers," Zelenskyy said on his Telegram channel. "Ukraine is doing everything to give children as many opportunities as possible. And all our schools, all higher education institutions that are working today are proof of the resilience of our people and the strength of Ukraine," he said.

Bangladesh interim govt to re-investigate BDR mutiny

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh interim government on Monday said it will "soon" start re-investigation and fair trial into the 2009 mutiny in the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that had killed 74 people, including 57 army officers serving in the force. Home and Agriculture Affairs Advisor to the interim government Lt Gen (retd.) M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said that as a citizen and a former member of the military, he was committed to ensuring justice for the tragic event. "The proper re-investigation and fair trial process into the BDR carnage will start soon," he told the media after a meeting with Swedish Ambassador to Dhaka Reto Siegfried Renggli at his office here. The mutiny started on February 25-26, 2009, when army officers refused to fulfil

the demands made by the BDR jawans. The rebel soldiers staged the revolt at the BDR's Palkhona headquarters in Dhaka and it quickly spread to sector headquarters and regional units of the frontier force across the country. The rebellion saw the paramilitary soldiers turn their guns to their commanders, shooting them from close ranges or hacking and torturing them to death, hiding their bodies in sewers and hurriedly dug graves and captivating and humiliating their frightened family members in barracks. The mutiny left 74 people, including 57 army officers, killed. Under a massive reconstruction campaign, the government renamed the mutiny-stained BDR as Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in 2012, changing its logo, uniform, flag and monogram to free the force from the rebellion stigma.

Alam, who previously served as the (BGB) chief, said, "Not only as an adviser but as a former member of the army and a general citizen, I want a just trial of the BDR killings as well". His comments came as demands for a re-investigation mounted particularly on social media, though a special three-judge High Court bench in 2017 upheld 139 BDR soldiers' death penalties after their trial in the lower court. The lower court had given death sentences to 152 BDR members and two civilians, and life imprisonment to 158 others in the case, which is pending before the apex Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for a review. The accused were tried on charges like masterminding the mutiny, torturing and killing their officers, looting their belongings or captivating their family members during the two-day rebellion.

Far-right success in Germany piles new pressure on Scholz's coalition

AP ■ BERLIN

The Alternative for Germany party's success in two state elections piled new pressure on Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious government and left the country's main opposition party facing political contortions on Monday to find a way to govern a pair of eastern regions without involving the far-right party. Alternative for Germany, or AfD, became the first far-right party to win a state election in post-World War II Germany in Thuringia on Sunday under one of its hardest-right figures, Björn Höcke. In neighbouring Saxony, it finished only just behind the mainstream conservative Christian Democratic Union, which leads the national opposition. Voters punished the three parties in Scholz's governing coalition, which took well under 15 per cent of the vote between them.

Deep discontent with a national government notorious for infighting, inflation and a weak economy, anti-immigration sentiment and scepticism toward German military aid for Ukraine are among the factors that contributed to support for populist parties in the formerly communist east, which is less prosperous than western Germany. A new party founded by a prominent leftist was the second big winner on Sunday — and will probably be needed to form state governments since no one is prepared to govern with AfD. The debacle for the governing parties added to awful performances in the European Parliament election in June for Scholz's coalition, and it's not obvious that they have any recipe to turn things around with Germany's next national election due in a bit over a year.

Another state election on Sept. 22 in an eastern region — Brandenburg, which unlike the two that voted Sunday is currently led by Scholz's center-left Social Democrats — could add to their embarrassment. Voters "wanted to send a signal to Berlin above all," Jens Spahn, a senior CDU lawmaker, told ZDF television. "They want to send a signal to the (coalition) that the chancellor no longer has their confidence. Olaf Scholz is the face of failure in Thuringia and Saxony too." But the two elections also bring difficult decisions for the CDU, which leads national polls. AfD holds now more than a third of the seats, at least in Thuringia's state legislature — which would, for example, allow it to block appointments of judges to the regional constitutional court — and that will make it hard to build workable governments.

Poland holds state burial for victims of Nazi Germany's WW II massacres

AP ■ WATSAW (POLAND)

Decades after they were killed, Poland held a state burial on Monday of the remains of more than 700 victims of Nazi Germany's World War II mass executions that were recently uncovered in the so-called Valley of Death in the country's north. The observances in the town of Chojnice began with a funeral Mass at the basilica, leading to an interment with military honours at a local cemetery of the victims of the Nazi crimes. The remains were contained in 188 small wooden coffins with ribbons in national white and red colours across them. Relatives of the victims, an aide to President Andrzej Duda, local authorities and top officials of the state National Remembrance Institute, which carried out and documented the exhumations, took part in the events. "We want to give back memory, we want to give back dignity to the victims of the crimes in Chojnice," presiding Bishop Ryszard Kasyna said.

Priti Patel, 5 others make pitch to succeed Sunak as UK Opp leader

PTI ■ LONDON

British Indian former home secretary Priti Patel is among six candidates making their leadership pitches to succeed Rishi Sunak as Conservative Party chief and Opposition Leader as the UK Parliament resumed after its summer recess on Monday. Patel, 52, is battling it out with fellow Tory Cabinet ex-ministers — Kemi Badenoch, James Cleverly, Tom Tugendhat, Robert Kenrick and Mel Stride — for the first round of votes scheduled for Wednesday, when one candidate with the least backing of their party MPs will be knocked out of the race. The staged contest was triggered after the Conservatives' bruising defeat to Prime Minister Keir Starmer led Labour in the July 4 general election, with Sunak resigning to act as Opposition leader until his successor is elected. "It's time to move on and to move forward. I am an optimist with clear goals, and I will revive our party so we

can provide the leadership our great country needs," said Patel, in a key speech around her campaign slogan of "unite to win" ahead of the first voting round. "When I was the home secretary, we increased police officers to record numbers and gave them more powers to fight crime. We gave victims of crime more rights and improved services and support for survivors of domestic abuse. We ended free movement and brought in reforms to our immigration and asylum system... We did all that and more, you have in me a leader who will fight for the British people," she said, highlighting her record in Cabinet under former prime minister Boris Johnson. In an interview with 'The Sunday Times', the Gujarat heritage member of Parliament for Witham in Essex opened up about racist jibes while at school in England after her family migrated from Uganda, fleeing persecution under dictator Idi Amin in the 1960s. "As a child, once people start to

label you, it lives with you for all your life... I'm working even harder to show that I'm equally capable," Patel told the newspaper. "My mum would pack us loads of food, a nice picnic. She's a vegetarian, so she made Indian rice and chapatis. That was just amazing," she shared, with reference to family holidays by the English coast. Patel faces a tough battle as Tory MPs vote to start narrowing down the field this week until only two candidates remain for the online voting by the wider Conservative membership, the result of which will be declared on November 2. In her speech, Badenoch — currently serving as shadow communities secretary in the House of Commons — called for "renewal" of the Tories and shadow home secretary Cleverly made an appeal for unity. The common theme running through all six contenders' pitches is an attack on Labour's tax-raising policies and attacks on the Tory record after 14 years in government.

AI may make workers efficient, not steal many jobs

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Imagine a customer-service center that speaks your language, no matter what it is. Alorica, a company in Irvine, California, that runs customer-service centres around the world, has introduced an artificial intelligence translation tool that lets its representatives talk with customers who speak 200 different languages and 75 dialects. So an Alorica representative who speaks, say, only Spanish can field a complaint about a balky printer or an incorrect bank statement from a Cantonese speaker in Hong Kong. Alorica wouldn't need to hire a rep who speaks Cantonese. Such is the power of AI. And, potentially, the threat: Perhaps companies won't need as many employees — and will slash some jobs — if chatbots can

handle the workload instead. But the thing is, Alorica isn't cutting jobs. It's still hiring aggressively. The experience at Alorica — and at other companies, including furniture retailer IKEA — suggests that AI may not prove to be the job killer that many people fear. Instead, the technology might turn out to be more like breakthroughs of the past — the steam engine, electricity, the Internet: That is, eliminate some jobs while creating others. And probably making workers more productive in general, to the eventual benefit of themselves, their employers and the economy. Nick Bunker, an economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab, said he thinks AI "will affect many, many jobs — maybe every job indirectly to some extent. But I don't think it's going to lead to, say, mass unemployment.

We have seen other big technological events in our history, and those didn't lead to a large rise in unemployment. Technology destroys but also creates. There will be new jobs that come about." At its core, artificial intelligence empowers machines to perform tasks previously thought to require human intelligence. The technology has existed in early versions for decades, having emerged with a problem-solving computer program, the Logic Theorist, built in the 1950s at what's now Carnegie Mellon University. More recently, think of voice assistants like Siri and Alexa. Or IBM's chess-playing computer, Deep Blue, which managed to beat the world champion Garry Kasparov in 1997. AI really burst into public consciousness in 2022, when OpenAI introduced ChatGPT, the generative AI tool that can

conduct conversations, write computer code, compose music, craft essays and supply endless streams of information. The arrival of generative AI has raised worries that chatbots will replace freelance writers, editors, coders, telemarketers, customer-service reps, paralegals and many more. "AI is going to eliminate a lot of current jobs, and this is going to change the way that a lot of current jobs function," Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, said in a discussion at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in May. Yet the widespread assumption that AI chatbots will inevitably replace service workers, the way physical robots took many factory and warehouse jobs, isn't becoming reality in any widespread way — not yet, anyway. And maybe it never will. The White House Council of Economic Advisers said last

month that it found "little evidence that AI will negatively impact overall employment." The advisers noted that history shows technology typically makes companies more productive, speeding economic growth and creating new types of jobs in unexpected ways. They cited a study this year led by David Autor, a leading MIT economist: It concluded that 60 per cent of the jobs Americans held in 2018 didn't even exist in 1940, having been created by technologies that emerged only later. The outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas, which tracks job cuts, said it has yet to see much evidence of layoffs that can be attributed to labour-saving AI. "I don't think we've started seeing companies saying they've saved lots of money or cut jobs that we no longer need because of this," said Andy Challenger,

who leads the firm's sales team. "That may come in the future. But it hasn't played out yet." At the same time, the fear that AI poses a serious threat to some categories of jobs isn't unfounded. Consider Suumit Shah, an Indian entrepreneur who caused a uproar last year by boasting that he had replaced 90 per cent of his customer support staff with a chatbot named Lina. The move at Shah's company, Dukaan, which helps customers set up e-commerce sites, shrank the response time to an inquiry from 1 minute, 44 seconds to "instant". It also cut the typical time needed to resolve problems from more than two hours to just over three minutes. "It's all about AI's ability to handle complex queries with precision," Shah said by email.

Titanic expedition yields lost bronze statue

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A bronze statue from the Titanic — not seen in decades and feared to be lost for good — is among the discoveries made by the company with salvage rights to the wreck site on its first expedition there in many years. RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based company that holds the legal rights to the 112-year-old wreck, has completed its first trip since 2010 and released images from the expedition on Monday. The pictures show a site that continues to change more than a century later. The trip to the remote corner of the North Atlantic Ocean where the Titanic sank happened as the US Coast Guard investigates the June 2023

implosion of the Titan, an experimental submersible owned by a different company. The Titan submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including Paul-Henri Nargeolet, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic. The findings from this summer's trip "showcase a bit-terwest mix of preservation and loss," RMS Titanic said in a statement. A highlight was the rediscovery of the statue "Diana of Versailles," last seen in 1986, and the statue now has a clear and updated image, the company said. On a sadder note, a significant section of the railing that surrounds the ship bow's forecastle deck has fallen, RMS Titanic said. The railing still stood as recently as 2022, the company said.

FICCI CASCADE underlines need for global cooperation to curb smuggling for sustainable growth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



To combat the menace of smuggling and counterfeiting that feed into terror financing and organised crime, FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) will be organising the 10th edition of MASCARADE (Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade) this month in the national Capital. MASCARADE is an international forum that hosts senior officials from prominent international organizations, including the World Customs Organization (WCO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), INTERPOL, among others, and representatives from several countries to provide insights against smuggling and illicit trade. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world and has been the sole 'bright spot' in an otherwise sagging scenario of slowing global economy, but the silent menace of smuggling and

illicit trade threatens its ambition of becoming a \$5 Trillion economy. "Smuggling and counterfeiting threaten Indian industries, hampering job creation and impeding economic growth, apart from depriving the government of tax revenue and bleeding resources for enforcement and public health measures," said Anil Rajput, Chairman FICCI CASCADE which has been running an incessant campaign against the menace. It has roped in the international community and organisations to highlight and underline the hidden links between smuggling, counterfeiting and terrorism

and organised crime. The body has also been organising awareness programmes on strategies to counter smuggling, including inter-school competitions to educate the young or the to-be-consumers. MASCARADE ropes in experts from various fields such as cyber-law, artificial intelligence, intellectual property rights and e-commerce, along with senior officials from the Government of India to brainstorm on the detection of connections between smuggling, organized crime and terror financing. Meanwhile, the MASCARADE discussions on solutions would revolve

around consumer awareness, stricter enforcement and calibrated government policies in terms of taxation, trade deals etc. There also needs to be a multinational collaboration to address the issue comprehensively. "This collaborative effort could involve optimizing intelligence sharing, conducting joint investigations and enforcement actions, sharing best practices, establishing bilateral and multilateral agreements and enhancing mutual legal assistance, among other measures," said Rajput. Additionally, the

collaboration should leverage the power of new-age and emerging technologies, such as AI and machine learning, to identify and analyse patterns of illicit trade, thereby enhancing detection and enforcement capabilities. The 9th edition of MASCARADE last year was a two-day event organised on the theme- "Tackling Illicit Trade: Socio-Economic Perspectives and Way Forward". A 2022 FICCI CASCADE study titled 'Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests' revealed a staggering 163% increase in tax losses due to smuggling in India from 2010 to 2020. The government faced a substantial financial impact, with losses reaching ₹58,521 crore, compared to ₹22,230 crore, spanning crucial sectors such as alcoholic beverages, mobile phones, FMCG-household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged foods, and tobacco products. These industries collectively suffered an astounding 340% surge in sales losses, escalating from ₹59,046 crores in 2010 to ₹2,60,094 crores in 2020, highlighting the gravity of the illicit trade issue.



Sensex, Nifty hit all time high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty hit their fresh all-time closing high levels on Monday, tracking foreign fund inflows and a rally in the US markets. The US rate cut hopes and renewed foreign fund inflows are fuelling the recent rally in domestic equities, traders said. Surging for the 10th straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 194.07 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,559.84. During the day, it surged 359.51 points or 0.43 per cent to reach a new intra-day record peak of 82,725.28. The NSE Nifty climbed 42.80 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at a lifetime closing high of 25,278.70, taking its winning run to the 13th day in a row. During the day, it

soared 97.75 points or 0.38 per cent to hit a fresh all-time intra-day peak of 25,333.65. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, HCL Tech, IndusInd Bank, ITC, UltraTech Cement, Axis Bank and Infosys were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, Tata Motors, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the positive territory, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended higher on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,318.14 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. The market has entered a zone of steady

but mild up-move caused by the accumulation of quality large-caps. FIIs turning buyers last week mainly due to some large bulk deals also has improved sentiments in the market," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.14 per cent to USD 77.04 a barrel. Gross GST collections in August grew 10 per cent to about Rs 1.75 lakh crore, reflecting higher domestic consumption. On Friday, the BSE benchmark climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77. In its best winning streak since its launch in 1996, the NSE Nifty soared 83.95 points or 0.33 per cent to hit a new lifetime closing high of 25,235.90.

Single filing with exchange to be reality very soon says SEBI chief

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Capital markets regulator Sebi Chief Madhabi Puri Buch on Monday said a single disclosure by listed companies on one stock exchange will soon be automatically uploaded on the other bourse. This comes after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) recently proposed sweeping changes to disclosure as well as listing requirements by listed companies based on recommendations from a committee led by S K Mohanty, former whole-time member of Sebi. Speaking at a CII event, Sebi chairperson said, "a single filing with the exchange will be a reality very soon". As part of the proposed changes, a filing made on one exchange will automatically collate on the other exchange, she said.



A filing made on one exchange will automatically collate on the other exchange. Additionally, Buch said soon investors will be able to start SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) with as low as Rs 250 per month. "We are on the way of Rs 250 SIP becoming a reality," she said. Buch avoided commenting on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), but said there are regulations simplifying such entities. "If I utter a word on REITs, I

will be accused of conflict of interest," she added. The remarks came as US short-seller Hindenburg Research raised questions about a potential conflict of interest involving Buch and private equity major Blackstone. Her husband Dhaval Buch is a senior advisor with Blackstone, a major player in the REIT space. However, the couple refuted the allegations. Also, Hindenburg alleged that Sebi's recent amendments to

REIT regulations 2014 favoured a specific financial conglomerate, which Sebi denied. The Sebi chief highlighted plans to make IPO documents available in multiple languages to remove language barriers and increase investor awareness. Also, she emphasised on the importance of the inclusion. Additionally, she said that creating capital for the industry and wealth creation for the citizens of the country are two very important areas of the regulator. Buch stressed on the need of adoption of technology in markets, complexity of the market (right product for the right person) and co-creation with the industry. On co-creation, Buch said, "It is not because that regulator is magnanimous, it's out of sheer necessity, which will actually serve the market".

Rupee falls seven paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined 7 paise to close at 83.92 (provisional) against the greenback on Monday on disappointing domestic macroeconomic data. However, positive domestic markets, wherein both the benchmark indices scaled lifetime high levels and foreign fund inflows cushioned the downside. Moreover, easing crude oil prices and weakness of the American currency in the overseas market supported the local unit and restricted further slide. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened 2 paise lower at 83.87 against the American currency. It rose to the intra-day high of 83.85 but pared gains and slipped to the day's low of 83.93 before settling at 83.92 (provisional) against the US dollar, registering a decline of 7 paise over its previous close. "Indian rupee depreciated by 7 paise on Monday on



positive US Dollar and disappointing macroeconomic data," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. India's manufacturing sector growth moderated in August as output and sales rose at slowest rates since January, while competitive pressures and inflation concerns hampered business confidence, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 57.5 in August, below July's reading of 58.1.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias as domestic markets are trading at fresh record highs with fresh FII inflows. A weak tone in crude oil prices may also support the rupee. However, any recovery in the US Dollar may cap sharp upside," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, in the domestic equity markets, Sensex climbed 194.07 points to settle at a new all-time closing high of 82,559.84, while Nifty rose 42.80 points to hit its fresh record peak of 25,278.70. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, dipped marginally

by 0.06 per cent to 101.64. Brent crude, the international benchmark, fell 0.23 per cent to 76.75 in futures trade. On the domestic macroeconomic front, gross goods and services tax (GST) collections in August grew 10 per cent to about Rs 1.75 lakh crore on Sunday, reflecting higher domestic consumption. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Friday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 5,318.14 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, the Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first four months of the current fiscal year touched 17.2 per cent of the full-year target, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). India's forex reserves jumped USD 7.023 billion to touch a new high of USD 681.688 billion in the week ended August 23, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released on Friday.



Maruti Suzuki cuts prices of selected models of Alto K10, S-Presso

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it has reduced prices of select variants of entry-level models Alto K10 and S-Presso with immediate effect. The price of S-Presso LXI

Petrol has been reduced by Rs 2,000 and the price of Alto K10 VXi Petrol has been reduced by Rs 6,500, the auto major said in a regulatory filing. The Alto K10 range is priced from Rs 3.99 lakh and Rs 5.96 lakh while the S-Presso trims

are tagged between Rs 4.26 lakh and Rs 6.11 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). In August, sales of the company's mini segment cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, declined to 10,648 units last month as against 12,209 units a year ago.

Indian manufacturers see softer increases in new business: PMI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector growth moderated in August as output and sales rose at slowest rates since January, while competitive pressures and inflation concerns hampered business confidence, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 57.5 in August, below July's reading of 58.1 but above its long-run average of 54.0, signalling a substantial improvement in operating conditions. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "The Indian manufacturing sector continued to expand in August, although the pace of expansion moderated slightly. New orders and output also mirrored the headline trend,



with some panellists citing fierce competition as a reason for slowdown," Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said. According to the survey, new business rose sharply through the second quarter of the fiscal year, but the pace of expansion eased to a seven-month low. New export orders, likewise, increased at the weakest pace

since the start of the 2024 calendar year. On the prices front, goods producers benefited from a moderation in cost pressures during August. "On a positive note, the rise in input costs slowed sharply. Manufacturers increased their raw material buying activity in order to build safety stocks. In line with input costs, the pace of output price inflation

also decelerated, but the deceleration was to a much smaller extent, thereby increasing margins for manufacturers," Bhandari added. The survey further noted that job creation softened midway through the second fiscal quarter as a few firms trimmed headcounts. Nevertheless, the overall rate of employment growth was

solid in the context of historical data. According to the survey, business confidence retreated and panellists were at their least optimistic level since April 2023. "Business outlook for the year ahead moderated slightly in August, driven by competitive pressures and inflation concerns," Bhandari said. Meanwhile, India's economic growth slowed to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in April-June 2024-25, mainly due to poor performance of the agriculture and services sectors, government data showed on Friday. The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 8.2 per cent in the June quarter of 2023-24. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

IN BRIEF

VIT-AP UNIVERSITY, ARCT SIGN MOU
VIJAYAWADA: The Vellore Institute of Technology-Andhra Pradesh University and Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Private Limited sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU signifies the start of a 5-year collaboration aimed at advancing research and innovation, facilitating knowledge transfer, and developing the workforce.

GM OF NFR INTERACTION WITH TRAIN RUNNING STAFF
NEW DELHI: Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N. F. Railway today interacted with various categories of field officials at New Jalpaiguri under Kathar Division who plays an important role in safe train operations. General Manager in his speech asked all railway officials to be alert and ensure safety at any cost.

Godrej Properties wins bid for two housing plots in Gurugram costing ₹515 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Godrej Properties has won bid for two residential plots in Gurugram costing Rs 515 crore and will develop luxury homes worth Rs 3,400 crore on these land parcels. In a regulatory filing on Monday, Godrej Properties informed that it has "emerged as the highest bidder and has secured the Letter of Intent to develop two group housing plots at premium locations in Gurugram through an e-auction conducted by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP)". The combined bid value for

both plots is Rs 515 crore, it added. The plot measuring 3.6 acres is located in the prestigious Golf Course Road micro-market whereas the plot measuring 1.97 acres is strategically located in Sector 39 with proximity to NH 48. "The land parcels together will offer a development potential of over 1 million square feet and an estimated revenue potential of over Rs 3,400 crore comprising luxury residential apartments of varied configurations," Godrej Properties said. In the last fiscal, Godrej Properties Ltd had bought two prime parcels of 5.15



acres and 2.76 acres in Golf Course Road micro-market from HSVP at auction and plans to launch both these projects during this fiscal. The company also won

auctions for two land parcels in Greater Noida in the current quarter. These four plots in Greater Noida and Gurugram will strengthen the company's

Delhi-NCR portfolio having a total estimated revenue potential in excess of USD 1 billion. Gaurav Pandey, MD & CEO, Godrej Properties, said, "We have witnessed strong demand for our projects in NCR market demonstrating huge trust and confidence which the customers have placed in us. I am very confident that these two new acquisitions will further strengthen our development portfolio in NCR as well as cater to strong demand for our products in this market." Godrej Properties is one of the leading real estate developers in the country.

It became the largest player last fiscal in terms of sales bookings. The company sold properties worth Rs 22500 crore in 2023-24 and has set a target of Rs 27500 crore for the current fiscal. In the first quarter of this fiscal also, Godrej Properties has retained its number one position in sales bookings by selling properties worth Rs 8637 crore. Godrej Properties is focusing on Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad markets for group housing projects. It is also coming up with plotted developments in smaller cities.

Kathuniya bags second consecutive Paralympic silver in men's discus throw F-56 event

PTI ■ PARIS

India's Yogesh Kathuniya clinched his second consecutive Paralympic silver medal in men's discus throw F-56 event with a season's best effort 42.22m at the ongoing Games here on Monday. The 27-year-old hurled the discus to the podium-clinching distance in his very first attempt to add to the silver he won in the Tokyo Paralympics three years ago. Brazil's Claudiney Batista dos Santos registered a hat-trick of Paralympic gold medals, creating a new Games record with an effort of 46.86m in his fifth attempt. Greece's Konstantinos Tzounis won the bronze with 41.32m. The F-56 classification covers limb deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power and impaired range of movement. At the age of 9, Kathuniya developed the Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare autoimmune condition which causes numbness, tingling and muscle weakness that can progress to paralysis. He was bound to the wheelchair during his childhood but overcame the



odds with the help of his mother Meena Devi, who learnt physiotherapy to help him regain muscle strength to walk again. His father has served in the Indian Army. Kathuniya is a commerce graduate from Delhi's prestigious Kirori Mal College. Besides two Paralympic silver medals, he has three world championship medals, including two silver and a bronze. On Monday, Kathuniya won't be satisfied with his performance given that he won the silver in Tokyo with a much better effort of 44.38m. Kathuniya's toughest competitor, the 45-year-old Dos Santos broke the Paralympic record twice on Monday, first registering 46.45m in his second attempt and then hurling the discus to 46.86m in his penultimate throw. Dos Santos is a three-time world championships gold-medallist, and has also held the Paralympic record of 45.59m in this category which he achieved in the last edition in Tokyo. Slovakia's Dusan Laczko finished fourth and last with a best effort of 41.20m.



Shuttler Thulasimathi Murugesan makes Paralympics final with win over fellow Indian Manisha Ramadass

PTI ■ PARIS

Thulasimathi Murugesan outlasted compatriot Manisha Ramadass in an all-India affair to reach the women's singles SU5 badminton final at the Paralympics here. Murugesan, the top-seed from Tamil Nadu, defeated Ramadass 23-21, 21-17 in the semifinal played on Sunday night. "It is like a dream come true. There is happiness but I need to prepare for the final. I mentally prepared for this match. We have a healthy competition every time (Manisha). Strategy for final, we are playing after a long time, we will see. It has been a very hard journey for me," Murugesan said after the win. The SU5 category is for

athletes with impairment on the upper limbs, which could be in the playing or the non playing hand. Assured of at least a silver medal, the 22-year-old Murugesan will face a stiff test from China's Yang Qixia in the final on Monday. Only six athletes are competing the women's singles SU5 category at the Paris Paralympics. Having started at a tender age of seven, Murugesan has gone on to become an accomplished para athlete. She won three medals at the 2022 Para Asian Games including a gold in women's singles. She was born with a congenital deformity in her left hand resulting in the loss of her thumb finger. A major accident further limited the mobility of her left hand.

Para-athletes Preethi, Nishad win silver and bronze; shuttlers Suhas, Manisha assure medals

PTI ■ PARIS/CHATEAUROUX

Para-athletes Nishad Kumar and Preethi Pal fetched a silver and bronze for India respectively while shuttler Suhas Yathiraj positioned himself for glory by reaching the summit clash for a second consecutive time at the Paris Paralympics here on Sunday. Another shuttler, Manisha Ramadass also assured India of a medal but star shooter Avani Lekhara missed out on repeating her medal-winning feat in her pet event. India ended the Day 4 of competitions at 27th spot in the rankings with seven medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze). Preethi created history as she became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics while Nishad Kumar clinched his second successive silver at the showpiece in the men's high jump T47 category. The 23-year-old Preethi, a farmer's daughter from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, bagged a bronze in the 200m T35 category with a personal best time of 30.01 seconds. She also won a bronze in the 100m T35 category on Friday. She faced significant physical challenges when she was born as

her lower body was plastered for six days after birth. Weak legs and an irregular leg posture made her prone to various diseases. Preethi also became only the second Indian woman to win two medals -- both bronze -- in a single Paralympics after shooter Avani Lekhara who won a gold and a bronze in Tokyo three years ago. T35 classification is meant for athletes who have coordination impairments such as hypertonía, ataxia and athetosis. Later in the day, the 24-year-old Nishad, who hails from Una in Himachal Pradesh, won India's third medal from para-athletics and seventh overall for the country in Paris Paralympics with a season's best effort of 2.04m. He lost his right hand in a grass-cutting machine when he was six-year-old. Nishad, who had also won a silver in Tokyo Paralympics three years ago with a jump of 2.06m, had a tough fight with world record holder and defending champion Townsend Roderick of the USA, who clinched the gold after clearing 2.12m. **STRONG SHOW BY SHUTTLERS:** Tokyo Games silver medallist Suhas is set to

become the first Indian shuttler to win back-to-back medals at the Paralympics after outplaying compatriot Sukant Kadam in straight games to reach the men's singles SL4 final. The 41-year-old Suhas, a 2007 batch IAS officer, beat Sukant 21-17, 21-12 to make another final at the global showpiece. Later, Nitesh Kumar also guaranteed a medal for himself in SL3 with a 21-16 21-12 victory over Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the semifinal. Before Suhas sizzled, it was Manisha who set up an all-Indian women's singles SU5 semifinal with compatriot Thulasimathi Murugesan, assuring the country of at least a silver. The 19-year-old Manisha, who was born with Erb's palsy which affected her right arm, had no trouble in dispatching Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21-13 21-16 in the quarterfinals. The second seeded Indian left-hander needed 30 minutes to down her unseeded rival. Erb's palsy is a nerve disorder in the shoulder and arm that results in weakness or loss of muscle function. In the last four, Manisha will meet top seed Thulasimathi, who had defeated Portugal's Beatriz Monteiro in group A on



Saturday. In the SU5 category, the players have impairment of the upper limbs. The impairment could be on the playing or non-playing hand. However, Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli were eliminated in the quarterfinals. **NO SUCCESS IN SHOOTING RANGE:** After the high of four medals in two days, there was disappointment in store for India in the shooting range with Lekhara failing to qualify for the final following a 11th-place finish in the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH1) qualification in which Sidhartha Babu ended 28th. In the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH2) qualification, Sriharsha Devaraddi Ramakrishna ended in 26th place with a total of 630.2. In the Paralympics mixed event, both men and women compete on the line against each other. Coming off her historic gold medal in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event, Lekhara ended the competition with a total of 632.8. Lekhara's sequence of scores read 105.7, 106.0, 104.1, 106.0, 104.8, 106.2, while Sidhartha had scores of 104.6, 103.8, 105.7,

104.9, 103.6, 105.7. In SH1, athletes are able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair). Sidhartha aggregated 628.3 across six series. Athletes classified in SH2 category are unable to hold their rifle independently, so they use a stand, but can aim by themselves and control the weapon when they shoot. Certain athletes may have an assistant to reload their gun. Only the top eight from qualification progress to the final. **RAKESH SHINES:** World No 1 archer Rakesh Kumar overcame a blip to defeat Ken Swagumilang of Indonesia in the shoot-off and enter his successive Paralympics quarterfinals in the compound men open category. Rakesh held his slender one-point lead and needed a 9-point to seal the issue in five ends. But he slipped with an 8-pointer red-ring, leaving both the archers locked at 144-144 after regulation five ends comprising 15 arrows. In the shoot-off, the 39-year-old veteran held his nerve to shoot a perfect 10, while Ken managed an 8.



Ukrainian badminton player chasing first Paralympic medal with an unexpected guest in the stands

AP ■ PARIS

Oksana Kozyna's Paralympic debut was sure to have some unexpected moments, but the surprise she received might beat anything that could have happened on the court. The Ukrainian para badminton player was raised in an orphanage for disabled children in Dnipro, Ukraine, alongside teammate Oleksandr Chyrykov. Before her first singles match in the SL3 classification (standing with lower limb impairment), she met one of her former teachers from the orphanage - a reunion that brought back memories of learning the sport while also featuring all the emotions felt by Ukrainians as the war continues back home. "I didn't recognize her at first and then, when I recognized her, I just couldn't believe it," Kozyna said of her teacher, Svitlana Shabalina, while

meeting with reporters Sunday evening. "It's like a dream." Shabalina had left the orphanage years earlier and recently emigrated to Sweden. Kozyna fled Ukraine shortly after Russia attacked in 2022 and now lives with Chyrykov, two other Ukrainian athletes and their families in France, where she trained for the Paralympics. Kozyna has been a key player in Ukrainian para badminton since winning silver at the European Championships in 2017. The 29-year-old also won Ukraine's first world para badminton championship in 2022. Shabalina didn't plan to see her former students. Chyrykov actually surprised Shabalina while training near where she lives in Sweden. The two had stayed in touch in the years after Chyrykov left the orphanage, and he invited Shabalina to watch him and Kozyna compete. Two weeks

before the games began, Shabalina decided to go. "Ever since we began the war, we've tried to figure out how to do it in a proper way," Chyrykov said. "It really helped because a lot of Ukrainians came and supported." Kozyna said the trio has spent the last few days discussing how life has changed since they left the orphanage. Kozyna had not seen Shabalina since before the war began. Kozyna had her first women's singles loss on Sunday, falling in straight sets to No. 1 seed Qonitah Ikhtiar Syakuroh of Indonesia. She will play Nigerian Mariam Bolaji for the bronze medal on Monday. "I did have favorite pupils, (and) they were one of them," Shabalina said about Kozyna and Chyrykov. "I loved what I do and my kids, because I really think they are like my kids."

Suhas, Nitesh keep India on track for badminton gold in Paralympics

PTI ■ PARIS

Suhas Yathiraj and Nitesh Kumar on Sunday inched closer to their maiden gold medal after progressing to the men's singles final in their respective categories at the Paris Paralympics here. While Suhas, a silver medallist from Tokyo Games, is set to become the first Indian shuttler to secure back-to-back medals at the Paralympics after outplaying compatriot Sukant Kadam 21-17, 21-12 in SL4, Nitesh guaranteed a medal for himself in SL3 with a 21-16 21-12 victory over Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in another semifinal. However, Indian shuttler Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan lost her women's singles SH6 semifinals to China's Lin Shuangbao 13-21, 19-21. She will play for a bronze medal. The 41-year-old Suhas, a 2007 batch IAS officer, will now face France's Lucas Mazur, aiming to settle the score after losing to him in the Tokyo Paralympics final three years ago. "I still can't believe (back-to-back finals). I thank God. I tried my best and didn't let pressure get to me," Suhas said. Nitesh, who had lost his left leg after a train accident in 2009, will square off against Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash. Bethell, who was the runner-up to Pramod Bhagat in the Tokyo Games, is a formidable opponent, setting the stage for an electrifying final on Monday. Sukant, meanwhile, will next play for the bronze medal. With his win, Nitesh, an IIT Mandi graduate, who won three medals,



including a singles silver at the Asian Para Games, ensured that India return with a medal from the SL3 category, after Pramod Bhagat clinched the gold when para badminton made its debut three years ago in Tokyo. "I have been performing consistently, so I had the self belief that I will make the finals and it feels amazing to actually do that because there is pressure and I had lost my mixed doubles but I didn't let it affect me," the 29-year-old said. A computer engineer, Suhas, who served as the District Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar during the COVID-19 pandemic and was also the DM of Prayagraj, delivered a commanding performance to book his place in the final. Talking about Mazur, Suhas, who never let his ankle impairment hinder his passion for badminton, said: "We know each other very well. I defeated him in World championships this year and he would want to take revenge. "I lost to him in Tokyo but fortunately I have won Asian Para Games gold,

became world no 1. I don't want to put too much pressure on myself. I will just go out there and enjoy myself." In SL4, athletes compete while standing with less severe impairment than in SL3, which is for players, like Nitesh, who compete with more severe lower limb disabilities, requiring play on a half-width court. Nitesh's sports journey began with a passion for football in childhood. However, an accident in Visakhapatnam left him bedridden for months and resulted in permanent leg damage. Despite this, his interest in sports endured, particularly during his time at IIT-Mandi, where he developed a keen interest in badminton. He kept honing his skills along with studies and made his debut at the Nationals in Faridabad, winning a bronze while representing Haryana. The following year, he clinched a silver in singles and bronze in doubles at Bengaluru, establishing himself in para-badminton. His domestic success peaked at the 2020 Nationals, where he defeated

Pramod and Manoj Sarkar to win gold. Nitesh's win assured India its third medal from para badminton after Manisha Ramadass confirmed a podium after setting up a women's singles SU5 semifinals duel with compatriot Thulasimathi Murugesan. The 19-year-old Manisha, who was born with Erb's palsy which affected her right arm, had no trouble in dispatching Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21-13 21-16 in the quarterfinals. Erb's palsy is a nerve disorder in the shoulder and arm that results in weakness or loss of muscle function. The second seeded Indian left-hander needed 30 minutes to down her unseeded rival. In the last four, Manisha will meet top seed Thulasimathi, who had defeated Portugal's Beatriz Monteiro in group A on Saturday. In SU5 category, the players have impairment of the upper limbs. The impairment could be on the playing or non-playing hand. India's medal hopes were further bolstered by Nithya Sivan Sumathy, who advanced to the women's singles SH6 semifinals with a 21-4, 21-7 victory over Poland's Oliwia Szmigiel. On Saturday, Sukant Kadam earned the right to take on compatriot Suhas Yathiraj in SL4 semifinals to assure the country its first medal in badminton from this edition of the Games. However, Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli were eliminated following contrasting defeats in their respective quarterfinals on Sunday. Competing in SL3 category, Mandeep hardly posed a challenge to Nigeria's third seed Bolaji Mariam Eniola, losing the contest 8-21 9-21 in 23 minutes.

Saina Nehwal reveals struggles with arthritis, to decide on retirement by end of year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Acce Indian shuttler and former Olympic bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal has revealed that she is battling arthritis and will have to decide on her future in badminton by the end of this year as the ailment has made it impossible for her to train the usual hours. The 34-year-old former world No.1, who was the first Indian shuttler to win an Olympic medal with her bronze in London 2012, participated in three editions of the Games before being hampered by injuries.

The 2010 and 2018 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist said she can no longer overlook the fact that her career is in its final leg. "The knee is not very good. I have arthritis. My cartilage has gone to a bad state. It is very difficult to push for eight-nine hours," Nehwal said on the House of Glory podcast hosted by shooting great Gagan Narang, who was India's chef-de-mission in the recent Paris Olympics.

"How will you challenge the best players in the world in such a state? I think I will have to accept it somewhere. Because two hours of training is not good enough to play with the highest level of players and get the desired results," she added.

Nehwal said she is still considering the impact retirement will have on her but admitted that she would eventually have to take a call. The trailblazing star, who is also a BJP member now, was last seen in action more than a year ago in the Singapore Open where she lost in the opening round.

"I am also thinking about it (retirement). It will be sad



because it is like a job that a normal person does. Obviously, a sports person's career is always a short one. I started at the age of 9. I will be 35 next year," she said. "I have also had a long career and I am very proud of that. I have broken my body to a great extent. I am happy with what I have done and given it all. (I) will assess how I feel by the end of this year," she added. "The Padma Shri awardee said competing at the Olympics was

her childhood dream and missing the showpiece for two consecutive editions has been hurtful. "Competing at the Olympics is a childhood dream for all. You prepare to reach that level for years. Hence, at times, when you realise you will not be able to make it, it hurts a lot," she expressed. "Because it is not like you do not want to play, but your body is telling that you are not doing well and you have injuries."

Nehwal, however, said she would look back at her run in the Games with pride. "But I have done a lot of hard work. I competed in three Olympics. I gave my 100 per cent in all of them. I can take pride in that and be happy about it," she said. Nehwal also spoke about the pressure of expectations and said as a top athlete, she has faced it not just from observers of the game but also from near and dear ones.

"When you become a big player, your friends, family, coaches, sponsors, everyone wants you to perform. There are a lot of stakeholders involved," she said. "With already a short career span, athletes cannot afford to take a four-year break and have to keep performing continuously. If you wish to become an international champion, you have to be strong to make tough decisions," she added.

Nagal pulls out of Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal on Monday pulled out of the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to a back injury.

Nagal recently lost his first round singles contest to Tallon Griekspoor at the US Open. The indoor hard-court contest in Stockholm will be played on September 14-15. Reserve player Aryan Shah has been drafted into the main team after Nagal's withdrawal while Manas Dhame has been put on standby.

"I was really looking forward to representing in the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden," Nagal wrote on social media.

"However, due to a back issue that's been bothering me for the past few weeks, doctors have advised me to rest for the next two weeks, leaving me without enough time to



prepare and compete in Sweden. This same issue also led to my withdrawal from the US Open doubles

"I'm deeply disappointed to be missing this tie, but I have to listen to my body to prevent the back from worsening, so that I can finish the season strong and healthy. Good luck to the Indian team - I'll be cheering for you all from

home!" he added. Nagal reached a career-high ranking of 68 in July but has dropped to 82 in the latest rankings. India's highest-ranked singles player not being part of the Davis Cup tie is a big blow to the team. Former national champion Ashutosh Singh has been named as new coach of the national team.

Bopanna-Ebden ousted from US Open

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's challenge in the mens doubles event of the US Open ended with the defeat of Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden in the third round, here.

The second seeded Bopanna-Ebden pair lost 1-6 5-7 to the 16th seed Argentine combo of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni in 66 minutes on Sunday night.

Bopanna and Ebden had won the Australian Open early this year.

The 44-year-old Bopanna has already announced retirement from Davis Cup and it will be interesting to see if he will return to defend his Australian Open crown in January 2025.

Sumit Nagal had exited the mens singles with an opening round defeat while Yuki Bhambri and N Sriram Balaji earlier lost in mens doubles at different stages of the tournament.



Bopanna's challenge is still alive in the mixed doubles event with Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi and interestingly, he and Ebden will now be up against each other. Ebden and Czech Republics Barbora Krejckova are seeded fourth in the mixed doubles.

Juventus remains unbeaten following a 0-0 draw with visiting Roma in Serie A

AP ■ ROME

For Thiago Motta's Juventus, it was a well-earned point that kept the Bianconeri unbeaten.

For Daniele De Rossi's Roma, it was a step in the right direction after a difficult start to the season. Juventus was held to a 0-0

draw at home by Roma in Serie A on Sunday with each side producing only one shot on goal. Roma dominated the possession early on before Juventus grew more dangerous through Dusan Vlahovic.

De Rossi kept former Juventus forward Paulo Dybala on the bench at the start then sent the Argentina international, who recently turned down an offer from Saudi Arabia, on midway through the second half.

But Dybala produced little with both sides slowing down by then on a warm evening in Turin.

Juventus moved level on seven points with defending champion Inter Milan, Torino and Udinese in Motta's first season since coming over from Bologna.

Winless Roma, which was coming off a dispiriting defeat at home to Empoli, has two points in De Rossi's second campaign after replacing Jose Mourinho in January. Having grown more offensive under De Rossi last season, Roma has produced only one goal in three matches this season.



Udinese beat promoted Como 1-0 with a first-half volley from Brenner. Como forward Patrick Cutrone missed a late penalty.

MALDINI FROM DISTANCE: Robin Gosens scored a late equalizer on debut for Fiorentina, which came back from two goals down for a 2-2 draw with

Alessandro Nesta's Monza. Gosens, who was signed on loan from Union Berlin on deadline day, redirected in a corner with a looping header in stoppage time. Monza went ahead with early goals from Milan Djuric and Daniel Maldini before Moise Kean pulled one back for Fiorentina before the break.

It was a third consecutive draw in Serie A for Fiorentina under new manager Raffaele Palladino, who previously coached Monza. Fiorentina was coming off a penalty-shootout win over Puskas Akademia in the Conference League. Fiorentina also drew the first leg with Puskas, and the second leg was locked at 1-1 before the shootout.

Maldini's long-distance effort was his third goal from outside the box in 2024, tied for the joint lead in Serie A over that span with Dusan Vlahovic, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Alexis Saelemaekers and Michael Folornsho.

Hellas Verona beat Genoa 2-0 with goals from Jackson Tchatchoua and Casper Tengstedt for its second win in three matches after defeating Napoli 3-0 in its opener.

Kylian Mbappé ends scoring drought in Spanish league and scores 2 in Real Madrids win over Betis

AP ■ MADRID

With two goals in less than 10 minutes, Kylian Mbappé ended his scoring drought in the Spanish league, leading Real Madrid to a 2-0 win over Real Betis.

Madrid's biggest signing in years, Mbappé had scored once in the teams win over Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup final last month, but he had yet to find the net in his previous three Spanish league matches.

"I was looking forward to scoring in this legendary stadium, the best in the world," Mbappé said. "But the most important thing was the victory."

He opened the scoring at the Santiago Bernabeu with a low left-footed shot from inside the area after a neat backheel pass by Federico Valverde in the 67th minute. Mbappe then added to the lead by converting a 75th-minute penalty kick after a foul on Vinicius Junior.

Madrid had drawn two of its first three games, with its lone victory coming against

Valladolid two rounds ago, also at the Bernabeu. This win moved the defending champion four points behind leader Barcelona, the only team to win all four matches to start the season.

"After the game against Las Palmas we knew that we had to win and we did it," Mbappé said. "It was a tough match, but we are Real Madrid and in the end we won it." Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said there was never any pressure on Mbappé to end his drought in the league.

"For him it was important to score, but we evaluate the work of the team as a whole, which was better than in the previous match. It was a step forward."

The result kept Betis winless after three matches. Manuel Pellegrini's team had drawn its first two games.

Vitor Roque, a young Brazilian forward, was a second-half substitute for the Sevilla club where he is playing on loan from Madrid rival Barcelona.

Madrid has not conceded in its last five league games at



Bernabeu, going back to last season, a first for the club in the competition since 1996.

Madrid is unbeaten in 26 home games in the league, with 22 wins and four draws, the best run under Ancelotti. The five points from three matches until now had meant Madrid's worst start in the league since 2019-20, when it won the competition.

SEVILLA CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE: Sevilla lost 2-0 at home to Girona to remain winless after four matches.

Iván Martin and Abel Ruiz scored a goal in each half for Girona, which has now won two in a row. It will play the Catalan derby against Barcelona in the next round. Sevilla had drawn two of its first three matches, both on the road, with a loss to Villarreal at home.

OTHER RESULTS: Getafe, another team without a victory, drew 0-0 with Real Sociedad at home, while Las Palmas - also winless - lost 2-0 at Alaves. Osasuna won 3-2 against Celta Vigo, which had opened with two straight wins but now has lost two in a row.

Coco Gauff loses at the US Open to Emma Navarro

AP ■ NEW YORK

This is pretty much all anyone needs to know about defending champion Coco Gauff's 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 loss to Emma Navarro in the U.S. Opens fourth round: Gauff wound up with more double-faults, 19, than winners, 14.

It was the latest in a series of early-for-her exits in recent weeks, including bowing out in the third round at the Paris Olympics, then going 1-2 at hard-court tuneup events before arriving in New York. "I feel like there's 70 other players in the draw that I would love to have the summer that I had, even though its (the) least, probably, (I've) done well during this time of the year," said the No. 3-seeded Gauff, who went 18-1 during the North American swing on hard courts 12 months ago, including the run to her first

Grand Slam title. "So many people want to be in the fourth round. So many people want to make the Olympics. So many people want to be flag bearer. Its perspective."

The 20-year-old from Florida did fight her way back into the match with a four-game run in which she claimed 14 of 17 points and grabbed the second set. "Had a little bit of a lull there," said the 13th-seeded Navarro, an American who was 0-2 at the U.S. Open until this year, "but I was able to regroup."

After each of her past two contests in New York, Gauff headed back out onto the practice courts to work on her serve. That didn't help much on Sunday, when she tied her career high for double-faults: She also had 19 in a loss at the 2020 French Open. Against Navarro, Gauff delivered a trio of double-faults in four different games. Eleven of the

Ending her title defense with 19 double faults



double-faults came in the final set alone.

Gauff attributed her problems to a mix of issues with her mechanics - "I go down on my left side a lot on my serve, and its something Im aware of, but its tough in the moment to, I guess, try not to do it," she explained - and in her mind.

"Its sometimes more of an emotional, mental thing, because if I go out on the practice court right now, I would make, like, 30 serves in a row. Ive done it before," Gauff said. "I think its also just kind of a mental hurdle that I have to get over when it comes. ... But I definitely want to look at other things, because I dont want to lose matches like this anymore."

She finished with a total of 60 unforced errors - a whopping 29 on her forehand side. The 23-year-old Navarro, who also

eliminated Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon in July, was far steadier on Sunday, although she still did have 35 unforced errors. "It was a little bit of a battle of will there for a bit. But proud of just my effort today," said Navarro, a U.S. Teammate of Gauff's at the Paris Games. "I was able to stick in there through some tough moments."

This result follows a third-round loss by defending mens champion Novak Djokovic on Friday, meaning the lengthy droughts without anyone winning consecutive titles in New York will continue. The last woman to win at least two in a row was Serena Williams with three from 2012-14; the last man to do so was Roger Federer with five from 2004-08.

Frances Tiafoe eliminated No. 28 seed Alexei Popyrin, the player who stunned Djokovic, with a 6-4, 7-6

(3), 2-6, 6-3 victory on Sunday night. The No. 20 seed advanced to his third straight U.S. Open quarterfinal and will play No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov, who held off Andrey Rublev 6-3, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 3-6, 6-3 with 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams watching and offering a thumbs-up at matches end. Also moving on Sunday was No. 12 Taylor Fritz, who beat three-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. Fritz's quarterfinal opponent will be 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev, who got past Brandon Nakashima 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

"Im at the point now where Im still happy to make quarterfinals, but I wouldnt be happy with it ending here," said Fritz, who has yet to reach a Grand Slam semifinal. "I definitely am at the point where I really want more than that."

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