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SEXISM IN POLITICS:
THE UNFINISHED BATTLE

WORLD 9
US ACTIVIST SHOT DEAD
BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS

MONEY 10
RUPEE RISES TWO PAISE TO SETTLE
AT 83.95 AGAINST US DOLLAR

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WHEN GOLDEN HOUR IS LOST IN A STUCK AMBULANCE

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

My father was in the ambulance, as he had just suffered a severe asthma attack. We were rushing to a hospital in South Delhi, hoping every second that we would make it in time. But as we got onto the main road, we realised we were trapped. The heavy rains in the morning had caused massive water-logging, and the traffic was completely stuck. The ambulance couldn't move an inch. "Though, we eventually reached the hospital, the delay could have been fatal," said Ramesh Verma,

echoing the helplessness of a family member stuck in a dire situation due to water-logging induced traffic snarls in the national capital. His case is just one among many in the national capital. The similar situation, highlighting systemic issues with emergency response and infrastructure, particularly during the monsoon season when water-logging is the common feature at various stretches. Despite the ongoing problems plaguing the city for years as climate change induced erratic weather plays truant, authorities continue to shift responsibility,

leaving the situation unresolved year after year. There have been cases of people dying in rain-related incidents as the capital has been witnessing heavy rainfall every other day, bringing it to a standstill with streets flooded, traffic in chaos and some commuters stranded on roads. Even upscale areas of Lutyens' Delhi, arterial lanes and key tunnels like the one at Pragati Maidan were closed due to flooding. Clearly, this reflects a broader issue where emergency services are frequently hindered by inadequate infrastructure.



Incidentally, while writing this, Sawati Das Gupta, a commuter, called up in distress. "I am stuck up at a severe traffic snarl at Bharat Mandapam near Supreme Court due to water-logging, which is also blocking two ambulances. "The vehicles with sirens blaring are honking consistently, but there's no space to move. I just can't imagine the distress of patients and their families inside the vehicle, trapped in gridlocked traffic. It's heart-wrenching. The pressure and fear of not knowing if they'll make it in time only add to their agony. The situation is further compounded by the fact

that outside the vehicle, people seem unaware of the urgency," she said. Dasgupta asserted that such a situation is unacceptable and no one should have to endure this kind of helplessness. "We need better emergency management and infrastructure to prevent such incidents," she strongly emphasised. Drivers from Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS), the State Government's medical emergency services too expressed their frustration, noting that their best strategy is to avoid known water-logged areas and stay updated via contacts and

newspapers. Much also depends on the driving skill of the occupant behind the steering wheel, they agreed. Jeetu (name changed), a CATS driver, emphasised the importance of the 'Golden Hour'--the critical first hour following an accident for improving survival chances. The 'Golden Hour' principle, supported by WHO, stresses the importance of timely medical intervention to increase survival rates. Currently, traffic congestion often delays ambulances, with journeys that should take 15-20 minutes extending over an hour. **Continued on Page 8**

BJP J and K manifesto: 370 is a thing of past says HM

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Exuding confidence that the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) will form the next government on its own, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday unveiled the party's Sankalp Patra (manifesto) asserting its resolve to build a peaceful, secure, developed, and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. Ahead of releasing the party's "Sankalp Patra", Shah said, "Article 370 is part of history and will never come back. The people of the country and the state respect the abrogation of Article 370." Referring to the list of 25 promises made by the party in its manifesto, Shah said



Home Minister Amit Shah releases the party's election manifesto ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir elections

'wiping out terrorism and separatism in the state' figure high on our agenda, followed

by prioritising and enhancing women's financial security and self-reliance. The Home Minister also promised to bring a white paper to fix the responsibility of those involved in the emergence of terrorism in the region. The BJP also promised the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits under the Tika Lal Taploo Visthapit Samaj Punarvas Yojana, while also expediting support for refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) and internally neglected groups like the Valmiki and Gorkha communities. A concerted drive to remove illegal Rohingya and Bangladeshi

settlements from Jammu and Kashmir is another priority in BJP's plan. The manifesto release function, organised in a private hotel, was attended by Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina, Member Parliament from Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Deputy CMs Kavinder Gupta, Prof Nirmal Singh and DS Rana. Speaking at the manifesto release, Amit Shah said, "Since Independence, the issue of Jammu and Kashmir has remained important for our party, and we've always

Continued on Page 8

Sensex nosedives, vapourises investors' INR five lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth plummeted by ₹5.49 lakh crore on Friday as markets faced a massive correction tracking a weak trend in global peers and fresh foreign fund outflows. Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at ₹81,183.93. During the day, it plunged 1,219.23 points or 1.48 per cent to ₹80,981.93. The BSE benchmark had hit its all-time high of ₹82,725.28 on



Monday. Following the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped by ₹5,49,925.16 crore to ₹4,60,18,976.09 crore (USD 5.48 trillion). "Markets witnessed intense profit-booking after the

recent upsurge and key benchmark indices crumbled on fears a subdued US economic data could push Fed chairman to postpone rate cut decision. "Investors trimmed their bullish bets ahead of the US jobs report, as any uptick in the numbers could prompt the Fed to maintain the status quo on interest rates," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Among the 30 Sensex firms, State Bank of India tanked

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Vinesh Phogat, Punia join Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joined the Congress on Friday ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls. Phogat on Friday resigned from the Indian Railways, citing personal reasons. Both of them met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his 10, Rajaji Marg, residence.



Continued on Page 8

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Ambulance driver held for sexual harassment of patient's wife

Lucknow (PNS): A team of Lucknow police on Thursday arrested Rishabh Singh, an aide of an ambulance driver, involving the sexual harassment of a woman on board and the death of her ailing husband, who was allegedly thrown out of the ambulance by the accused and his mentor. Singh (21) was arrested at Matiyari crossing based on a tip-off. The ambulance involved in the case has also been seized after the accused disclosed its location. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North, Abhijith R Shankar, Singh is a resident of Ayodhya and was currently staying in Kamta, Chinhat. He was identified and arrested for his involvement in the crime. "The arrested accused disclosed the identity of the prime suspect as Sarju Tiwari, the ambulance driver, and teams are conducting raids to locate him," the officer said. He added that the police had formed three teams to track down the prime accused.

The FIR was registered on September 4 at the Ghazipur (Indiranagar) police station. On the day of the incident, the woman had hired the ambulance to take her husband, who was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ghazipur (Indiranagar), back to their home in Siddharth Nagar. Due to financial constraints, she decided to get her husband discharged from the hospital. The woman was charged Rs 9,000 for the 200km journey. On August 29, while travelling home, the driver forced the woman to sit in the front seat to avoid police checking. Singh and the driver then allegedly sexually harassed her, despite her objections and protests from her husband and brother. They allegedly molested her and attempted to rape her. The accused allegedly removed her husband's oxygen mask, threw him out of the ambulance, and locked her brother in the driver's cabin. They stole Rs 10,000, her anklets, mangalsutra, Aadhaar card, and hospital reports.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations kick off today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The city is gearing up for the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations beginning Saturday. The 19th Shri Ganesh Mahotsav, organised by Shri Ganesh Pratayita Committee, will take place at Jhulelal Vatika near Hanuman Setu from September 7 to 17. A massive pandal is being constructed for this major event. Patron Bharat Bhushan Gupta provided detailed information about the festivities. He mentioned that skilled artisans from Kolkata

have been working on the pandal for the past month. The entrance, designed with a palace-like theme, will stand 85 feet tall. The pandal will cover about 14,000 square feet of space and will be both air-conditioned and waterproof, featuring elements of South Indian craftsmanship. Committee's chairman Ghanshyam Agarwal noted that there would be separate seating arrangements for men and women. Chairs will be set up in a 16,000 square-foot area outside the pandal, where attendees

can enjoy bhajans and cultural programmes. This year, devotees are insured for a total of Rs 10 crore, while the Lord Ganesh idol has been insured for Rs 25 lakh. General secretary Satish Agarwal said that the 5.5-foot Ganesh idol is being crafted to resemble the Siddhivinayak idol of Mumbai. Sculptor Shrawan Prajapati from the capital is working on the idol, which will arrive at the pandal on September 6. For security, 25 female as well as male personnel will be on duty,

and 50 CCTV cameras will be installed throughout the pandal. Councillor Ranjit Singh highlighted that the administration, municipal corporation, and police are fully supporting the event. This year's cultural programmes will be directed by Sanjay Sharma from Kolkata and Sidhu Maharaj from Lucknow. Committee member Sanjay Singh Gandhi noted that approximately 82,000 letters are written to Lord Ganesh annually, with millions of devotees expected this year.

Numerous food stalls, including options for chaat, fast food, and ice cream, will be available. The area outside the pandal will have a festive atmosphere with swings for women and children, a food zone, a kids' zone, a game zone, shopping areas, live programmes, dance-dramas, bhajans, and performances by celebrity singers. Akhilesh Bansal, also from the committee, announced that daily 'shringar' and 'aarti' will take place at 10 am and 6 pm, with open participation for devotees.

Darshan will be available daily from 10 am to 5 pm and from 6 pm to 10 pm. As in previous years, devotees can write letters to Shri Ganesh daily from 10 am to 6 pm. The shobha yatra will take place on September 17, with the procession starting at 11 am from Jhulelal Vatika and passing through Vishwavidyalaya Marg, IT Crossing, Ramakrishna Math, Shankarnagar, Nazirganj, and Daliganj before returning to Jhulelal Vatika. The idol will be immersed in the ground near Jhulelal Vatika.

Woman uses obscene videos to blackmail, threaten youth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman allegedly trapped a youth from a different religious faith in a romantic affair and made nude videos of him in a hotel, police said on Friday. The victim was allegedly forced to sign fake marriage papers and was blackmailed by the woman, who demanded lakhs of rupees, they added. The incident was reported in the PGI police station area, and the victim's father has filed an FIR in this regard. The complainant alleged that the accused had been duping his son for a long time by hiding her religious identity. She allegedly beat up the victim, forced him to wear wedding fineries, and made him sign a blank paper, which she later converted into a marriage certificate. As per reports, the woman used the fake marriage certificate to demand Rs 10 lakh as extortion. The victim's father alleged that she had done this before in Delhi and was running a racket, trapping youths by hiding her religious identity. The police have registered a case and investigations are ongoing. The woman was introduced to the victim (23) as Kavita by a man named Sarvesh in October 2023. She allegedly made a nude video of the victim and started blackmailing him, demanding lakhs of rupees. When he protested,

Sarvesh started demanding money from the victim, threatening to defame him and make the video viral. The complainant said his son's health has deteriorated due to mental harassment, and he is undergoing treatment. The woman allegedly told the victim that she would commit suicide and blame him for her death. She made a video on April 26 last, saying that if the victim didn't come to Lucknow, she would commit suicide and trap him in a criminal case. Under pressure, the victim went to Lucknow, where he was forced to sign blank papers and take photos with the woman. She made fake marriage papers and started demanding Rs 10 lakh and a share in the victim's property. The victim eventually told his parents about the ordeal. The accused woman is said to be a resident of Babu Ka Purwa in Bakarganj, Kanpur, and her real name is Begum Najma alias Rani. She has a 12-year-old son and was previously married to Lavish Kumar Vimal, who died under suspicious circumstances. Lavish's father had given several letters to Delhi Police, alleging that "Kavita" was involved in anti-social activities. The police are investigating the accused woman's past and her alleged involvement in anti-social activities. Meanwhile, a family from

Chinhat alleged that a cyber-criminal had been blackmailing them with obscene videos and threatening messages, police said on Friday. The victim, who initially paid a sum of money to the extortionist in hopes of ending the harassment, found that the demands continued and even escalated, they added. According to the victim, a resident of Gyan Vihar Colony in Chinhat, the accused began contacting them by phone over the past three days. The caller initially threatened to visit their home and cause embarrassment unless a "loan amount" was paid. The accused claimed to possess pornographic videos of the victim's family and demanded further payments to prevent these videos from being made public. The accused sent muted porn videos and threatening messages via WhatsApp to reinforce the threats. Feeling increasingly distressed, the victim paid nearly Rs 1 lakh through a link provided by the accused. Despite this payment, the demands did not cease, and the accused continued to threaten to release the obscene videos. Following these threats, the victim reported the matter to the Chinhat police station. An FIR has been registered, and the police are investigating the case based on the accused's mobile number and account details.

Young man missing for 25 days found dead

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth from Gudamba, who had been missing for 25 days, was found murdered, with his skeletal remains discovered in a forest in Barabanki on Thursday morning. The victim, identified as 22-year-old Durgesh Yadav from Chak village in Behta, was a private cab driver. He was reported missing on August 10, and his remains were located in the Fatehpur forest area on Thursday. The victim's father, Thakur Prasad, has filed a complaint with the Gudamba police, leading to the registration of a murder case. Two of the named suspects are currently in police custody. Prasad has accused the police of negligence, stating that the family conducted their own search which led to the discovery of Durgesh's remains, along with a pair of slippers and some clothes. According to the FIR, Sonam's family was opposed to their relationship due to caste differences. The family alleged that Sonam, along with Manish and others, lured Durgesh under false pretenses and murdered him.

Inspector, Gudamba, Nitish Srivastava confirmed that Sonam, her uncle Lalli Rawat, father Shiv Prasad, and relatives Kallu Rawat and Manish Rawat have been named in the FIR. Sonam and Manish are in custody. Durgesh, who worked as a private cab driver, had told his family he was stepping out on August 10 but did not return. His phone was later found to be switched off. The family reported the disappearance on August 15, but felt the police were not actively searching for Durgesh. They discovered the skeleton and other belongings, including a black towel hanging on a tree, themselves. Sanjay Yadav, a cousin of the victim, identified a towel belonging to Manish Rawat among the items found. The family claimed that Durgesh was killed by Sonam's family and associates due to their objections to the relationship. The police have questioned Manish and Sonam, with Manish admitting to accompanying Durgesh to the forest. Prasad stated that he had promised his son that he would arrange the marriage according to his wishes, but Sonam's family's opposition led to the tragic outcome. The investigation is ongoing as authorities work to uncover more details about this case.

Bus overturns on car, child rescued

Lucknow (PNS): A double-decker bus travelling from Pratapgarh to Delhi lost control and overturned on the highway in Mohanlalganj on Thursday night. The accident also involved a car that was passing nearby, resulting in injuries to both the bus passengers and the family in the car. The air-conditioned bus, which was en route to Delhi, overturned on the Rae Bareilly highway near the Kankaha turn while trying to avoid bikers. In the process, the bus hit a car belonging to Rae Bareilly resident Amandeep. The car, carrying Amandeep, his wife Kiranpreet, their four-year-old daughter Samreen, and their one-and-a-half-year-old son Vanraj, was severely damaged. The child was trapped inside the car. Emergency services, including the police and fire brigade, responded promptly. With assistance from a crane, they lifted the bus and cut through the car to rescue Vanraj. The child was safely transported to SGPGI's Apex Trauma Centre. Luckily though, all victims are said to be out of danger. In addition to the injuries sustained by the car occupants, several bus passengers, including Ravi from Kashipur, suffered minor injuries. Ravi was taken to a community health centre (CHC) by an ambulance. The rest of the bus passengers were later transported to their respective destination by other vehicles.

CLASSIFIEDS

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सूचना

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सूचना

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NOTICE

I have changed my name from Noorussabah To Noorus Saba W/o Mohd Aqil Ansari R/o 89/209 A-1, Bavis Compound Kanpur

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I have changed my daughter Adrika Pandey name spelling to AADRIKA PANDEY for all future purposes. Aditya Pandey R/o Flat No. A-10, KDA Complex,Janta Nagar, Barra-3,Kanpur

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Rahul Mishra and Rajiv Mishra both names belongs to one person that is me. In future I should be known by both the names. Rahul Mishra S/o Raghuvansh kumar Mishra R/o S-199, Daheli Sujampur kanpur Nagar

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DUE TO MISTAKE IN SCHOOL RECORDS OF MY SON SYED FARHAT MEHDI ZAIDI, MY NAME WRITTEN AS SYED HASAN MEHDI ZAIDI, WHEREAS MY CORRECT NAME IS SYED HASAN MAHDI ZAIDI. PLEASE CORRECT ACCORDINGLY. SYED HASAN MAHDI ZAIDI 458/F-51 FATIMA COLONY, SHIVPURI HUSAINABAD LUCKNOW-3

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This is to inform that the correct name of my son is Kushagra Singh S/o - Ramesh Pratap Singh which is mentioned in his educational records. By mistake, his name has become Kunal Singh in his Aadhar card number 788230451664 which is wrong. In future, let my son be known and recognized by his correct name Kushagra Singh son of Ramesh Pratap Singh. It is also hereby certified that all the legal formalities regarding the above mentioned information have been completed by me

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NOTICE

hereby inform that due to the inappropriate behavior of my elder son Mohammad Siraj and his wife Momina Khatoun, I disown them from all my movable and immovable properties. From today onwards, I sever all ties with my son and daughter-in-law. They will be solely responsible for any legal or illegal actions they undertake, Mohammad Rafiq S/o Late Mohammad Saeed, R/o Daudpurwala, Kotwa Kala, Naren Bhari, District Barabanki, UP

INDIA bloc capable of writing a new history in Haryana polls: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, on Friday, said the unity of INDIA bloc was capable of writing a new history in the Haryana elections, asserting that this was the time to rise above oneself to defeat the "crooked and selfish politics" of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Yadav also said his party would support whichever INDIA bloc member could best defeat the BJP's "negative, communal and divisive politics" in Haryana. His statement comes amid the seat-sharing talks between the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party for the Haryana assembly polls with hard bargaining from both sides. In a post on X, Yadav said this was not the time for SP or any other party of the INDIA bloc to explore political opportunities, but a time for "sacrifice and selflessness." "The unity of the INDIA bloc is capable of writing a new history in the Haryana elections. We have said many times and are repeating it once again and will repeat it in future too that it is not about seats but about victory. Whichever party of the INDIA

alliance is capable of defeating the negative, communal, divisive politics of BJP which is against the development and harmony of Haryana, we will join the power of our organisation and supporters with it," the SP chief said. "On the path of public welfare, there is no place for selfishness. Crooked and selfish people can never make their name in history. This moment is a historic opportunity to rise above ourselves to defeat such politics. We are ready, with an open heart, to make every sacrifice for the benefit of Haryana," his post in Hindi read. The SP chief wrote on X, "We have said this many time before, and we will say it again and continue to do so in the future: It's not about the seat; it's about victory." "It is not about fielding candidates in a few seats, but about understanding the pain and suffering of the people and freeing them from the BJP's corrupt and manipulative politics. It is about the true development of Haryana and the welfare of its people. Over the last 10 years, the BJP has pushed Haryana's development back by two decades," his post added.

Shots fired as two groups clash

Lucknow (PNS): A rivalry between two groups of youth led to indiscriminate firing at a dhaba in Chinhat on Thursday night. The incident occurred on Ayodhya road at around 12:25 am. Despite the severity of the situation, the victims did not initially report the incident to the police. As a result, the Chinhat police took the initiative to register an FIR based on a complaint filed by Pramod Kumar (sub-inspector) on Friday. According to the complaint, Kumar arrived at the scene after receiving information about the shooting. He observed that the firing appeared to be carried out with the intent to kill, creating an atmosphere of panic among the local residents. At the crime scene, the police recovered four spent cartridges and one live cartridge believed to be related to the shooting. Additionally, blood stains found at the site were collected on a piece of cotton and preserved for forensic examination. Kumar's report indicated that no formal complaints or applications had been filed by individuals affected by the shooting at that time. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter further.

Direct flight from Lucknow to Kuala Lumpur from Sept 13

Lucknow (PNS): Air Asia Berhad, a subsidiary of the Air Asia Group, will be offering residents of Lucknow and neighbouring regions a new international destination with the launch of a flight to Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSIA), starting September 13. The flight will run three times a week: on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. This will be the second route operated by an Air Asia affiliate from Lucknow. In December 2022, Thai Air Asia launched a flight connecting Lucknow with Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok. A CCSIA spokesperson said, "The introduction of this new international flight to Kuala Lumpur enhances Lucknow airport's commitment to providing seamless connectivity for passengers travelling to South Asia from the capital of Uttar Pradesh. With this new route, CCSIA now offers direct flights to 10 international destinations from Lucknow." Recently, the airport expanded its international offerings with new flights to Ras Al Khaimah, Dammam, and Muscat by Air India Express, and another to Muscat operated by Oman's national carrier Oman Air. In the 2023-24 period, Dubai, Muscat, and Riyadh were the top three international destinations from Lucknow. On average, approximately 18,500 domestic and international passengers use the newly inaugurated Terminal 3 at CCSIA each day. The airport manages an average of 135 domestic and international aircraft movements per day.

HARTALIKA TEEJ FEST

Lucknow (PNS): Hartalika Teej Fest was organised at Bharatiya Bhawan under the direction of Ratna Asthana on Friday. A cultural event was also organised. The venue was decked up with colourful lights, flowers and balloons. Rachna Srivastava sang 'Gajanan ji, ghar aao...' Rita Manral 'Arre dwar paalon...', Ruby Gupta 'Ae dil-e-bekaraar...' Neelam Gupta recited a poem on love. Shweta Manral presented 'Mera babu chhalchhal...' while Garima Srivastava sang 'Baharan baharan...' Academy's patron Shubhra Asthana said that Hartalika Teej is celebrated on the third day of Shukla Paksha of Bhadrpada month on the day of Hasta Nakshatra. According to her, this festival is meant to unite the basic unit of society, the family.

दयानंद गैल्स कॉलेज, सिविल लाइन्स, कानपुर
आवश्यक सूचना
 महाविद्यालय में तृतीय श्रेणी कर्मचारी- प्रयोगशाला सहायक (रसायन विज्ञान) के रिक्त पद के प्रति चयन/नियुक्ति के संबंध में दि. पायोनियर समाचार पत्र में दिनांक 06.09.2024 में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन में टंकण वृत्तिवश साक्षात्कार का समय नहीं प्रकाशित हो सका। साक्षात्कार का समय प्रातः 11:00 निर्धारित है, शेष प्रकाशित विवरण पुरवित। अतः उक्त प्रकाशित विज्ञापन को इस सीमा तक संशोधित माना जाये।
 गौरवेंद्र स्वर्ण, सचिव-प्रबन्ध समिति

BOY HURT IN WOLF ATTACK

Bahraich (PTI): An eight-year-old boy was injured in a wolf attack while playing outside his home in the Mahsi tehsil here, his family alleged on Friday. The boy has suffered injuries, including some on his face, and has been hospitalized, a government doctor said.

KANPUR VIDYA MANDIR MAHILA MAHAVIDYALAYA

7/147, SWAROOPNAGAR, KANPUR-208002
WANTED
One Routine Clerk : Minimum Educational Qualification, Age Limit, Pay Scale and Allowances will be according to the First Statute of C.S.J.M. University and U.P. Government Rules. Knowledge of Computer is essential. Application from available at the college office on payment of Rs. 500/- (Cash). Application forms duly filled alongwith all self attested documents in 3 copies must reach to the Secretary upto 21st September, 2024.
 Dr. Poonam Vij Principal Dr. D.C. Gupta Secretary

Two more held by STF in RO/ARO paper leak case

Lucknow (PNS): Sleuths of the Special Task Force of Uttar Pradesh claimed to have arrested two more members of the gang which leaked the review officers (RO)/assistant review officers (ARO) exam paper.

In an official communique on Friday, the STF said that two members of the gang named Sanjay Singh Kushwaha and Kameshwar Nath Maurya were arrested on Thursday. The paper of the RO/ARO exam to be held on February 11, 2024 was leaked. The mastermind of the gang which leaked the paper has already been arrested. A Scorpio, mobile phone and Rs 3,500 in cash have been recovered from the arrested accused. Both the accused are residents of Prayagraj. The STF was tipped off by an informer on Thursday that two active members of the paper leak gang, Kameshwar Nath Maurya and Sanjay Singh Kushwaha, were sitting in a black Scorpio parked on the road behind Ghosh Sweet House in Prayagraj. On this information, the STF team reached the spot and arrested both the accused. During interrogation, the accused disclosed that Rajiv Nayan Mishra alias Rahul and Ravi Atri were the masterminds of the gang which leaked the paper of RO/ARO Exam-2023 and Constable Recruitment Exam-2023 held on February 11.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Original Sale Deed dated 20-03-1976, executed by Mr. Vinod Chandra Khare in favour of Mr. Babu, registered at Book No. 1 Jld 2245, Pages 151-159 at Serial No.804 dated 20-03-1976, with Chief Sub Registrar, Lucknow and Original sale deed dated 10-02-1967, executed by Mr. Lalit Pathak in favour of Mr. Vinod Chandra Khare registered at Book No. 1 Jld 1984, Pages 73-75 at Serial No. 2372 dated 10-02-1967, with Chief Sub Registrar, Lucknow regarding House No. 268/64/02 (G15), Constituted On Plot No. 8, Measuring 2450 Sq.Ft. Situated at Tik Nagar (Old Mohalla - Paschim Viharana), Ward- Kundari Rababganj, District-Lucknow Now Owned by Mr. Thakur Das, Mr. Ramesh Kumar and Mr. Govind Kumar, has been lost at Raabaganj Market, by Mr. Govind Kumar on 20/07/2024 around 6 to 6:29 P.M. while going to shop for getting its photocopy. Now, above mentioned property is getting mortgage with Punjab National Bank Housing Ltd., Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Bank against loan. If anyone finds it please return to under sign or if any person or financial institution has any interest or objection contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection with relevant document, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. LAW VERITAS NORTH (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. D- 272, Second Floor, Prakash Tower, Vibhuti Khand, Gornji Nagar, Lucknow. Pin-226011, Mobile No. 0522-3519136.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
 Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330, 1st Floor, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpurj, Kanpur - 12
DEMAND NOTICE Branch : Birhana Road, Kanpur
 Here by this is to inform that under named borrower has not repaid principal and interest thereon of the loan. Therefore the loan become NPA on below Dated. A notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 was issued at last known address, which was returned undelivered. Therefore we again inform to under named borrower/ Guarantor by this public notice to repay the loan amount due including interest and other expenses as mentioned in this notice within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice otherwise bank will take action u/section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002.
 The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets, that after publication of public auction/inviting quotation/tender/ private treaty your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.
Name and Address of Borrower / Guarantor and Security agreement with brief description of securities/N.P.A. Date & Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice
Borrower : Smt. Priya W/o Shri Deepak Kumar, R/o : S.S. 212, Barra-7, Barra, Kanpur Nagar.
Property : Land and Building Situated at House No. 334, Block-Mini LIG, Scheme Jarauli-II, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Priya W/o Shri Deepak Kumar, Area : 36.75 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : House No. ML-352, South : 3 Mtr. Road & M.L. Park, East : House No. ML-335, West : House No. ML-328, 329 & 330, N.P.A. Date : 08-01-2024 *Demand Notice Date : 28-08-2024
 Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 19,93,080.83 + Intt. +Others Charges
Date : 06-09-2024 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer

Rajnath lauds India's rise in global prestige, eco growth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded India's swift rise in international prestige and economic growth.

Addressing a gathering of senior residents and party workers at a school in Lucknow on Friday, Singh emphasised that India's global standing has improved rapidly, with many countries eager to form alliances with it. Singh expressed his desire to engage directly with the public rather than merely delivering formal speeches. He shared his approach of fostering dialogue by arranging small group meetings with party workers and residents. "I requested the party workers to organise interactions with small groups of people so that I could establish direct contact with them. Although I rely on party workers for information about local issues, I make a conscious effort to address them personally," Singh stated.

Reflecting on his achievements as an MP, Singh highlighted his initiatives to tackle traffic congestion in Lucknow.

He credited the construction of a 104-km, eight-lane ring road as a significant measure to alleviate traffic issues.

Additionally, Singh reported that 12 flyovers have already been constructed, work is ongoing on 13 more, and there are proposals for five additional flyovers in the city. "These infrastructure developments are crucial for improving traffic flow and enhancing the city's connectivity," he noted. Singh emphasised the importance of maintaining credibility and avoiding false assurances. "Since becoming an MP at the age of 26, I have been very cautious about my promises. There is often a gap between what politicians say and what is delivered, which can lead to a crisis of credibility. I strive to make only those promises that



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh offers prayers at Khatu Shyam temple in Lucknow on Friday. PTI

I am sure I can fulfill," he said. Discussing further developmental work, Singh highlighted several projects aimed at improving public amenities. "We have introduced gyms in parks to promote public health alongside urban development. My goal is to ensure that all well-maintained parks have gym facilities, contributing to the overall well-being of residents," he added. Singh also lauded the establishment of the BrahMos missile production unit in Lucknow, viewing it as a significant milestone for both the city and India's defence sector. "This development underscores India's progress in the defence field. The country is making a notable impact economically, especially in the post-COVID era. Our ability to manage the economy effectively during these challenging times is commendable," he

remarked. On addressing specific issues raised during the meeting, Singh mentioned the underpass project in Sadar. He informed the gathering that he had already discussed the matter with the railway minister and that land inspection for the project had been completed. Additionally, he noted that an underpass at Awadh Crossing had been approved. Singh acknowledged the challenges faced in development projects, particularly objections from residents, which had delayed the construction of some flyovers. However, he assured that solutions would be sought to address these issues.

He also provided updates on other infrastructure projects, including the Lucknow-Kanpur elevated road, which he said would be completed within ten months, reducing travel time to

45 minutes. Regarding railway station improvements, Singh praised the development at Gomti Nagar station and other ongoing projects. "The progress at Gomti Nagar railway station is exceptionally, and the work at Transportnagar and Utretthiya stations is proceeding well. We also plan to start work on a second entry at Charbagh railway station soon," he stated. Finally, Singh addressed the sensitive issue of relocating residents for development work. He acknowledged the difficulties involved but emphasised the necessity of finding alternatives. "Even though removing a person's home for development is challenging, we must make alternative arrangements to ensure progress," he said. For issues related to waterlogging, he advised residents to contact the mayor for assistance.

Gorakhpur to have forestry college: Yogi

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, instructed the Forest department to set up a forestry college in Gorakhpur.

The college will offer degree and diploma courses tailored to the needs of the Forest department, providing youth with job opportunities in various forestry roles. This initiative aims to enhance forestry development and forest conservation.

During the inauguration of the world's first conservation and breeding centre for red-headed vultures, the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur forest division, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath commended the efforts of the officers and employees who contributed to the development of this groundbreaking project. He emphasised that true development must prioritise the preservation of nature and the environment to ensure sustainability. He cautioned against development that harms natural ecosystems, noting its short-lived and harmful effects.

Recalling the story of Jatayu, the King of Vultures, from the Ramayana, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath noted, "The population of vultures, vital protectors of the environment, has drastically declined due to the harmful effects of pesticides. The new conservation centre, a pioneering effort not just for Uttar Pradesh or India but globally, aims to address this issue." He also expressed satisfaction that members of the Vantangi community have been employed as caretakers at the centre, underscoring the collective responsibility to protect nature and its creatures.

Chief Minister Yogi greeted everyone on the auspicious occasion of Hartalika Teej and emphasised that the inauguration of the Jatayu Conservation Centre is a tribute to the nation's Vedic and mythological heritage. "Jatayu, the King of Vultures, revered as the first martyr of the Ramayana era, sacrificed himself to uphold righteousness and honour. Upon hearing Sita's sorrowful cries, Jatayu recognised her as the beloved wife of Shri Ram. As a friend of King Dasharath, Jatayu fought unarmed against Ravana to uphold the values of friendship and the dignity of women, ultimately sacrificing his life in the



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of 'Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre' in Gorakhpur. PTI

process," Yogi pointed out. To honour Jatayu's legacy, his grand statue has been installed in front of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The newly established Jatayu Conservation Centre further commemorates his memory and contributions.

Chief Minister Yogi highlighted the government's dedication to environmental protection, noting that Uttar Pradesh has become the first state globally to achieve the target of planting 200 crore saplings in seven years. This remarkable accomplishment, in contrast with the previous era of deforestation, is a testament to our commitment to preserving nature for future generations, he added.

The chief minister stressed the importance of this achievement, especially in the face of climate change, which has led to unpredictable weather patterns and extensive damage to agriculture and livestock due to plastic waste. He stated, "On one hand, we are focusing on increasing tree plantation to protect the environment, and on the other, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, 12 crore women across the country have received free LPG connections. In Uttar Pradesh alone, 1.86 crore women have benefited from this initiative, reducing smoke and safeguarding the environment. The government's support does not end there. It continues to provide these households with free LPG during Holi and Diwali, ensuring their comfort and safety during these festive times." Chief Minister Yogi further emphasised that forests provide oxygen and combat climate change. Efforts include designat-

ing 100-year-old trees as heritage, creating wetlands, bird sanctuaries and tiger reserves, and enhancing forest coverage. These initiatives have led to the resurgence of wild animals and the visibility of dolphins in rivers, reflecting the success of these environmental conservation efforts, he added.

Chief Minister Yogi provided an in-depth overview of the progress in Uttar Pradesh and Gorakhpur. He noted that Uttar Pradesh is experiencing rapid advancement across various sectors. The state is seeing significant infrastructure improvements with the construction of highways, expansion of railways, and the development of metro systems, enhancing public transport. Air connectivity is also being strengthened, creating new jobs and employment opportunities. Yogi emphasised that Gorakhpur is not left behind as a new UP emerges within a new India. The city has seen the establishment of a fertiliser factory and AIMS, and the services at BRD Medical College have significantly improved. Gorakhpur is also connected with a network of four- and six-lane roads. The city's attractions, including the zoo and Ramgarh Taal, are drawing tourists from afar, and the improved road lighting is capturing everyone's attention. On this occasion, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Forest, Environment and Zoo Dr Arun Kumar Saxena, MP Ravi Kishan Shukla, MLA Fateh Bahadur Singh, Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Zoo KP Malik, Mayor Dr Manglesh Srivastava, MLA

Vipin Singh, Dr Vimlesh Paswan, Pradeep Shukla, MLC and BJP state vice-president Dr Dharmendra Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Environment) Manoj Kumar Singh, State Commission for Women's Vice-Chairperson Charu Chaudhary, former MLA of Faenda Bajrang Singh and others were present. During his visit, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath toured the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre, inspecting its facilities and enquiring about its operations. He examined every section of the centre and observed the Jatayu vulture housed in the enclosure. Divisional Forest Officer and Zoo Director Vikas Yadav provided detailed information about the centre throughout the visit. The chief minister had laid the foundation stone for the Jatayu Conservation Centre on October 7, 2020. While the legacy of red-headed vulture Jatayu is well-known from the Ramayana period, environmental threats have endangered its descendants. The Yogi government has committed to addressing this crisis by establishing the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Campierganj within the Gorakhpur forest division.

The Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre aims to increase the population of red-headed vultures and plays a significant role in promoting eco-tourism. The centre is expected to attract a significant number of tourists by providing a unique opportunity for visitors to observe these endangered species.

CM: Don't worry about treatment expenses; govt to cover them

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assured those seeking financial aid for the treatment of serious illnesses at the Janata Darshan, not to worry about expenses and receive care at the best hospitals. "The government will cover all expenses incurred for the treatment," he stated.

On Friday morning, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met around 300 individuals at the Janata Darshan held at Gorakhnath temple. He instructed officials to promptly complete and submit the estimates for those without Ayushman cards who require financial assistance from the government for medical treatment. He emphasised that adequate financial support will be provided to every person in need from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund. Offering emotional support to a woman who became emotional during their interaction, the chief minister said, "Obtain the estimate from the doctor, and the government will cover the treatment costs."



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during Janata Darshan programme in Gorakhpur on Friday. PTI

He also enquired about the Ayushman card status of every person present and instructed officials to ensure that every eligible person receives their Ayushman card. As usual, many people came to Janata Darshan seeking financial assistance for the treatment of serious illnesses. He listened to their concerns individually, handed their applications to the relevant officials and assured them that their issues would be resolved. He reassured everyone that there is no need for

worry or panic as every problem will be addressed. The chief minister instructed the officials to approach public issues with full seriousness and sensitivity, ensuring that they are resolved promptly, effectively and to the satisfaction of the people so that no one faces difficulties. "A compassionate approach should be taken with every individual, resolving their issues and ensuring their satisfaction. There should be no negligence in this process," the chief minister emphasised.

The chief minister also stated that strict legal action should be taken against anyone illegally occupying land or bullying people. In resolving family disputes, priority should be given to bringing both parties together for dialogue, he stressed.

Meanwhile during Janata Darshan on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was deeply moved after meeting an elderly woman and hearing about her difficulties. The woman, distressed by the neglect from her family, shared with the chief minister that she is unable to endure the pain caused by her family at this stage of her life. The chief minister asked her what she desired, and the elderly woman expressed a wish to spend her remaining years in a religious city. In response, Chief Minister Yogi said, "Mayi! Tell me whether you prefer Vrindavan, Kashi or any other place. We will make all the arrangements for you." The chief minister instructed the officials to ensure that the elderly woman is treated with respect and that all necessary arrangements for her stay and needs are made according to her wishes.

Dhankhar to inaugurate Sainik School in Gkp today

Gorakhpur (PNS): The vision of patriotism and national pride that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath nurtured during his tenure as a Member of Parliament has been fully realised with the establishment of a Sainik School in Gorakhpur. It is the first Sainik School in eastern Uttar Pradesh and the second to be run by the Uttar Pradesh Sainik School Society. Set on a 49-acre campus within the premises of the fertiliser factory, this ₹176-crore institution marks a new chapter in the city's achievements. Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar will formally inaugurate the school on Saturday at 10:30 a.m., with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hosting the event. Extensive preparations have been made under the chief minister's supervision to welcome Vice President Dhankhar.

This Sainik School has been a flagship project of Chief Minister Yogi, and its foundation stone was laid on 23 July 2021. Built with the mission of "Yuvaan ko Siksha, Desh ki Raksha", the school offers residential education for boys and girls from classes 6 to 12. The first batch of 84 boys and 40 girls, admitted to classes 6 and 9 through an entrance examination, began their studies on July 1. The campus is divided into separate areas for boys and girls, with an administrative block that reflects ancient Indian culture and tradition. Additionally, several sports courts and grounds have been developed to support the students' physical education. The Sainik School in Gorakhpur holds special significance for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Even after laying the foundation stone, he made several visits to personally inspect the progress of its construction. By establishing this institution, he has created a strong platform for the talented students of eastern UP to pursue careers in the armed forces.

Land linked to Pervez Musharraf auctioned for ₹1.38 crore

Baghpat (PTI): A two-hectare land parcel here falling under enemy property and linked to Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf has been auctioned for ₹1.38 crore, officials said on Friday. The property is located in Kotana village, Baraut tehsil of Baghpat and was declared as enemy property in 2010. The classification of enemy property pertains to assets owned by Pakistani nationals in India which are managed by the Custodian Of Enemy Property, a department under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Musharraf, a former Pakistan military chief who seized power after a coup in the country in 1999, died in 2023. He was born in Delhi in pre-Partition India. Baraut's Sub-Divisional Magistrate Amar Verma confirmed Musharraf's grandfa-

ther lived in Kotana. "As far as the former Pakistan president is concerned, he was born in Delhi. He never came here. These people have joint land here." "Former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf's father Syed Musharrafuddin and mother Zarin Begum never lived in the village but his uncle Humayun lived here for a long time," Verma told PTI. He said there is also a house in the village where Humayun lived before Independence. In 2010, this piece of land was declared enemy property and its auction was finalised at 10:30 pm on Thursday, he added. The auctioned land, initially valued at ₹39.06 lakh, fetched over ₹1.38 crore and the proceeds from the sale will be deposited in the MHA department's account, a senior Baghpat administration official said.

15 die as bus collides with Tata Magic in Hathras

Lucknow (PNS): In a tragic accident, 15 people were killed and more than a dozen injured when a Tata Magic vehicle and a Janarth AC bus of Aligarh depot of Roadways going to Dehradun collided on the Agra-Aligarh National Highway in Hathras on Friday evening. District Magistrate of Hathras, Ashish Kumar, who visited the spot, however, confirmed 12 deaths. Among the dead are four children, four women and seven men. The injured were shifted to hospital where the condition of five of them was stated to be critical by the doctors. Meanwhile, seeing the seriousness of the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief, saying the loss of lives in the Hathras road accident is extremely sad. "My condolences are with the grieving families of the deceased," he said and direct-

ed the district administration officials to provide proper treatment to the injured. Top officials and relief teams immediately reached the accident site and shifted the injured to hospital. Kumar also visited the hospital to enquire about the condition of the injured. The accident took place near village Meetai on the highway under the Chandapa police station of Hathras. Immediately after receiving the information, District Magistrate Ashish Kumar and Superintendent of Police Nipun Agarwal reached the spot. Police are investigating the reasons for the accident. The people in the Tata Magic were returning from a Terahvin ceremony. It is being said that the accident happened as the bus driver tried to overtake a vehicle and collided with the Tata Magic coming from the opposite side.

<p>यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया</p>	<p>Union Bank of India</p>	<p>Regional Office : 117/HI-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point Mumbai</p>
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)		
[Rule-8(1)]		
<p>Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement 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 a demand notice calling upon borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of account to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of dues with contractual rate of interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p>		
<p>The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him u/s. 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for an Amount and Interest thereon.</p>		
<p>We also wish to draw kind attention of all concerned towards section 13(8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.</p>		
Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date		
<p>Borrower : Shri Uday Bir Singh S/o Shri Shankar Singh, R/o : J-293, Mini MIG, Awasthi Vikas Yojna-1, Keshavpuram, Kalyanpur, Kanpur Nagar.</p> <p>Demand Notice Date: 18-05-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 03.09.2024</p> <p>Property : Residential House No. J-293, Sector-J, Scheme No. 1, Keshav Puram, Kalyanpur, Tehsil & Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Uday Bir Singh S/o Shri Shankar Singh. Area : 75 Sq. Mtr. • Bound North : 6 Mtr. Wide Road, South : House No. J-285, Mr. P.K. Shukla, East : House No. J-293/1 Mr. Suresh Singh, West : House No. J-292 Mr. Ashwani Kumar.</p> <p>Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 55,37,516.73 + Intt. + Others Charges</p>		
<p>Date : 06-09-2024 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India</p>		

<p>Circle SASTRA Center (Lucknow) PNB STC Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar (opp. Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital Gate) Lucknow-226010 E-Mail: cs8272@pnb.co.in Mob 9775654253</p>	<p>Together for the better</p>										
POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY [under Rule 8(1)]											
<p>The Authorized Officer of Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & 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 on the date mentioned against account and stated hereunder calling upon the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor/Legal hair of guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being together with further interest at contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. within sixty days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise to powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned hereunder. The borrower's / guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provision of Sub-Section (8) of section - 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor/Legal hair of guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amount and interest thereon. Details of the mortgaged Properties of which the possession had been taken is as follows.</p>											
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Branch</th> <th>Details of the Mortgaged Property</th> <th>Date of Demand-notice</th> <th>Date of Possession-notice</th> <th>Amt. Due as per Demand Notice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>M/s Jugal Steels Pvt. Ltd. Address 1, 11, Anand Chowk, Deharadoun- 248001, Address 2, UPSIDC, Industrial Area, Road No. 4, Jagdishpur Sultanpur- 227809, Address 3: 11/A Kalidas Road Deharadoun- 248001, Address 4: B-44 Sector C, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow- 226007, Address 5: 3rd Floor, Prince Complex, Nawal Kishore Road, Lucknow-226001, Mr. Alok Goel, Mrs. Sneha Lata Goel, Mr. Anup Kumar Goel, Mr. Raj Kumar Goel Address of all: B-44, Sector C, Nirala Nagar Lucknow 226007 Branch: Indira Nagar (149620), Lucknow</td> <td>All that part and parcel of property situated at plot no. 662 Situated at Mahuva Bojh Mazra Kathaura, Pagana inhauna, Tehsil Mahrajganj, Distt Raibareilly measuring 2 Bigha 16 Biswa 2 Biswans in the name of Mr Alok Goel S/o Late Sri B. G. Goel. Boundaries (As per Deed) – East – Plot Ram Deo, West – Plot Fateh Mohd, North – Open Land, South – Open Land</td> <td>28.05.2024</td> <td>05.09.2024</td> <td>Rs. 5,97,95,599.00 as on 31.03.2024 + interest w.e.f. 01.04.2024 & other expenses</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Branch	Details of the Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand-notice	Date of Possession-notice	Amt. Due as per Demand Notice	M/s Jugal Steels Pvt. Ltd. Address 1, 11, Anand Chowk, Deharadoun- 248001, Address 2, UPSIDC, Industrial Area, Road No. 4, Jagdishpur Sultanpur- 227809, Address 3: 11/A Kalidas Road Deharadoun- 248001, Address 4: B-44 Sector C, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow- 226007, Address 5: 3 rd Floor, Prince Complex, Nawal Kishore Road, Lucknow-226001, Mr. Alok Goel, Mrs. Sneha Lata Goel, Mr. Anup Kumar Goel, Mr. Raj Kumar Goel Address of all: B-44, Sector C, Nirala Nagar Lucknow 226007 Branch: Indira Nagar (149620), Lucknow	All that part and parcel of property situated at plot no. 662 Situated at Mahuva Bojh Mazra Kathaura, Pagana inhauna, Tehsil Mahrajganj, Distt Raibareilly measuring 2 Bigha 16 Biswa 2 Biswans in the name of Mr Alok Goel S/o Late Sri B. G. Goel. Boundaries (As per Deed) – East – Plot Ram Deo, West – Plot Fateh Mohd, North – Open Land, South – Open Land	28.05.2024	05.09.2024	Rs. 5,97,95,599.00 as on 31.03.2024 + interest w.e.f. 01.04.2024 & other expenses	<p>Date: 07.09.2024 Place: Lucknow Authorized Officer</p>
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Team assesses effectiveness of filaria campaign

Kanpur (PNS): As part of the campaign for mass administration of drugs to eliminate filaria in Uttar Pradesh, a team of national experts, including entomologists, led by Dr Tanu Jain, Director, National Centre for Vector-borne Disease Control

(NCVBDC), did a first-hand assessment of the effectiveness of the campaign during the three-day monitoring tour of Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat. In the case of the former, the most endemic and impacted blocks are Ghatampur,

Kalyanpur, Sarsaul, Bhitargaon and Shivrajpur. Starting from Gangaganj village of Sarsaul block of Kanpur Nagar district to Raipur and Duari villages and primary health centre in Sarwankhera block in Kanpur

Dehat, the national monitoring team went door to door, to assess whether the villagers residing in filaria endemic areas have consumed the drugs and are aware of its beneficial effects. Alongside, the director interacted with the Principal and

Senior Faculty of GSV Medical College to deliberate about the consequent monitoring of the MDA campaign by the medical college and their involvement in undertaking hydrocele surgery for the scores of filaria patient afflicted with the disease.

Demand to arrest advocate's killers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The advocates of Allahabad High Court here are fuming over the Kasganj incident. The UP Bar Council on Friday has written a letter to the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in this regard and decided to go on a strike by boycotting judicial work. The Bar Council said that crimes against women are increasing continuously. On September 4, a woman advocate Mohini Tomar was brutally murdered in Kasganj. The police have not made any arrest yet due to which all the advocates are fuming. They said that after the incident of brutality with a woman doctor in Bengal, the doctor community across the country had closed the OPD to get justice for the victim. They remained on strike demanding justice. Similarly, there is anger in the advocate community regarding the Kasganj incident. The Bar Council said that until the murderers of the woman advocate are arrested and are not given the harshest punishment, all the advocates will stay away from work. The advocates have demanded from the High Court that orders be issued for the arrest of the criminals as soon as possible. Regarding the Kasganj incident, the UP Bar Council has also demanded that the government implement the Advocate Protection Act and the arrest of the murderers of the woman advocate and redressal of the problems related to the lawyers. If the demands are not met, there will be a 'satyagrah' in the court premises for two days. The next strategy of the movement will be chalked out on Monday. The advocates also decided that the movement will continue till the demands are accepted and advocates from all over the state should be requested to join the satyagrah movement peacefully.

Anger over Kasganj incident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The members of Congress Law Cell on Friday through ACM-I submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath demanding justice and rights for the advocate community. Expressing anger over the murder of a woman advocate in Kasganj, they criticised the state government for its failure to protect the lives and property of women advocates in Uttar Pradesh. They said work boycott was also done by the local advocates recently and now on this very sensitive issue related to women advocates under the leadership of the state vice-president of the Congress Law Cell Ashok Singh and district president Lokesh Kumar Singh, they handed over a memorandum to ACM-I for forwarding it to the chief minister. They demanded an assurance from the government on three important points related to the safety of advocates in future. They demanded that the culprits involved in the Kasganj murder case should be arrested immediately and a separate trial court should be set up so that punishment can be given to the murderers as soon as possible. They demanded that the family of the deceased woman advocate should be given immediate financial help of ₹50 lakh and the long-pending demand of Advocate Protection Act should be implemented as soon as possible. Former state president of Uttar Pradesh Bar Council Harishankar Singh, Ashok Singh Dadi, Ramdular Singh, city president Neha Sadab, Achhaibar Tiwari, Kamlesh Verma, Ashok Kumar, Rajiv Ram, district vice-president Ravindra Kumar and many other advocates were also present.

REWARD ANNOUNCED: The police is tightening grip on close associates of slain mafia Atiq Ahmed. After taking action against cow smuggler Mohammad Muzaffar, the police has now started action against his brothers. A reward of ₹10,000 each has been announced on the five absconding brothers of jailed block pramukh Muzaffar on Friday.

V-C: BHU has embarked on extensive infrastructure development plan

Initiative will increase hostel capacity by 5,000 students

Varanasi (PNS): Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain announced that Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has embarked on an extensive infrastructure development plan. This initiative will increase hostel capacity by 5,000 students, renovate nearly 330 housing units, revamp existing academic buildings, and modernise classrooms, laboratories, and office spaces. Speaking to faculty members at Swatantrata Bhawan here on Friday, he emphasised that the standards set by BHU have the potential to influence the entire higher education scenario across the country. He asserted that the university has a crucial role as a leading public university in India. The V-C highlighted the university's significant progress across various areas and outlined the steps needed for further advancement. He emphasised that attracting top talent, whether faculty, staff or students, must be supported by ample resources and facilities to foster an environment of excellence. Prof Jain stressed the importance of cultivating a robust culture and governance system to achieve institutional excellence at BHU. "To achieve our goals, we need skilled individuals with a positive attitude and integrity who work collaboratively towards common objectives. This requires forging partnerships with other organisations and engaging external experts", he said, emphasising the importance of diversity in both people and ideas to enhance productivity and achieve better results. In his marathon address, the V-C provided a comprehensive overview of the university's developmental initiatives. He announced that BHU has extended offers to 22 distinguished professors through its Visiting Faculty Programme, including 15 from prestigious global institutions. Over 250 faculty members have been granted ₹2.2 crore in international travel support, while 1,348 educators have utilised more than ₹14.8 crore from the Professional Development Fund under the IoE scheme. The university has also introduced a programme offering full financial support for faculty to spend a year at an interna-



tional institution abroad for research, with 10 faculty members approved so far. Additionally, 83 faculty members have participated in leadership development programmes at IIMs and IITs. In the past 15 months, nearly 500 administrative staff members have completed over 6,000 man-hours of skills training, he added. Prof Jain also outlined the university's efforts to support and develop students. He highlighted various initiatives aimed at enhancing student well-being, leadership development, and counselling services, along with new scholarships. He detailed the funding provided to students and PhD scholars, including approvals for 15 PhD scholars to conduct research at international institutions overseas and 23 to do so within India. Additionally, 203 PhD students have received financial support to present their research at international conferences. The Teach For BHU initiative has benefited 125 PhD students, while 320 Master's students have been awarded Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Internships. Since taking office as V-C, Prof Jain has prioritised support for students from underprivileged backgrounds. This commitment is reflected in the Pratidana scheme, which has led to the introduction of 300 new scholarships, each worth ₹25,000 per annum. Prof Jain has also set an ambitious goal for the university to establish over 3,500 scholarships, aiming to advance the cause of education and fulfill the vision of Mahatma. The V-C also highlighted recent improvements in several key areas: streamlining the recruitment process, simplifying administrative procedures, enhancing the responsiveness and efficiency of institutional operations, improving the university's financial health and reforming the admission process.

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Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar joins BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders on Friday. The move came after the BJD expelled Kumar for anti-party activities earlier in the day. He subsequently resigned his Rajya Sabha membership.

Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh, the party's Odisha in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar, MP Bhartruhari Mahtab and other leaders. The BJP's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, a Rajya Sabha member, was also present.

Addressing a Joint Press Conference at the BJP headquarters here, Kumar said he joined the saffron party as he was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work and his vision for making India a developed country by 2047 and Odisha a developed state by 2036.

"For me, country is first and foremost. Nation first has always been my philosophy. I lived abroad for many years and worked for organisations such as the UN (United



BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh greets former BJD Rajya Sabha Member Sujeet Kumar as the latter joins BJP in the presence of Union Minister and party leader Dharmendra Pradhan, in New Delhi, Friday, Sept. 6, 2024. The BJD on Friday expelled Kumar, who later quit his House membership, for anti-party activities. Photo by: RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

Nations) and the World Economic Forum. I returned to India in 2011 to contribute to the development of my country," he said. Kumar said he felt Odisha's Kalahandi district did not develop as it could have due to the "kind of corruption and bad policy" prevalent there.

"Several BJD leaders, including those from the district, were involved. I tried to bring this to the notice of the BJD leadership several times. But when I saw that nothing was happening, I had to take this decision (to join the

BJP)," he said. "I resigned from the Rajya Sabha membership today. I was elected to Rajya Sabha as a BJD candidate in 2020. I want to thank BJD president and former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for sending me to the Rajya Sabha," he added.

Expressing his happiness at joining the BJP, Kumar thanked party chief J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders.

"I have been an ardent admirer of Prime Minister Modi. I am glad that I am joining the

party to which he belongs... My goal is to further strengthen the BJP and contribute to the country's progress," he added. Welcoming Kumar into the BJP fold, Union Minister Pradhan said, "I am confident that he will contribute to fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of making India a developed country."

Baluni described Kumar as a very "important personality" and expressed happiness over his decision to join the BJP. "He had been a BJD Rajya Sabha member since 2020. He resigned from the Rajya Sabha today," he said.

The BJD on Friday expelled Kumar with immediate effect for anti-party activities. "He has let down the party, which sent him to the Rajya Sabha and the hopes and aspirations of the people of Kalahandi district," BJD chief Naveen Patnaik said in an order.

In a social media post, the Vice-President's secretariat said Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is also the Rajya Sabha Chairperson, had accepted Kumar's resignation from the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) with immediate effect, finding the same in conformity with Article 101 3(b) of the Constitution.

Amidst global turmoil, India needs stable Government and capable leadership: Naqvi



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said amidst the ongoing global turmoil, India or any other democracy needs a stable Government and capable leadership which can play the role of a "trouble shooter" and be a "flag bearer" of socio-economic and cultural empowerment. Addressing the "Asian Brand and Leadership Conclave 2024" organised in Haryana's Surajkund, Naqvi also said artificial intelligence does not create a "perfect leader but a proxy reader". Technology is complementary and not a compulsion to confine capability and confidence, he said.

Naqvi said that a leadership emerges after being tested in the "furnace of struggle". "Our country is a witness to numerous leaders born from struggle such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar, Deendayal Upadhyaya, Ram Manohar Lohia, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Patel, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Jai Prakash Narayan and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who not only led the country but also planted the saplings of new leadership," he said.

Naqvi said that amidst the ongoing global turmoil, India or any other democracy needs a stable Government and capable leadership which can become a "trouble shooter" and the "flag bearer" of socio-economic and cultural empowerment.

He said that the most worrying situation in any democracy is when leadership emerges from "four walls of palaces" instead of "chaurahas (crossroads) and chaupals (village meeting places)".

Naqvi said he is happy that many effective and capable leaders are emerging amidst problems and struggles in many democratic countries of the world, including India. "A few days ago, I read about a 34-year-old Democratic woman MP from America, Ocasio Cortez, whose short political journey is an example of crisis and struggles and success."

Her father died of cancer while working in a small job, her mother worked as a cleaner in people's houses to earn a living; she studied through school loan and worked as a waitress for a living. American MP Cortez, who had a challenging life, is a living example of turning struggle into resolve and resolve into success," he said. Senior JD(U) leader K C Tyagi, veteran actor Kabir Bedi, BRICS CCI Vice Chairman Sameep Shastri, BJP Maharashtra spokesperson Sagar Pandey, among others, were present at the event.



Envoys of five nations present credentials to President Murmu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday received credentials from envoys of five nations including Israel and Italy at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Those who presented their credentials were Anthony Makabo, High Commissioner of Solomon Islands, Kane Amandus, High Commissioner of the Republic of Nauru, Antonio Enrico Bartoli, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Benedikt Hoskuldsson, Ambassador of Iceland and Reuven Azar, Ambassador of the State of Israel, the President's office said in a statement.

Centre extends assistance to Andhra, Telangana for flood relief, rescue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has been extending all the requisite and timely assistance to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for flood relief and rescue efforts and an inter-ministerial central team will soon visit the affected areas in both the States, a senior officer of the Union Home Ministry said on Friday. The inter-ministerial team will make an on-the-spot assessment of the damage, the officer added.

Additional Secretary in the home ministry Sanjeev Kumar Jindal said 26 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), eight helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF), three helicopters and one Dornier aircraft of the Indian Navy have been mobilised in Andhra Pradesh for rescue and relief operations. Seven teams of the NDRF, two helicopters of the IAF have been also mobilised in Telangana, he added.

"The central government has been extending all the requisite and timely assistance to the state governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the relief and rescue efforts," Jindal said in a statement.

He said on the night of September 1, when flood affected many areas, following



a directive of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, additional NDRF teams and IAF helicopters were mobilised to assist the state governments in relief and rescue efforts.

"On the directions of the home minister, a central team of experts has been deputed for Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh) to make an on-the-spot assessment of flood management, reservoir management, issues of dam safety and making recommendations for immediate relief from the flood," Jindal said.

The NDRF teams, so far, have rescued 350 people and evacuated about 15,000 others in Andhra Pradesh and have rescued 68 people and evacuated about 3,200 others in Telangana.

The additional secretary said the inter-ministerial central team has already been consti-

tuted and it will visit the flood-affected areas in both the States shortly for making an on-the-spot assessment of the damage. The central team will make its recommendations to the home ministry for additional financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund.

The IAF and Navy helicopters have carried out 65 sorties and around 71,000 kilograms of food and relief material have been dropped for affected population in Andhra Pradesh.

The director general of the NDRF also visited Andhra Pradesh on September 2-3 to supervise rescue and relief operations, the statement said.

The rains and floods affected several districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana since weekend while the deluge has claimed 32 lives so far in Andhra Pradesh.

India, Maldives defence dialogue focuses on Indian Ocean, defence projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Maldives on Friday held a fresh round of "productive" defence dialogue with a focus on the situation in the Indian Ocean and ways to expedite implementation of ongoing defence projects.

The defence dialogue in Delhi took place nearly a month after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to the Maldives, in the first high-level trip from New Delhi after the island nation's pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu assumed office.

"The entire range of talks were productive which will advance shared interests of both the nations in near future and bring stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region," the defence ministry said on the defence dialogue.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office last November.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians.

The defence ministry said the fifth round of defence dia-



logue provided both sides with an opportunity to discuss matters related to bilateral defence cooperation. "This, inter alia, included expediting the implementation of various ongoing defence cooperation projects," it said.

India is implementing various projects in the Maldives. "The two sides also deliberated on a few other areas of common interest such as high-level exchanges and capability development projects," the ministry said.

"The aspects of participation in forthcoming bilateral military exercises were also discussed," it said. The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. The Maldivian delegation was headed by Chief of Defence Force of the Maldives National Defence Force General Ibrahim Hilmy.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male.

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee to review performance of regulatory bodies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a political storm over allegations of conflict of interest against Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has decided to review the performance of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman K C Venugopal said the Committee will take a decision on summoning Buch for examination of allegations against her.

"Rest of the things, the Committee has to take a decision," Venugopal said to questions on summoning the SEBI Chairperson before the PAC. He said members suggested various subjects, including the performance review of regulators established by the Acts of Parliament.

"Members suggested these things and we included that (in the agenda)," Venugopal said. Among the suo-moto subjects selected by the Committee are performance review of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament, reforms in banking and insurance sector, review of implementation of centrally sponsored welfare schemes, policy measures



underway for transition in the energy sector and levy and regulation of fees, tariffs, user charges on public infrastructure and other public utilities. The PAC has selected 161 subjects for examination during its tenure, in addition to the pending matters before the Committee from previous year. Buch is facing allegations of conflict of interest over the SEBI investigation into the Hindenburg Research claims against the Adani Group.

The Congress has questioned payments made to Buch made by the ICICI Bank, her former employer, after she became a whole time member of SEBI, and sought an independent probe into the matter.

The PAC will hold its next meeting on September 10 when representatives of the Jal Shakti Ministry will brief the panel on the 'Performance Audit on National Rural Drinking Water Programme (Jal Jeevan Mission)' based on a CAG report.

The PAC will also audit "fees, tariffs, user charges and so on" levied at public infrastructure such as airports. Currently, seven Indian airports are managed by the Adani Group. The PAC is responsible for auditing the revenue and expenditure of the Government.

The other subjects include review of the performance audit on construction of border roads along the India-China border by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and cross-subsidisation of passenger and other coaching services by the Railways. Meanwhile, leveling more conflict of interest allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress on Friday claimed that she received rental income from an entity affiliated with a company that the Capital markets regulator was investigating for various cases, including that of insider trading.

U-Win to be launched for permanent digital record of vaccination, medicines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Online vaccine management portal U-Win will be launched later this month to maintain a permanent digital record of vaccination and medicines of more than three crore pregnant women and almost 2.7 crore children born annually, Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said on Friday.

The U-Win platform, a replication of the COVID-19 vaccine management system Co-WIN, is being run in a pilot mode in all States and Union territories except for West Bengal and captures every vaccination event of all pregnant women and children under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). Speaking at the national conference on "Universal Access to Healthcare: Digital Solutions" held here, Chandra said that one of the goals of the nation-

al digital mission is to increase the reach of healthcare services and reduce the disparity between rural and urban areas. The health secretary highlighted the success of the Co-WIN and Aarogya Setu apps in helping to deliver more than 220 crore vaccinations across the country.

He stated that the Union government wants to replicate the same model through its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. Chandra also highlighted that there are already many portals operating across different segments like telemedicine, TeleManas and eRaktKosh, and the effort is to combine them in a single portal. He also informed about the upcoming launch of the U-Win portal later this month which will keep a permanent digital record of vaccination and medicines of more than three crore pregnant women and mothers and almost 2.7 crore children born annually. Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, who inaugurated the conference, highlighted that transformative changes are taking place across the health sector in India.

Fight against Multi-Drug-Resistant TB gets boost with Centre's nod for BPaLM regimen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's fight against Multi-Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) has received new ammunition with the Centre giving nod for the shorter and safer BPaLM regimen (bedaquiline, pretomanid, linezolid, and optionally moxifloxacin), with a target to eliminate the deadly disease by 2025, five years ahead of the global goal. While traditional MDR-TB regimen can last up to 20 months with severe side effects, BPaLM course can cure the drug-resistant TB in just six months with a high treatment success rate," said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

The regimen is a key component of the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP). Pretomanid has earlier been approved and licensed for use in India by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The BPaLM regimen has been proven to be safe, more effective and a quicker treatment option than the previous MDR-TB treatment procedure, a senior official from the Ministry said. "India's 75,000 drug-resistant



TB patients will now be able to avail the benefit of this shorter regimen," the official added. The Department of Health and Family Welfare, in consultation with the Department of Health Research ensured the validation of this new TB treatment regimen that witnessed a thorough review of evidence by in-country subject experts. A country-wide time-bound rollout plan of the BPaLM regimen is being prepared by the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in consultation with the States and UTs.

According to Soumya Swaminathan, principal advisor, NTEP, "the move should improve treatment outcomes and help thousands of patients." As per her statement on Social Media X posted a few days ago: "India is getting ready to roll out BPaLM regimen for all

M/XDRTB patients — training to begin this month. This should improve treatment outcomes & help thousands of patients. Scaling up NAAT coverage will be an essential element of the strategy." Leena Menhane, South Asia head of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), called it a significant development in the fight against drug-resistant TB. She noted that the availability of generic bedaquiline has cut down treatment costs, with the BPaLM regimen priced at USD 426 (USD 130 for bedaquiline, USD 238 for pretomanid, USD 31 for linezolid, and USD 27 for moxifloxacin). "This development marks a pivotal moment for those with drug-resistant TB, as India transitions to the more effective, safer, and shorter BPaLM regimen, which is likely to improve cure rates significantly."

BJP MLA in tears after being denied ticket

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, who was denied a party ticket for the upcoming Haryana polls, on Friday burst into tears during an interview.

In a video viral on social media, Shashi Ranjan Parmar can be seen being asked about his name being excluded from the candidate list for the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections. Parmar was presenting his claim for a BJP candidature from Bhiwani and Tosham in the state. "I had thought that my name would be on the list," the leader says before he chokes, breaks down and starts weeping.

The interviewer tries to comfort the leader by saying that the party will see his worth and so will his constituency. But the former MLA continues to cry. "I had assured people that my name was being considered. What do I do now? I am helpless," the wailing MLA can be heard saying.

UNDP Resident Representative presents credentials to Ministry of External Affairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Dr. Angela Lusigi, the newly appointed Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in India, has officially presented her credentials to the Ministry of External Affairs.

In a meeting with Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Lusigi expressed her gratitude for India's enduring partnership with UNDP and commended the country's leadership in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Lusigi, who took office on 8 July, highlighted India's pivotal role in driving global progress toward the 2030 Agenda. "India's strides in sustainable development, particularly in public healthcare, climate action, and inclusive growth, are exemplary. The nation's innovative use of digital technology to enhance health service delivery and expand social protection, which UNDP is proud to support, is ensuring that no one is left behind," she said. During the ceremony, Dr. Lusigi also highlighted the



strong interest from countries in learning from India's example in areas such as SDG localization and acceleration, SDG Finance and South-South Cooperation. She reaffirmed UNDP's dedication to supporting these efforts through the UNDP Country Programme 2023-27, which is tailored to bolster India's National priorities and global commitments. The UNDP Country Programme 2023-27 is intricately aligned with India's Fifteen Year Vision (2017-2032), Seven Year Strategy (2017-2024), and Three Year Action Agenda (2017-2020), as well as the Government of India-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-27 and UNDP's Global Strategic Plan 2022-25.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India the peacemaker

With Putin now suggesting that India could mediate in peace talks, India's role on the global stage continues to grow

The Russia-Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, with no clear end in sight. What began as a territorial conflict over Ukraine's desire to align itself more closely with Western institutions like NATO and the European Union has turned into a prolonged military engagement with Russia, leading to mass displacement, thousands of casualties, and significant global economic disruptions. In recent months, efforts to find a peaceful resolution have gained renewed attention. One potential pathway for peace emerged when Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that countries like India, China, and Brazil could act as mediators in peace talks. This proposal points to a potential role for these major Global South nations in shaping the future of negotiations. Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent remarks on peace efforts are significant, especially in light of earlier failed negotiations. In the initial weeks of the war, a preliminary agreement was reached between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators during talks in Istanbul.



Now, Putin suggests that this could serve as a basis for future discussions, with mediation from nations like India, China, and Brazil, which have historically maintained neutral or balanced positions in the conflict. These nations, particularly India, could bring fresh perspectives to the table. India's long-standing policy of non-alignment and its diplomatic clout as a leader among Global South countries make it a credible mediator in a highly polarised international arena. India has consistently advocated for peace in the ongoing conflict, calling for both Russia and Ukraine to engage in dialogue. Prime Minister Modi's diplomatic stance has been underscored by his visit to Ukraine last month. During this historic visit, PM Modi met with Zelenskyy, who proposed that India should host the second Ukraine peace summit. This proposal, Zelenskyy said, was due to India's position as a major democracy and its efforts to remain neutral in the conflict. India's position as a potential mediator offers several advantages. First, India's diplomatic relations with both Russia and Ukraine have been strong over the years. Second, India's neutrality in the conflict positions it as an acceptable mediator to both sides, which have faced varying degrees of global isolation and support. For Russia, India remains a crucial partner, and for Ukraine, India's growing global influence makes it a key player in any future peace talks. Third, India's active participation in global multilateral forums, including the G20 and BRICS, gives it a platform to influence discussions on peace efforts at a broader level. While the potential for peace talks with India, China, and Brazil as mediators is promising, challenges remain. The conflict has seen entrenched positions from both sides, with Ukraine's territorial integrity at the center of any resolution. The success of such mediation will ultimately depend on the willingness of both Russia and Ukraine to make compromises and find common ground for peace.

While, early this year, Nikki Haley, the first woman governor of South Carolina, when encountered the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, she was dismissed as a 'token' candidate, and her achievements hardly got any attention. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had to undergo similar ordeals with apprehensions about her health and integrity, and even for her political ambitions. In 2008, Sarah Palin wasn't spared, she was constantly jeered at for her looks, personal life and intelligence, while her policy positions and records were overlooked. While only a relatively small share of the US adults (18%) consider that it is important that a woman be elected as president in their lifetime, most (64%) say this is not too or not at all important or that the president's gender doesn't matter. Overall, 62% of Americans believe that the media focuses too much on the physical appearance of women contesting for high elected offices, and there is not enough attentiveness to their views on key policy matters (Pew

PICTALK



Giant panda cub Katyusha, the first panda bear born in Russia plays with her mother at a zoo in Moscow. AP/PTI

The death of window shopping: How e-commerce stole the joy

Spontaneity has given way to algorithms, and the sensory delights of browsing have been replaced by sterile scrolling

Once upon a time, I was a passionate window-shopper. I could spend hours gawking in a mall or a market, viewing and trying out things I didn't need, but often ended up purchasing. Not any longer. During my latest visit to a mall this week after several months, I realised how my appetite for browsing and buying had nearly died. Our family now happily gets everything delivered to our doorstep: from Apple to Android phones. Shopping had long been a cherished ritual, offering an experience that transcended mere transactions. It tapped into emotions and senses, creating memories, fostering relationships, and offering solace in unexpected ways. Yet, the rise of e-commerce has drastically altered this landscape, leading to the erosion of the joys of traditional shopping. The sensory overload of colours, smells, and sounds has been replaced by the sterile, one-dimensional world of online shopping. We now scroll through product images on a screen, devoid of any real human interaction. Shopping was



once an opportunity to step out of our daily routines, to wander through aisles with no particular destination in mind, and to let our imaginations run wild as we browsed items we didn't know we needed until we saw them. This spontaneity is all but lost in the algorithm-driven world of e-commerce, where every click is tracked and every recommendation is based on past behaviour, leaving little room for surprise or serendipity. Moreover, shopping in physical stores offered a tactile connection to the products we bought. We could feel the fabric of a garment, test the weight of a book in our hands, or smell the aroma of freshly baked bread before making a decision. These sensory experiences are deeply rooted in our memo-

ries and play a significant role in our attachment to the items we purchase. Online shopping, in contrast, offers a purely visual experience, reducing our interaction with products to mere images on a screen. The absence of this tangible connection often leads to a lack of emotional attachment to the items we buy, turning shopping into a mechanical process rather than an enjoyable pastime. In the past, shopping was as much about the experience as it was about the purchase. The thrill of discovery, the joy of window shopping, and the satisfaction of finding that perfect item after hours of searching were all part of the journey. However, it would be unfair to dismiss the advantages of e-commerce entirely. The convenience of shopping from the comfort of our homes and the ability to compare prices across multiple retailers are undeniable benefits. For those with busy schedules or physical limitations, online shopping has been a game-changer, providing opportunities that would have been unimaginable a few decades ago. Yet, as we embrace these con-

veniences, we must also consider what we are losing in the process. The act of shopping is not just a means to an end but a valuable experience in itself. It is a chance to connect with our communities, indulge our senses, and find joy in the unexpected. As we move towards a digital future, it is worth considering how we can preserve these intangible aspects of shopping that bring richness and depth to our lives. In the end, the choice is not about rejecting technology or clinging to the past, but about finding a balance that allows us to enjoy the best of both worlds. We can find ways to reintroduce the joy of discovery, the pleasure of the tactile, and the warmth of human connection into our shopping experiences, even as we click our way through the digital aisles. In my case, I attribute my loss of interest to a feeling of satiety, a recognition that I have more than I need and it's time for me to stop indulging in senseless accumulation of material things. Period. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Sexism in politics: The unfinished battle

The recent disparaging remarks by Donald Trump against Kamala Harris have once again spotlighted the rampant sexism entrenched in politics



ARCHANA DATTA

The Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's recent disparaging comments against her Democratic rival, Vice President Harris about her 'appearance', re-established the fact that 'sexism is very much alive in American politics'. His party, however, had denied that 'it had anything to do with race or gender'. Harris, on the other hand, urged Trump to commit to debating her, 'if he got something to say'. Such sexist vilification, many believe, is on the expected lines in a country that had no women, and only one person of colour as president, which is now, for the first time, having a woman of colour running for the presidency on a major party ticket. Harris' entry into the presidential battle has unleashed a wave of misogyny, and personal attacks on her marriage and stepchildren. She is also accused of leaning into 'being Black for political expediency'. Republican vice-presidential nominee Cyrus Vance's remarks that the Democratic Party is dominated by 'childless cat ladies', with no 'direct stake' in America's future, is also a dig at Harris's life choices.

While, early this year, Nikki Haley, the first woman governor of South Carolina, when encountered the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, she was dismissed as a 'token' candidate, and her achievements hardly got any attention. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had to undergo similar ordeals with apprehensions about her health and integrity, and even for her political ambitions. In 2008, Sarah Palin wasn't spared, she was constantly jeered at for her looks, personal life and intelligence, while her policy positions and records were overlooked. While only a relatively small share of the US adults (18%) consider that it is important that a woman be elected as president in their lifetime, most (64%) say this is not too or not at all important or that the president's gender doesn't matter. Overall, 62% of Americans believe that the media focuses too much on the physical appearance of women contesting for high elected offices, and there is not enough attentiveness to their views on key policy matters (Pew



Research Centre). Along the party lines, 25 per cent of Republicans are of the view that 'men generally make better leaders than women, only 4 percent said that women are better suited to lead'. While, Democrats, were found to be 'more likely to say women were better leaders than men' (August, 22, PerryUndem survey). Many of the politicians may be progressive in their policy beliefs, but, when it comes to equity, their socialisation around gender stereotypes and expectations is quite stubborn', commented Kelly Dittmar, professor, of political science, at Rutgers University. In the USA, women hold only 27.9 per cent of seats in Congress, while, there is currently no Black woman in the Senate.

A 2016 IPU study on the experiences of fifty-five women members of national parliaments from 39 countries across the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Arab countries, confirmed that 'sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians are very real and rampant'. While, psychological violence, the most widely spread, and, now, more on social media, affected 81.8 per cent of the respondents surveyed. A majority (61.5 per cent) believed that



HARRIS' ENTRY INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL BATTLE HAS UNLEASHED A WAVE OF MISOGYNY, AND PERSONAL ATTACKS ON HER MARRIAGE AND STEPCHILDREN. SHE IS ALSO ACCUSED OF LEANING INTO 'BEING BLACK FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY'

such behaviour and/or violence was intended primarily to dissuade them from continuing in politics. While 'young and feminist women parliamentarians are particularly targeted', said an Asian parliamentarian. A parliamentarian from sub-Saharan Africa underscored that 'men need to be educated about the benefits of women's presence in parliament'. While, many opined that an increase in the number of women in parliament and solidarity among them, can help change such a political culture. While, in India, women parliamentarians, a minuscule minority, just 13.63% of the elected strength of the Lower House, much less than the 33% that the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, proposes to put into effect, face sexist comments from all corners, their colleagues, rivals or voters, and their achievements reduced to their gender only, rued a women's rights activist. An erstwhile woman Union minister lamented that 'when a woman is attacked, she gets attacked for her character, but never for her policymaking'. Women politicians, cutting across party lines, seem to agree on the issue of character assassination, and consider that it 'reflects the larger psyche of the society'. Many also complain that 'women politi-

cians aren't taken seriously... and male members have been often preferred for speaking on serious issues, while, women are only expected to raise soft issues'. Outright misogynist remarks are quite the norm in political discourse. Recently, a senior woman Rajya Sabha MP expressed discomfort with her identity being tied to her husband's name by the Chair. Globally, only 26.9 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses are now women (IPU). Many countries have resorted to women's quotas and reserved shares. But, that's not enough. What is needed is a nuanced approach to addressing the issues of sexism and double standards existing within the political parties and parliament. Political parties must have an internal assessment mechanism to look into the gaps in all areas of internal practices and operations. A parliament must also ensure inclusivity in its work processes and outputs, with the help of a strong regulatory framework. Gender parity and pluralism are essential in electoral politics for the greater good.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan, All India Radio; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FALL FROM GRACE

Madam — Malayalam film Industry has been in a crisis since the release of Hema Committee report which has recorded sexual exploitation by senior artistes/technicians by women artistes/technicians. The women artistes/technicians in their enthusiasm/eagerness/greed approach the other side for a favor, over looking the others who score over them on merits in the industry and offer/submit to them with what would please them for grabbing the chance. If the person who is the so called perpetrator of the crime which is sexual exploitation in this case is wrong the lady who has approached him for favor of a chance and offering/accepting to entertain him is considered an abettor of the crime. It is a quid pro quo though apart from crime also unethical on the part of the grantor of the chance. Such quid pro quos exist not only in film industry and every other industry and in fact it is a universal phenomenon in today's world. While this affects the only individuals concerned and to a limited extent the industry or the corporate concerned, the political leaders /parties accepting bribes in any form say organized /un organized methods including through the electoral bonds route is also a quid pro even as per SC ruling and more harmful as it harms the nation as a whole.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

TEACHERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Madam— The interruption of the Covid had been epochal and served to direct our focus on education, across the globe. It would be a great pity should we fail to subsequently comprehend the vital role of teachers, per se. A greater tragedy if we still look to stitch up patchwork approach in education that is rendered more complex as the stakeholder base is vast. So are its key elements of content, quality and efficiency of transmission. In each of these there

Eco-friendly Ganesha



With environmental concerns gaining too much ground, many of the well wishers of Lord Ganesha in the city have

started to conduct environmentally friendly Ganesh Utsav celebrations this year. So it is our earnest desire to avoid pollution. Paint from Ganesh Idols could form a deadly cocktail with oil spill on the sea may cause environmental problems after Ganapati immersion on Anant Chaturdashi day. The oil paint contains carcinogenic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and chromium which have an adverse effect on marine life as well. Despite caution, people prefer POP idols instead of clay. It is time to have a broader outlook on this subject. This responsibility rests with each and every one of us. The civic body should have proper planning and the pick and choose method to make sure the festivity achieves a religious objective rather than making it a politicised one with maximum pollution level.

Jayanthi Ramaswamy | Mumbai

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOTBALL

Madam — Rarely do our politicians talk sense. It was heartwarming therefore, to hear the CM of UP, Yogi Adityanath, announce that a number of football stadia as well as a large number of football grounds will be prepared to give a boost to the "beautiful game". This is far better than sponsoring temples that cater only to a particular religious constituency. To quote Nelson Mandela, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." Yogi's done well, in bending it like Beckham.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

emerges a rare opportunity for a seminal rethink or even reinvent with greater imagination and resolve. While planners and social scientists devise the content of education in a time horizon, its quality is entirely determined by the calibre, training and upgrade of the teachers and their leadership, creativity and innovation. We seldom realise how teachers have helped and guided our value systems and attitudes. They would seed visions of the limitless achievements ahead as gurus, train us to meet failures to then rise even higher. This profession, from time immemorial, though respected stays hardly recognised and adequately compensated. They need to be now firmly placed on higher pedestals, sustained by training and incentives and given greater autonomy. It is they who shape the future in real sense of the word. Our education system and polity need to do much more. Our gurus must be zealously cherished.

R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

RG Kar rape, murder: Vital evidence lost due to demolition of POC, says CBI

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
KOLKATA

The Health Department of Bengal had prior knowledge of the demolition of a portion of the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College Hospital undertaken barely a couple of days after the body of a brutally raped and murdered lady doctor of the Chest Medicine Department was found in a semi-nude condition in the small hours of August 9. The Central Bureau of Administration investigating the case had earlier told the Court that the demolition of a portion of the doctors' rest room and the attached washroom adjacent to the seminar hall might have led to the destruction of vital evidences in the case.

A letter written by Sandip Ghosh now arrested former principal of the RGKMCH -- to the Executive Engineer (civil and electrical) of the Public Works Department shows that he had ordered the demolition of the stated areas of the hospital following a meeting with the State Health Secretary and Director Medical Education. Curiously, when the Health Secretary was asked by the media on the day of the partial demolition of the alleged doctors' rest room he said that "an inquiry is under progress and things can be ascertained only after that." The letter which read, "I would like to inform you that there is a deficiency of on-duty doctors' rooms and separate attached toilets in vari-

ous departments of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata. You are hereby requested to do the needful immediately as per the demand of resident doctors of the hospital. The issue has already been discussed and resolved in the meeting with the Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare Government of West Bengal and Director of Medical Education, Department of Health & Family Welfare Government of West Bengal today in the board room of the hospital. Please do the needful immediately." The subject of the letter highlighted "Repair/renovation/reconstruction of on-duty doctors' rooms along with separate attached toilets in all departments of RG Kar



Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata on urgent basis," apparently emphasizing the urgency of the matter. The emergence of the letter written by the former Principal Ghosh tends to stand clearly in contrast with

the statement of the Health Secretary, said senior doctor Subir Ganguly adding, the letter suggests that the Health Department was clearly in the know of the demolition process being carried out at the place of occurrence."

On Thursday Health Department sources conceded that there indeed had been a meeting featuring the top Department officials but the discretion to renovate certain areas of the Hospital to construct a doctors' restroom was completely left on the Principal. Referring to the incident former CBI Joint Director Upen Biswas cracked the Bihar Animal Husbandry scam case in the nineties --- Hospital authorities but also the police to explain their conduct... who led the team that it is not only for the if the investigators take up this point seriously then many heads are likely to roll... as the police should have cordoned off the area and had disallowed any kind of addition or alteration

in the structure." Dr Subarno Ganguli one of the senior doctors who had raised the question of the propriety of the postmortem being conducted inside the same hospital where the incident took place wondered, "who the people are that the authorities are trying to save." Advocate Tarun Jyoti of the Calcutta High Court said that "in a system where it takes months often years for the PWD to act... how could the demolition work ensue in such a lightning speed within a few hours of the body of the victim being discovered," adding the principal's letter itself buttresses the claim of the junior doctors of the hospital that there were more people involved in the crime." Bengal had been up in flames

against the rape and murder of the lady doctor with the citizenry demanding the arrest of all the accused possibly involved in the felony. Notwithstanding the arrest of Sanjoy Rai a civic volunteer attached to the Kolkata Police was arrested for perpetrating the crime experts have expressed doubt on whether a lean and lanky person like him could have executed the crime alone particularly in consideration of the injuries that had been suffered by the victim doctor. The junior doctors who had gone on a cease work after too have alleged that the police administration and the hospital authorities were trying to shield some influential people that could have been involved in the crime.

SC accepts CEC recommendations to tackle dwindling green cover in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday accepted a set of recommendations made by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) including creating a customised module which would contain data on details of projects requiring cutting of trees, the number of trees to be felled or translocated, and compensatory plantation to tackle dwindling green cover in the national capital. The apex court was hearing a matter regarding enhancing the green cover in Delhi and creating a mechanism for it. In its report filed in the top court, the CEC has recommended creation of a customised management information system (MIS) module on which data shall be uploaded by the project proponents on a regular basis for ensuring proper and timely compliance of the orders passed by the court on issues related to the Delhi Ridge. The Ridge is an extension of the Aravalli hill range in Delhi and is a rocky, hilly and forested area. It has been divided into four zones - south, south-central, central and north - for administrative reasons. These four zones make up a total area



of around 7,784 hectares. "We accept the recommendations and direct the CEC to act upon the recommendations," a bench of Justices A S Oka and A G Masih said after perusing the committee's report. "We hope that Delhi government has stopped exercising powers of the tree authority," the bench observed, adding, it was earlier seen that such power was being exercised by the government. The CEC, in its report, has recommended that data including details of projects, the number and species of trees to be felled or translocated, relevant court orders along with conditions that need to be complied with, compensatory plantation and subsequent maintenance activities shall be uploaded on the MIS module by the project proponent on a regular basis. "It is also recommended that all

project proponents be given a grace period of six months to comply with the conditions imposed by this court while granting permissions for tree felling for their projects and till such time their new proposals may be kept pending," the CEC report said. It said if the project proponents fail to comply with the conditions even after the allotted grace period, then the apex court may take suitable punitive action against them. The bench said the CEC has pointed out 15 cases where permissions have been granted by the court for felling of trees subject to compliance with various conditions. However, the conditions have not been complied with, it said. While accepting the recommendations of the CEC, the bench permitted the panel to send notices to all applicants or project proponents, who were earlier granted permission for felling of trees, calling upon them to upload compliance data on the MIS within three months. The bench warned if the court is satisfied that project proponents have failed to upload data on compliance within three months, contempt action shall be initiated against them.

Delhi Court extends Amanatullah's ED custody by three days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court on Friday extended AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan's ED custody by three days in a money laundering case, saying he may be required to be confronted with co-accused and witnesses. Special judge Vishal Gogne passed the order on an application moved by the central probe agency, which had sought Khan's custody for 10 more days. The judge said that an investigation cannot be frozen to the desecration of the accused who may have joined the investigation on one occasion. He said the examination of the case diaries by the court suggested the possibility that the statements or materials collected from about 48 witnesses or other persons connected with the investigation and who are not part of the first prosecution complaint (ED's equivalent to a charge sheet) may be required to be confronted with the accused. "Consequently, the court finds the prayer for extension of custody of the ED over the accused to be justified by the outcomes of the investigation thus far," the judge said.



He said that moreover, the investigative agency may require extended time to unravel the multi-layered and masked financial transactions which may have been designed to launder a substantial amount of money (Rs 36 crores) into properties fronted by the agents of Khan. "However, the prayer for the grant of further custody for 10 days is excessive. Three days of further custodial investigation is presently found sufficient by the court," the judge said and directed the ED to produce Khan before it on September 9. The judge said that the accused shall be medically examined after every 24 hours. "Further, the interrogation of the accused shall be conducted

under CCTV coverage, with audio or video recording facility. The audio or video recording of the same is directed to be preserved for production in the court if required," the judge said. Khan was produced before the court on the expiry of his four-day Enforcement Directorate custody granted earlier. He was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on September 2 after the agency searched his residence in the Okhla area of the national capital. The ED told the court that some questions were put to Khan during the searches but he remained "evasive" and hence, was arrested.

Technical report of anti-rape bill missing: Bengal Governor

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
KOLKATA

There was more trouble for arrested former RG Kar Medical College Principal Sandip Ghosh with the Enforcement Directorate on Friday raiding ten locations in and around Kolkata and picking up one of his close associates Prasun Chatterjee, sources said. Among the addresses raided by the central agency was a palatial bungalow-cum-farm house belonging to Ghosh at

Canning in South 24 Parganas. The ED was earlier directed by the Calcutta High Court to investigate financial frauds in the RGKMCH which many a doctor link to the rape and murder of a lady doctor early this month. Meanwhile Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Friday rebuked the Bengal Government for sending the Aparajita anti rape Bill for his assent but not tagging along with the technical report related to it.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday interacted with teachers who have been conferred the National Teachers Awards. While the awardees shared their teaching experience with PM and innovative techniques adopted by them to make learning more interesting, the PM discussed the impact of NEP and spoke about the significance of attaining education in one's mother tongue. PM also suggested teachers to teach local folklore to students in different languages to help them get introduced to different languages.

SC asks HP collegium to reconsider its recommendations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the collegium of the Himachal Pradesh High Court to reconsider the names of two senior-most district and sessions judges for elevation as judges of the High Court. The top court observed that the High Court chief justice could not individually reconsider a recommendation and it could only be done by a High Court collegium, acting collectively. A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Prashant

Kumar Mishra delivered its verdict on a plea filed by the two senior-most district and sessions judges, alleging that their merit and seniority were not considered by the High Court collegium in the selection of names for High Court judgeship. "There was no collective consultation and deliberation by the members of the High Court collegium," the bench said while pronouncing its judgment. "In light of the above, the high court collegium should now reconsider the names of

Chirag Bhanu Singh and Arvind Malhotra for elevation as judges of the high court, following the Supreme Court collegium decision dated January 4, 2024..." it said. While pronouncing its verdict, the top court bench said, "The decision of the chief justice of the High Court on the suitability of the two petitioners, as conveyed in his letter dated March 6, 2024, appears to be an individual decision. The same stands vitiated, both procedurally and substantially." It said the

writ petition filed by the petitioners was maintainable as it questioned the lack of effective consultation. "...the procedure adopted in the matter of reconsideration of the two petitioners is found to be inconsistent with the law laid down in the Second Judges (supra) and the Third Judges case (supra). There was no collective consultation and deliberations by the members of the High Court Collegium. The decision of the Chief Justice of the High Court, on the suitability of the two

petitioners as conveyed in his letter dated 6th March 2024, appears to be an individual decision. The same therefore dand vitiated both procedurally and substantially," the bench said in its order. It said there was no collective consultation by the high court collegium on the elevation of district and sessions judges to the superior court and the decision on the suitability of the two senior-most judges appeared to be an "individual decision" of the chief justice.

When golden hour is lost in stuck ambulance

From Page 1

The CATS vehicles are categorised into patient transport ambulances, basic life-support ambulances, and advanced life-support ambulances. He also shared that CATS is in the process of updating its fleet, with plans to add over 400 new vehicles equipped with advanced facilities. The Government has also taken the services of a private firm which is playing the vehicles as 'Rakshak' Suraj (name changed), another driver with the CAT, lamented that while the population has increased, infrastructure improvements have lagged, putting critical patients at greater risk. Requesting anonymity, a senior official from the CATS department maintained that the old fleets are on the way out. A tender has been passed in this regard and we are looking forward to adding the new vehicles equipped with improved and sophisticated facilities including at least three Oxygen cylinders. Soon there would be more than 400 vehicles.

The official admitted that roads are constructed without properly assessing actual needs, and issues like inadequate sewage management and insufficient desilting contribute to the chaos. Ultimately, it is the people and patients who suffer as a result. Jeetu chipped in saying that most critical are especially those injured in road accidents, while on the way to hospitals. "I have been lucky that no patient has died in my ambulance due to heavy traffic on the road resulting in the ambulances getting stuck in traffic jams." Apart from patients of road mishaps, heart patients also needed to be rushed to hospitals in time. However, on the brighter side, he said that people have been sensitised enough to give way to Ambulances. According to the CAT drivers, if an ambulance gets a free lane it can cover the distance of 25 km within 15 to 20 minutes but due to traffic it generally takes more than an hour. If the water-logging issue is sorted, delay time in a patient reaching a hospital can be cut. Delhi has several areas prone to waterlogging, including perennial hotspots like Minto Bridge, Pul Prahladpur Underpass, Jahangirpur Metro Station Road, under Zakhira Flyover, Loni Road Roundabout, Karala Kanjhawala, and parts of the Ring Road, such as the area

opposite WHO. Other locations that frequently experience waterlogging include ITO, RK Puram, Janpath, Parliament Street, Karol Bagh, Nauroji Nagar, Pant Marg, and various spots in South Delhi, such as Mayur Vihar, Vasant Kunj, Greater Kailash, New Friends Colony, Saket, and Malviya Nagar. Dr Jagdish Kaur from WILGA, an NGO working for the empowerment of women expressed displeasure at the situation, saying, "I can't recall a day when I haven't seen an ambulance struggling through our chaotic traffic, which is often anything but efficient. "We often forget that the person in the ambulance could be someone we know or even ourselves. Imagine being in that emergency vehicle while someone in a car ignores the siren's urgent wail. That siren is actually a critical signal--a "song of life or death." Each of us plays a role in ensuring that this siren leads to life, not death. Just as the ambulance driver, doctors, and nurses are responsible for responding to emergencies, we must also take responsibility for our actions on the road. Also, the authorities instead of playing blame-games must do their part. They should responsibly ensure that the roads are free of water-logging and traffic jams," Dr Kaur summed up.

Phogat, Punia join...

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They later joined the Congress at the AICC headquarters in the presence of Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary in-charge Haryana Deepak Babaria, Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan and the Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera. At the press conference during which they joined the party, Venugopal claimed that Phogat had been issued a showcase notice by the

Railways after she met Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday. Party sources said the notice talked about violating service rules by meeting political leaders. Venugopal asked if it was a crime to meet the leader of the opposition and urged the Railway authorities to relieve Phogat and not "play politics". On whether Phogat and Punia would contest the assembly polls, he said the party's Central Election Committee would make a decision on that. After joining the party, Phogat said the BJP was supporting Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh while the Congress supported the protesting wrestlers when they "were being dragged on the roads" in Delhi.

Punia and Phogat were part of the protest over sexual harassment allegations against former BJP MP and then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in 2023. "I thank the people of the country and the media, you supported me throughout my wrestling journey. I thank the Congress party. Tough times tell you about who is with you. When we were dragged on the roads, all parties except the BJP stood with us," she said at the press conference. "I am starting a new innings. I want sportspersons don't have to face what we had to go through," Phogat said. "We will not be scared and won't back off. Our court case

is going on, we will win that also," she said. Venugopal said it was a "big day" for the Congress and a proud moment "for all of us" to welcome Phogat and Punia into the party fold. The entire country stood with them when they protested, he said, citing the support extended by Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Congress leaders. "They (Phogat and Punia) not only stood for themselves but fought for farmers and stood with them," Venugopal said. "Some people are criticising their joining the Congress. So many athletes and Olympians are in different parties, is that also a conspiracy?" Venugopal asked. Both Phogat and Punia or at

least one of them are set to contest the assembly polls on a Congress ticket, the sources said. Both Phogat and Punia met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi here on Wednesday. The Congress had put out a photograph of the Lok Sabha opposition leader with Phogat and Punia on its official X handle. Punia won bronze in the Olympic Games in Tokyo while Phogat became the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the Olympics final, the stage where she was disqualified in Paris after being found overweight by about 100 grams in her 50-kilogramme category weigh-in. She subsequently announced her retirement from the sport.

BJP J&K manifesto...

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tried to keep this region with India." From Pandit Prem Nath Dogra's struggle to Syama Prasad Mookerjee's sacrifice, this struggle was taken forward first by Jana Sangh and then by the BJP because we believe that Jammu and Kashmir has always been a part of India and will remain so", he added. The Union home minister claimed Jammu and Kashmir

faced destabilization by various state and non-state actors until 2014. "All other governments did politics of appeasement to deal with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. However, whenever the history of India and Jammu and Kashmir is written, the period between 2014 and 2024 will be written in golden words," Shah added. Targeting the alliance partners fighting against the BJP, Shah said, "I have seen the NC's (National Conference) agenda. I have also seen Congress silently supporting NC's agenda. But, I want to say to the country that Article 370 is history, it will never return, and we

won't let it happen. Article 370 was the thing that gave weapons and stones in the hands of the youth." Reaching out to the largest section of the women electorate the BJP manifesto has promised ₹18,000 per year to the eldest woman in every family under 'Maa Samman Yojana' if voted to power in J&K. "We will give two free cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme, per year. BJP, in its manifesto, has also promised a 20% reservation for Agniveers in government jobs, tablets or laptops to students in remote areas, while college students will benefit from a ₹3,000 yearly travel allowance under the

Pragati Shiksha Yojana. Addressing the concerns of the business community, the BJP has promised to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for IT at Jammu City, an amusement park in Srinagar, and the development of Gulmarg and Pahalgam as modern tourist destinations will be the key elements of economic growth and infrastructure development in the Union territory. To attract tourists in Jammu, the party aims to develop the Tawi Riverfront in Jammu, modelled after Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Riverfront, and to promote water sports and tourism around Dal Lake in Srinagar. For small traders

and MSMEs, the BJP has pledged to resolve existing issues around land access, utility services, and lease deeds. These measures are expected to boost local businesses and support economic growth. The manifesto promises relief from outstanding electricity and water bills, free electricity under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, and drinking water through the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme. In addition, the BJP pledges to triple pensions for the elderly, widows, and the disabled, from ₹1,000 to ₹3,000, ensuring a life of dignity for vulnerable groups. The BJP also aims to expand

the Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme, increasing coverage by an additional ₹2 lakhs, and promises to add 1,000 new medical seats to government colleges, reflecting its commitment to affordable healthcare. The BJP has outlined various measures to support farmers, including increasing the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi payout by ₹4,000, bringing the total annual benefit to ₹10,000. Electricity tariffs for agricultural activities will be reduced by up to 50%, and the manifesto includes plans to build 10,000 Kms of new rural roads under the 'Har Tunnel Tez Pahal' Yojana, improving connectivity in the region.

Sensex nosedives...

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over 4 per cent. ICICI Bank, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, ITC, Axis Bank and Adani Ports were the major laggards. Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, JSW Steel and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading in the red. The US markets ended mostly in the negative territory on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹688.69 crore on Thursday after days of remaining buyers, according to exchange data. "Domestic equities experienced one of its most significant single-day declines in the past month, driven by concerns over a potential slowdown in the US labor market. Investors turned cautious ahead of the US nonfarm payrolls and unemployment rate data to be released late today, which will offer insights into the magnitude of the rate cut in the upcoming US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting," Siddhartha Khemka, Head — Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

US activist shot dead by Israeli troops

AP ■ NABLUS

Israeli soldiers killed an American woman participating in an anti-settlement protest in the West Bank on Friday, another protester who witnessed the shooting told The Associated Press. Two doctors said she was shot in the head.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller confirmed the death of the 26-year-old woman born in Turkey as Aysenur Ezgi Eygi. He did not say whether she had been shot by Israeli troops. The White House said in a statement it was "deeply disturbed" by the killing of a US citizen. Eygi was also a Turkish citizen, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Onu Keceli said, adding that the country would exert "all effort to ensure that those who killed our citizen is brought to justice."

The Israeli military said it was looking into reports that troops had killed a foreign national while firing at an "instigator of violent activity" in the area of the protest.

The woman who was fatally shot was attending a weekly demonstration against settlement expansion, protests that have grown violent in the past: A

month ago, American citizen Amado Sison was shot in the leg by Israeli forces, he said, as he tried to flee tear gas and live fire.

Jonathan Pollak, an Israeli who was also participating in the protest, said the shooting occurred shortly after dozens of Palestinians and international activists held a communal prayer on a hillside outside the northern West Bank town of Beita overlooking the Israeli settlement of Eyyatar. Soldiers surrounded the prayer, and clashes soon broke out, with Palestinians throwing stones and troops firing tear gas and live ammunition, Pollak said.

The protesters and activists, including Pollak and the woman, retreated from the hill and the clashes subsided, he said. He then watched as two soldiers standing on the roof of a nearby home trained a gun in the group's direction and shot at them. He saw the flares leave the nozzle of the gun when the shots rang out. He said the woman was about 10 or 15 metres behind him when the shots were fired.

He then saw her "lying on the ground, next to an olive tree, bleeding to death," he said. Two doctors said she had been shot in the head — Dr. Ward



Aysenur Ezgi Eygi

Basalat, who administered first aid at the scene and Dr. Fouad Naffa, director of Rafidia Hospital in the nearby city of Nablus where she was taken. "We tried to save the American citizen, we tried to revive the heart for several stages, but unfortunately, we did not succeed in restoring the heart to function," Naffa told The AP, adding that she had severe bone fragmentation and damage to brain tissue. Eygi is the third activist from the International Solidarity Movement to have been killed since 2000. ISM activists often place themselves

between Israeli forces and Palestinians to try to stop the Israeli military from carrying out operations. Two ISM activists — American Rachel Corrie and British photography student Tom Hurndall — were killed in Gaza in 2003.

Corrie was crushed to death in March 2003 as she tried to block an Israeli military bulldozer from demolishing a Palestinian home in the southern Gaza town of Rafah near the Egyptian border. Hurndall was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier in April.

It's also one of a handful of cases in which apparent Israeli fire killed Americans inside the West Bank since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. Neither American nor Israeli authorities have released findings into investigations into the twin killings of two Palestinian-American teens, Mohammad Khmour and Tawfik Abdel Jabbar, shot in the span of a month while driving down dirt roads close to their villages in the northern West Bank.

In a written statement shared on X, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said it condemned "this murder carried out by the Netanyahu government." Palestinian officials said the killing

reflected how Israel has intensified its repression of Palestinian protests in the territory since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. Israeli forces rarely use live ammunition to put down protests inside Israel. But in the West Bank, Palestinian demonstrations are frequently met with live fire.

Hussein Al-Sheikh, the secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, wrote on X that the killing marked "another crime added to the series of crimes committed daily by the occupation forces."

Settlements are overwhelmingly viewed by the international community as illegal under international law. The settlement of Eyyatar was initially an outpost unrecognized under Israeli law but was legalized by the Israeli cabinet last month, in a move the far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said was in response to recognition of Palestinian statehood by a number of countries.

Israeli fire has killed over 690 Palestinians in the West Bank since the start of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7, Palestinian health officials say. In that time, attacks by Palestinian militants on Israelis in the territory have also increased.

Hush money case: Trump sentencing after Nov poll

New York (AP): A judge agreed Friday to postpone Donald Trump's sentencing in his hush money case until after the November election, granting him a hard-won reprieve as he navigates the aftermath of his criminal conviction and the home stretch of his presidential campaign.

Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan, who is also weighing a defence request to overturn the verdict on immunity grounds, delayed Trump's sentencing until November 26, several weeks after the final votes are cast in the presidential election.

It had been scheduled for September 18, about seven weeks before Election Day.

Trump's lawyers pushed for the delay on multiple fronts, petitioning the judge and asking a federal court to intervene. They argued that punishing the former president and current Republican nominee in the thick of his campaign to retake the White House would amount to election interference.

Trump's lawyers argued that delaying his sentencing until after the election would also allow him time to weigh next steps after Merchan rules on the defence's request to reverse his conviction and dismiss the case because of the US Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling.

In his order Friday, Merchan delayed a decision on that until November 12.

A federal judge on Tuesday rejected Trump's request to have the US District Court in Manhattan to seize the case from Merchan's state court. Had they been successful, Trump's lawyers said they would have then sought to have the verdict overturned and the case dismissed on immunity grounds.

Trump is appealing the federal court ruling.

Zelensky seeks US military leaders' nod to strike deeper in Russia

AP ■ RAMSTEIN AIR BASE (GERMANY)

Ukraine needs the ability to strike deep within Russia now, President Volodymyr Zelensky told US and allied military leaders Friday as Kyiv more fervently pressed the West to loosen weapons use restrictions and allow it to target Russian air bases and launch sites far from the border.

Zelensky made the case during an in-person meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. He appeared to make inroads with some of the defence leaders from the 50-plus partner nations who regularly gather to coordinate weapons aid for the war.

But he did not appear to sway the ally he needs most. After the talks, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin pushed back on the idea that long-range strikes would be a game-changer. "I don't believe one capability is going to be decisive and I stand by that comment," Austin said. The Ukrainians have other means to strike long-range targets, he said.

Zelensky's request comes after a series of recent deadly Russian airstrikes, including against a Ukrainian military training centre that killed more than 50 and wounded hun-



dreeds this week. On Friday, the Kremlin fired five ballistic missiles at the city of Pavlohrad in the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, injuring at least 50 people, regional Gov. Serhii Lysak said.

"We need to have this long-range capability, not only on the divided territory of Ukraine, but also on the Russian territory, so that Russia is motivated to seek peace," Zelensky said. "We need to make Russian cities and even Russian soldiers think about what they need: peace or Putin."

The question remained whether Zelensky could convince President Joe Biden that the US should ease its restrictions as well. While Biden has

allowed Ukraine to fire US-provided missiles into Russia in self-defence, the distance has been largely limited to cross-border targets deemed a direct threat, out of concerns about further escalating the conflict.

At the meeting Friday, multiple countries seemed to be persuaded that Ukraine should get the green light, which could add pressure on the Biden administration.

"Many countries (are) in favour," said Laurynas Kasciunas, Lithuania's defense minister. "Many, many. But the question is not the number of countries, but countries who give (those) missiles."

By announcing Lithuania's support, Kasciunas said, "I hope it will help to convince other

countries." Canada's defence minister, Bill Blair, said he hopes other Western allies also get behind the push. Canada does not have long-range munitions it could provide on its own, Blair said.

"One of the things President Zelensky and his ministers have made very clear to us is that they are suffering significant attacks from air bases and military installations located within Russia," Blair said. "We support their request for permission, but it's still a decision of our allies."

Ukraine is now in the midst of its first offensive operations of the war while facing a significant threat from Russian forces near a key hub in the Donbas, and Kyiv is seeing that its time is running short to shore up ongoing military support before the US presidential election in November.

Zelensky said Ukraine's surprise assault inside Russia's Kursk region has led to the capture of about 1,300 square kilometres of Russian territory and killed or injured about 6,000 Russian soldiers. But it has not drawn away President Vladimir Putin's focus from taking the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, which provides critical rail and supply links for the Ukrainian army. Losing Pokrovsk could put additional Ukrainian cities at risk.

Fire in Kenya school kills 18 students

AP ■ NAIROBI (KENYA)

A fire in a school dormitory in Kenya has killed 18 students and 27 others have been hospitalised, with 70 children unaccounted for, the country's deputy president said Friday.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said only 86 out of more than 150 children had been accounted for, and urged community members who may have sheltered some of the children to help account for them. The cause of the fire Thursday night at Hillside Enderasha Primary school in Nyeri County was being investigated, police spokesperson Resila Onyango said. The school serves children up to the age of 14.

Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu and the education

ministry reported that the dormitory that caught fire housed more than 150 boys between age 10 and 14. Since most of the buildings are made from wooden planks, the fire spread quickly.

The mixed day and boarding private school, which has 824 students, is located 200 kilometres north of the capital, Nairobi, in the country's central highlands, where wooden structures are common.

Nyeri County Gov. Mutahi Kahiga told journalists that rescue efforts were hampered by muddy roads caused by rains in the area.

Anxious parents who had been unable to find their children among the survivors waited at the school, engulfed with grief. John Rukwaro told journalists that his 11-year-old grandson



was missing and he had checked with area hospitals without success. The education ministry's permanent secretary, Belio Kipsang, said the government was working with the school administration to account for all the children in

the boarding section. "We are asking the parents who picked up their children and the community to support us as we consolidate the numbers to ensure that we account for every child who was boarding in this school," he said.

14-yr-old, father taken into custody for Georgia school shooting

AP ■ WINDER (USA)

The 14-year-old suspect in a shooting that killed four people at a Georgia high school and his father will stay in custody after back-to-back court hearings Friday morning where their lawyers declined to seek bail.

At Colt Gray's hearing, the teen was advised of his rights along with the charges and penalties he faced for the shooting at the school where he was a student.

After the hearing, he was escorted out in shackles at the wrists and ankles in khaki pants and a green shirt. The judge then called Colt Gray

back to the courtroom to correct an earlier misstatement that his crimes could be punishable by death. Because he's a juvenile, the maximum penalty he would face is life without parole. The judge also set another hearing for December 4.

Shortly afterward, his father, Colin Gray, was brought into court. Colin Gray, 54, was charged Thursday in connection with the shooting for letting his son possess a weapon. Nine people were also hurt in Wednesday's attack at Apalachee High School in Winder, outside Atlanta.

Colin Gray, dressed in a gray-striped jail uniform at Friday's

hearing, answered questions in a barely audible croak, giving his age and saying he finished 11th grade, earning a high school equivalency diploma.

According to arrest warrants obtained by The Associated Press, Colt Gray is accused of using a "black semi-automatic AR-15 style rifle" to kill two students and two teachers at the school. Authorities have not offered any motive or explained how he obtained the gun or got it into the school.

Colin Gray has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and second-degree murder related to the shooting, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Hoesey said.

Sweden too wants to end screen time for toddlers

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Sweden says children under the age of 2 should not be exposed to any digital screens. The recommendations, issued by the Scandinavian country's public health agency earlier this month as a new school year begins, are the latest in a worldwide effort to limit screen time for young children.

The coronavirus lockdowns exacerbated the problem as schools turned to Zoom for distance-learning and parents relied on TV shows and movies to keep their children occupied while they worked from home. Sweden suggests that toddlers should not have any exposure to digital screens, including television. The recommendations ease slightly as the children age: From 2 to 5 years old, they should have a maximum of one hour a day in front of a screen, while for youngsters aged 6 to 12 it's two hours. Teenagers should have no more than three hours of screen time a day.

Sweden's suggestions came after research found that children reported negative effects like poorer sleep, depression and limited physical activity with high use of digital devices.

Similar recommendations have come out of other countries as well, including the United States, Ireland, Canada, Australia and France. France has the strictest suggestions so far, saying children under 3 should not have any time in front of screens. The recommendation comes from a report published in April that was commissioned by President Emmanuel Macron.

Pak SC allows changes to anti-corruption laws

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday reinstated the changes in the country's anti-corruption laws that had benefited several leading politicians, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother Nawaz Sharif, with jailed former premier Imran Khan also emerging as an unlikely beneficiary.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa pronounced the verdict reserved by a five-member bench on June 6 after hearing intra-court appeals (ICAs) filed by the federal government and other parties.

The apex court overturned a previous ruling that nullified amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, granting intra-court appeals filed by the federal government and other affected parties.

The NAB laws were amended in May 2023 by the previous government led by Shehbaz Sharif.

The law was criticised by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party led by Khan, as it led to the withdrawal of cor-

ruption cases against leading politicians like President Asif Ali Zardari, Shehbaz Sharif and his brother Nawaz Sharif.

Khan challenged the amendments in the Supreme Court, which in September last year annulled the changes.

According to Friday's verdict, the court ruled by consensus in favour of the appeal and restored the amendments earlier declared unconstitutional. The court observed in the judgement that the chief justice and other judges "cannot be the gatekeepers of Parliament". It also noted that "whenever possible, the Supreme Court should strive to maintain legislation" enacted by Parliament.

Reacting to the development, PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan said party chief Khan would get relief in the second Toshakhana corruption case and the Al-Qadir trust case, as after the judgment, the NAB was barred from pursuing cases of less than Rs 50 billion alleged corruption, and the decisions of the cabinet cannot be prosecuted.

Court orders removal of serving Pak Army Gen

PTI ■ LAHORE

In a rare verdict, a Pakistani court on Friday ordered the removal of a serving general of the Pakistan Army from heading a key organisation, which regulates government databases and statistically manages the sensitive registration database of all citizens of the country, stating that his appointment to the position was "unauthorised" and in violation of the rules.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) annulled the appointment of National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) Chairman Lieutenant General Munir Afsar on a petition filed by a citizen, Ashba Kamran.

In October 2023, Afsar became the first serving military officer to be appointed as Nadra's chairman. The appointment was initially made by the caretaker government led by the then-prime minister Anwarul Haq Kakar and later confirmed by the elected federal government of Shehbaz Sharif for a three-year term till 2027 in March this year.

In the petition, Kamran challenged that the appointment of Afsar was "in violation of the provisions of Nadra Ordinance, 2000" and it did not adhere "to the requirements of conducting a fair and competitive process for appointment by inviting potential aspirants".

Justice Asim Hafiz in the verdict noted that the army general's appointment was illegal.

Google slammed for biased digital advertising policy

AP ■ LONDON

Google was slammed on Friday by UK regulators who say it's taking advantage of its dominance in digital advertising to thwart competition in Britain, ratcheting up pressure that the tech giant is facing on both sides of the Atlantic over its "ad tech" business practices.

Britain's Competition and Markets Authority said the US company gives preference to its own services to the detriment of online publishers and advertisers in Britain's 1.8 billion pound (USD 2.4 billion) digital ad market. The watchdog levelled its accusations after an investigation, and the findings

could potentially lead to a fine worth billions of dollars or an order to change its behaviour.

Google is a major player throughout the digital ad ecosystem, providing servers for publishers to manage ad space on their websites and apps, tools for advertisers and media agencies to buy display ads, and an exchange where both sides come together to buy and sell ads in real time at auctions.

"We've provisionally found that Google is using its market power to hinder competition when it comes to the ads people see on websites," the watchdog's interim executive director of enforcement, Juliette

Enser, said in a press release. The watchdog's charges, known as a statement of objections, arrive two years after it opened its investigation. Google's digital ad business is also the focus of a European Union antitrust investigation and a US Justice Department lawsuit that's set to go to trial this month.

The CMA said that Google's "anti-competitive" conduct is ongoing, but the company disputed the allegations on Friday. "Google remains committed to creating value for our publisher and advertiser partners in this highly competitive sector," the company said in a prepared statement.

Ashwini Vaishnav, Anil Kapoor among Time magazine's 100 most influential people in AI

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Union Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani and actor Anil Kapoor are among Indians who have been honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 "Most Influential People in AI 2024".

The list, released on Thursday, features 15 Indian or Indian-origin people. Among them are Sundar Pichai of Google, and Satya Nadella of Microsoft.

Writing about 54-year-old Vaishnav, the magazine said

under his leadership, India hopes to become one of the top five countries for semiconductor manufacturing—a key component for modern AI systems within the next five years.

"Yet, Vaishnav faces significant challenges in realising these ambitions. India's tech sector struggles with low private R&D investment and a lack of advanced manufacturing ecosystems. Its educational system is also catching up to produce the specialised workforce needed for cutting-edge AI and semiconductor development," it said.

India—the world's fifth largest economy—is trying to become a major player in the world of AI, it said.

Kapoor, 67, has been included in Time's AI list after a landmark victory in September 2023 over unauthorised AI use of his likeness.

The actor took up the case after a large number of distorted videos, gifs, and emojis bearing his likeness began circulating online.

Nilekani, 69, is Co-founder of Infosys and co-founder & chairman of EkStep. "Nilekani, the billionaire co-



founder of Infosys, has spent fifteen years in and out of government developing digital

public infrastructure for the world's most populous country, earning him nicknames like

'India's Bill Gates,' the magazine wrote about the entrepreneur.

"Nilekani led India's Aadhaar programme, the world's largest biometric identity card programme. He promoted the programme as a salve to welfare fraud, alongside a means to help improve tax collection, and ease bank customer verification, among other benefits," the magazine added.

"If the world of AI was dominated by the emergence of startup labs like OpenAI, Anthropic, and their competitors in 2023, this year, as

critics and champions alike have noted, we've seen the outside influence of a small number of tech giants..."

TIME Editor-in-Chief Sam Jacobs said. The 2024 TIME100 AI list features 40 CEOs, founders and co-founders, including Mark Zuckerberg of Meta, Pichai of Google, Nadella of Microsoft and Aravind Srinivas of Perplexity among others. Amba Kak, Co-executive Director, of AI Now Institute, Arati Prabhakar, Director, of the US Office of Science and Technology Policy and Divya Siddharth, Co-

founders, of Collective Intelligence Project, were among the women leaders featured in the list.

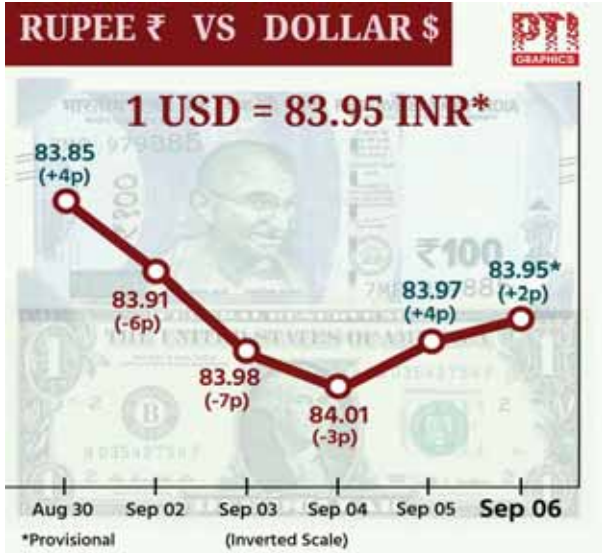
Other Indians or Indian-origin leaders in AI in the list include Rohit Prasad SVP and head scientist of Artificial General Intelligence, Amazon, Shiv Rao Co-founder and CEO, Abridge, Anant Vijay Singh Product Lead at Proton, Dwarakesh Patel Host, Dwarakesh Podcast, Amandeep Singh Gill, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and Vinod Khosla, Founder, Khosla Ventures.

Rupee rises two paise to settle at 83.95 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained 2 paise to close at 83.95 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a weak greenback in overseas markets. However, negative domestic markets, rise in crude oil prices, and outflow of foreign capital capped sharp gains, forex traders said. At the interbank currency market, the local unit opened at 83.97 and witnessed an intra-day high of 83.91 against the American currency. The unit, which traded in the range of 83.91-83.97, finally settled at 83.95 (provisional), registering a gain of 2 paise. It had closed at 83.97 on Tuesday.

"Indian rupee recovered today on weak US dollar. However, weak domestic markets



capped sharp gains," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said. "We expect rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on

weak global equities and concerns over global economic growth," he said, adding that the USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.70 to Rs 84.20. Traders may take cues from non-farm payrolls report and speeches by the US Federal Reserve's rate-setting panel members, he added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.14 per cent to 100.96 points. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 0.58 per cent to USD 73.11 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity markets, Sensex tanked 1,017.23 points to settle at 81,183.93, while Nifty slumped 292.95 points to 24,852.15.

Revisiting Sri Lanka's debt sustainability assessment can derail IMF programme: Finance Ministry

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Any attempt to revisit Sri Lanka's debt sustainability assessment (DSA) can derail the ongoing IMF programme bailout, the finance ministry said on Friday. "Any country can of course stand its ground and refuse to move forward based on the IMF's DSA if it disagrees with the outcomes of the model and the IMF's assessment," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement titled "Clarifications on Debt Restructuring and the Debt Sustainability Analysis". It added that a standoff in such a scenario would only delay an agreement on a financing programme for several months if not years. The statement highlighted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cannot proceed with a financing programme if a country's debt



is deemed unsustainable. The statement comes as Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) front National People's Power (NPP) in its manifesto for the September 21 presidential election said last week that it would work for an alternative debt sustainability analysis and the Washington-based global lender's condition of revenue-based fiscal consolidation. The finance ministry

statement asserted that Sri Lanka's agreement with creditors for sovereign debt restructuring needed IMF endorsement "to confirm as the independent actor that the negotiated terms indeed provide the required debt relief to comply with the debt targets". The ministry's warning on DSA aligns with incumbent president Ranil Wickremesinghe's narrative that the current bail-out

programme requirements must persist for Sri Lanka to achieve complete recovery. The opposition parties have heavily criticised Wickremesinghe's steer of the economy since the island nation declared its bankruptcy in April 2022, announcing its first-ever sovereign default. Wickremesinghe was able to revive the negative growth of six successive quarters with the help of international partners of recovery. However, his reforms at the behest of the IMF, which sent the cost of utilities high, have made him unpopular. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the NPP candidate, believes he leads in the unofficial polls to win the election over Wickremesinghe and the main opposition challenger Sajith Premadasa. The two main contenders, however, did not directly pledge to reverse them.

Allow natural growth of India's E-vehicle sector to avoid becoming EV colony for China: GTRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government should allow the domestic electric vehicle sector to grow naturally without relying on incentives as it would avoid India becoming an 'EV colony' for China, think tank GTRI said on Friday. India faces unique challenges not faced by other countries in adopting EVs (electric vehicles) at large scale, it added. These challenges include 80 per cent of electricity generated from fossil fuels like coal, frequent power cuts, and dependency on imports for making EVs in the country like batteries and critical minerals, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. "Considering these challenges, instead of rushing into the fray with heavy incentives or falling into dependence on Chinese imports, India has the opportunity to let its EV sector evolve naturally. By allowing market forces to steer the sector's growth, India can avoid becoming an 'EV colony' for China and carve out its own path in the global EV landscape," it added. It also said the global EV market is undergoing a seismic shift, driven by the US, EU, and Canada imposing high tariffs and restrictions on imports of EVs and parts from China. These regions make up about half of China's global EV exports and in a strategic pivot, China is moving its production to ASEAN countries and setting its sights on India. "These production units would still depend heavily on imports from China, with 70-80 per cent of parts, including batteries, coming from there. Thailand, the first to allow local production by Chinese firms, is already facing challenges with rising imports and complaints



of lower sales from established manufacturers," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said. He added that there is also a risk that China might dump excess EVs in India as access to developed markets becomes tougher. The GTRI suggested that India should focus on capturing leadership in the next phase of EVs, using a new generation of batteries. Increasing investment in research and development (R&D) for advanced battery technologies, battery recycling infrastructure, and supporting clean energy sources to power EV charging stations are some of the steps which would help boost the sector's growth, it added. Hi-Tech Gears Chairman Deep Kapuria said the world EVs market is all set to face more turbulence and structural transformation as the sector is witnessing several trends that are driving its growth. "Firstly, many countries (developed and developing) are offering subsidies, tax benefits, and other incentives to encourage consumers to switch to electric cars. Secondly, the macroeconomic factors, such as the availability of critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel, essential for battery production, can positively impact the growth of the EV industry," Kapuria said.

Prozeal Green Energy, Golyan Power sign JV pact for solar projects in Nepal

PTI ■ New Delhi

Ahmedabad-based Prozeal Green Energy and Nepalese firm Golyan Power have inked a joint venture agreement for setting up solar power projects in the Himalayan nation. The agreement was signed on Tuesday at Golyan Group headquarters in Kathmandu, marking a significant milestone in both companies' commitment to advancing renewable energy solutions, a statement said. The agreement was signed by Shobit Rai, Director of Prozeal Green Energy, and Akshay Golyan, Director of Golyan Power. The partnership underscores a shared vision to contribute meaningfully to a cleaner and greener future for Nepal. The joint venture -- Prozeal Green Energy Nepal -- aims to establish over 500 MW of solar energy projects across multiple locations in Nepal over the next 18 months. Prozeal Green Energy will hold a 60 per cent stake in the JV and Golyan Group will own the remaining 40 per cent. Rai said this joint venture represents "a powerful alliance between Nepal and



India, uniting our expertise to lead the global decarbonisation movement. Together, we're setting new benchmarks for clean energy and sustainability in Nepal". Golyan Power director Akshay Golyan said, "Nepal is growing rapidly in the renewable energy sector and I am confident that this partnership will open up new avenues for both entities. We have come together through our shared vision and the massive possibilities ahead." The joint venture will develop both solar rooftop and ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar plants. The energy produced from these projects will be sold to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and various commercial and industrial consumers.

Spicejet plans to raise over ₹3,200 crore via debt, equity

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cash-strapped domestic carrier Spicejet plans to raise Rs 3,200 crore through QIP, warrants and capital infusion by the promoter, the airline said in a presentation on Friday. The funds will be utilised in taking back the grounded fleet in operations, liability settlement, new fleet induction and other general purposes, Spicejet in the presentations. "Spicejet plan to raise Rs 2,500 crore through QIP and Rs 736 crore through Previous Warrants and the promoter infusion, the airline said in an investor presentation," it said in a corporate presentation to investors ahead of its proposed capital infusion. The proposed funds raised are subject to shareholders' approval. Ajay Singh-promoted SpiceJet had earlier in January this year, could raise only Rs 1,060 crore through preferential issues against its Rs 2,250 crore funding plan announced in December last year. The airline attributed factors



like reduction in fleet, and subsequent grounding, higher cost of working capital, escalating fixed costs, fixed rentals at airports, and outstanding statutory dues as the factors for its current problem. According to the presentation, its operational fleet reduced to 28 planes in 2024 against 74 aircraft in 2019, while 36 aircraft remained on the ground due to the funding issue. However, according to the live aircraft fleet tracking website, Planespotter.Net, it had only 20 aircraft in operations as of September 5 and 38 on the ground. It may also be noted that several of these aircraft are out of operation due to SpiceJet's lessors and other vendors taking the airline to court for non-payment.

Bengaluru sees 19 per cent hike in home sales: Report

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Bengaluru's residential market continues to display steady growth as registered transactions maintain upward momentum both sequentially and annually, a report by Square Yards, an integrated platform for real estate and mortgages, said on Friday. According to the data, 28,356 transactions were recorded in the city during the second quarter of 2024, marking a 19 per cent increase over the previous quarter. "Despite challenges such as flooding and water shortage, home buyer demand remains notably resilient, underpinned by a strengthening IT sector and the blend of full-time and hybrid working models," said Sopan Gupta, Principal Partner, Square Yards. According to him, east and southern suburbs retain their appeal, northern suburbs are rapidly emerging as key areas of interest for both apartments and plots. "Branded developers, particularly those delivering quality projects, are witnessing successful launches with swift off-take," he added.

IN BRIEF

SESSION ON TRADE VISION ORGANISED AT GNDU

NEW DELHI: The Dinero Finance Club of University Business School, Guru Nanak Dev University hosted a Industry Interactive Session Trade Vision: Decoding the Dynamics Of Stock Market under the guidance and scientific vision of Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancellor.

VIT UNIVERSITY DONATES ₹1,57,50,000 FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

AMARAVATI: To support the Andhra Pradesh government in the wake of recent floods, Dr.G.Viswanthan, Chancellor, Sri Sankar Viswantha, Vice-President, VIT University presented a cheque of Rs.1,57,50,000 (One crore fifty seven lakhs fifty thousand) to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

ATES, ANOTHER STEP BY NFR TO ENHANCE SAFETY

MALIGAON: Northeast Frontier Railway has installed a prototype Automatic Train Examination System (ATES) for the first time at its rolling in & rolling out examination point at New Jalpaiguri. ATES is an Artificial Intelligence based technology that involves capturing, processing and analysing visual data such as images and videos of rolling stocks.

NBCC RECEIVES AWARD IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES

NEW DELHI: NBCC (India) Limited a Navratna CPSE under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, was presented with Shield by the Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Delhi (Undertaking-2) in their half yearly meeting and prize distribution ceremony organised at Silver Oak Auditorium, India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on September 4, 2024 for exhibition in Rajbhasha Utsav, publication of in-house Hindi magazine "Nirman Bharti" and securing first position in Quiz Competition.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES TEACHER'S DAY

AMRITSAR: Guru Nanak Dev University celebrated Teacher's Day with enthusiasm and reverence, honoring the dedication and commitment of its educators. The various departments includes Punjab School of Economics, Department of History organised special events and activities to express gratitude towards the teaching staff.

SRM INSTITUTE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) recently hosted the International Conference on Precision Bio-Medicine and Sustainable Smart City Development (ICPBSSC) in collaboration with National Chung Cheng University (CCU), Taiwan held over three days.

REC HONOURED AS NODAL AGENCY OF THE YEAR

NEW DELHI: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been conferred with the prestigious "Nodal Agency of the Year" award at the Bharat Electricity - Powering India Awards 2024.



Gold rises ₹100; silver bounces ₹1,200

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Silver prices surged Rs 1,200 to Rs 85,800 per kilogram, while gold rose Rs 100 to Rs 74,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had ended at Rs 74,100 per 10 gram. The silver metal had ended higher at Rs 84,600 per kilogram in the previous session on Thursday. Additionally, gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity rose Rs 100 each to Rs 74,200 and Rs 73,850 per 10 grams, respectively. Traders attributed the rise in gold prices due to increased demand by jewellers and stockists as well as a jump in the precious metal rates in the overseas markets. Globally, Comex gold rose 0.22 per cent higher at USD 2,548.80 per ounce. "Gold extended gains on Friday, as the US dollar and Treasury yields fell following another set of data showing a sluggish US labour market," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. Silver also quoted marginally higher at 0.26 per cent to USD 29.18 per ounce in the international markets. "US jobs data released in

VA Tech WABAG bags ₹2,700 crore sea water desalination plant order from Saudi Water Authority

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Water treatment player VA Tech WABAG has secured an order from Saudi Water Authority worth USD 317 million (Rs 2,700 crore) for setting up a Mega Sea Water Desalination plant in Saudi Arabia, the company said on Friday.



The Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning (EPC) contract including design and supply of the 300 million litres per day mega desalination plant which would be developed on a greenfield site in the west coast of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Water Authority, formally known as the Saline

water. The plant would be built with the state-of-the-art desalination technologies, designed for superior energy efficiency and would produce stellar quality of water complying with the environmental regulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "We are extremely honoured and proud to secure this mega order from prestigious customer Saudi Water Authority, which will contribute to the ambitious Saudi Vision 2030. This mega order is a testament to our expertise and commitment to delivering high-quality, sustainable water solutions worldwide," company Head-Strategy and Business Growth - GCC, Rohan Mittal

said in a company statement here. WABAG said, globally, it has established 60 desalination plants in 17 countries, for various municipalities and industries. "This (project) win reinforces our position in the desalination sector and we are confident that WABAG's Global Leadership in Desalination will grow further with this win," Mittal said. The Saudi Water Authority currently manages over 40 desalination plants producing over 11 million cubic meters per day and over 139 ground and surface water purification stations producing over 4 million cubic meters per day.

RBI imposes penalties on Housing and Urban Development Corporation, two others

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties on three entities, including Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd, for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'non-banking financial company - housing finance company'. A penalty of Rs 3.5 lakh has been imposed on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, the central bank said in a statement on Friday. In a separate release, RBI said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Godrej Housing. The Reserve Bank of India has also imposed a monetary



penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Aadar Housing Finance Ltd. In each case, the RBI added that penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to be pronounced upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the companies.

Forex reserves jump USD 2.3 billion to fresh record of USD 683.987 billion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 2.299 billion to a new high of USD 683.987 billion for the week ended on August 30, according to the RBI data release on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the forex reserves had jumped by USD 7.023 billion to a high of USD 681.688 billion. For the week ended August 30, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 1.485 billion to USD 599.037 billion, the data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 862 million to USD 61.859 billion during the week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 9 million to USD 18.468 billion. India's reserve position with the IMF was down by USD 58 million to USD 4.622 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.



THE STORY BEHIND KABINI ON MY MIND AN AUTHOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Discover the inspirations, experiences and insights behind **VIKRAM NANJAPPA'S** compelling wildlife narratives in *Kabini on my Mind: Musings of a Naturalist*

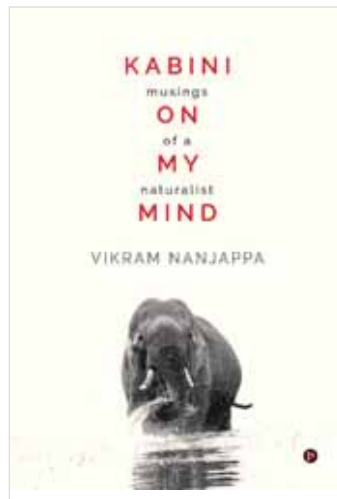
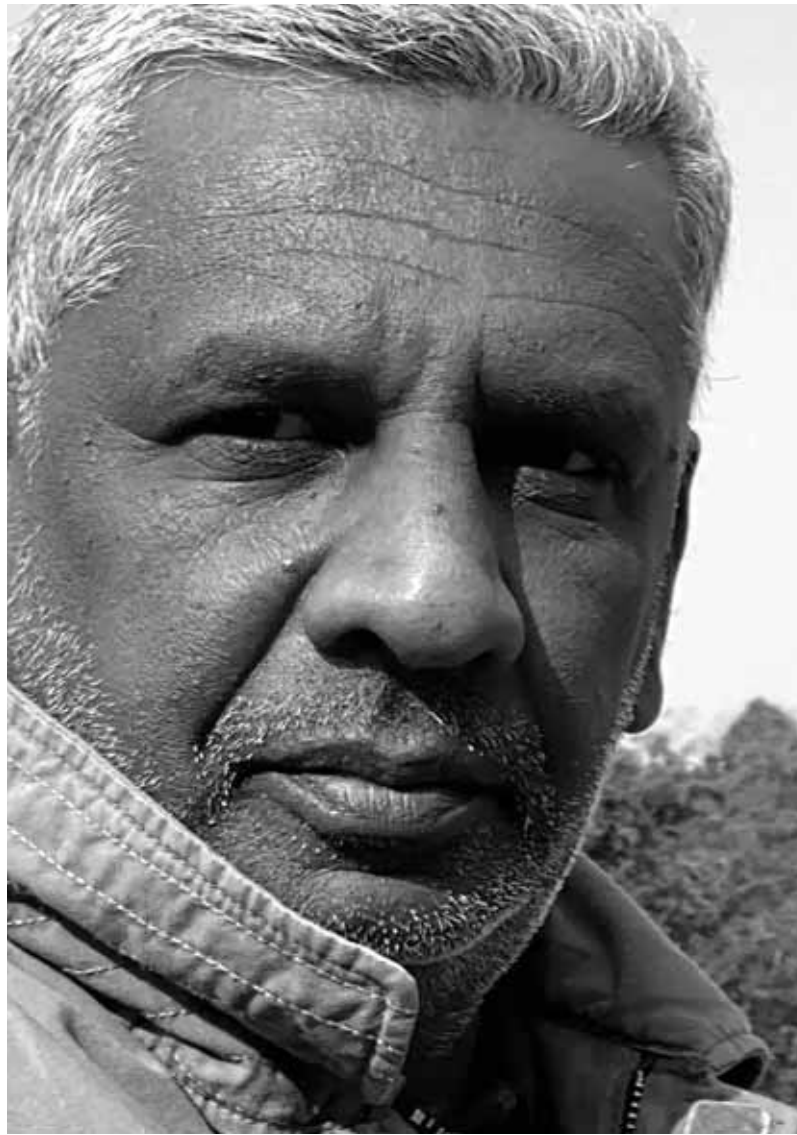
BY **SHARMILA CHAND**

Vikram Nanjappa likes to be described as an interested and well-informed amateur. He draws inspiration from the band of men called the Orientalists, most of whom were amateurs. Like them, his field of inquiry is 'Man and Nature; (with an emphasis on Nature) whatever is performed by the one or produced by the other'. Vikram's first exposure to wildlife came through the shikar tales he had heard from his friends while studying at Mayo College in Ajmer in Rajasthan, one of the country's oldest and celebrated institutions of learning. Vikram cites the writings of Billy Arjan Singh and Jim Corbett as having played a pivotal role in inclining him passionately and committedly towards wildlife. After completing his Bachelor's in History and Political Science from St. Stephen's College in New Delhi, Vikram joined the tea plantations. It was during the thirteen years he spent in Kerala and the Duars of West Bengal that he found the opportunity to hone his twin hobbies of wildlife and photography. In 2002 he moved to Kabini and took up organizing wildlife tours full time. He is one of those rare gems who managed to turn his passion into a rewarding and fulfilling vocation. After leaving Kabini, in a manner of natural progression, Vikram ventured into the field of wildlife conservation (Non-profit Organization Management) with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation for a few

years. He also explored the world of fashion as a freelance writer and as a photographer. His current avatar is that of a marketing professional. Vikram avers that traditional knowledge and field skills coupled with good science and common sense is the best way to understand, expose and preserve our wildlife, which is alarmingly on the decline. He strongly disapproves of what he calls the 'tabloid portrayal' of wildlife, where aberrant animal behaviour is highlighted to reinforce false myths and stereotypes. This has to be eclipsed by an attitude of respect and reverence for the animal kingdom if we are to continue enjoying sightings of our wild brethren in their natural habitats.

In an informal chat, he talks about his book and more

Firstly, let's hear about your book....
In the winter of 2002-03 I found myself in Kabini managing a farmhouse that was taking its first baby steps towards becoming a wildlife resort and if you had asked me a year earlier if that was where I saw myself a year hence, I would have laughed in your face. As the 1900s turned to the 2000s I was happily living on the Bhutan border, managing a tea estate and indulging in my love of photography and wildlife. I did not know then that the previously dreaded but now forgotten Y2K problem would culminate in me reaching Kabini in the middle of the night to discover that my quarters had an outdoor toilet without a door. Not wishing to make a fuss, I decided to tackle the problem in the morning



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book : 'Kabini on my Mind: Musings of a Naturalist' by **VIKRAM NANJAPPA**
Publisher : Notionpress

by catching the first available transport out. As day broke and I got my first look ... the rest, as they say, is history.

I was shortly joined by my wife Gowri, my daughter Tara and our dog (a St Bernard mix) Bernie. We later added another member to our family - Bruno, a dachshund. In Kabini I eagerly embarked on the next phase of my wildlife journey, exploring the forests and honing my skills as a Naturalist. Up until then I had been happily engrossed in tackling the human-elephant conflict prevailing in the Duars and keeping track of the resident leopards on the estate. I enjoyed my wild life in the Duars, observing elephants and, to a lesser degree, leopards.

We stayed in Kabini for nearly ten years, finally leaving in 2011 when I had become the Chief Naturalist at Evolve Back, and Kabini had become one of the premier wildlife destinations in India.

This book is a compilation of various musings, natural history notes, opinions and incidents that occurred in Kabini during my stint there. While they are arranged in no particular order, they were written as

they occurred and accurately reflect my mood, opinions and emotions as the incidents played out. A lot of water has flowed by since but I have resisted the temptation to 'update' them as I feel hindsight is not always a good thing - it can be unfair to those who actually lived through the moment.

How did you get the idea or let's say inspiration behind the book?

During my childhood my interest in wildlife was fueled by wildlife books written by various authors. Most of these books were written by western authors and were mostly about Africa. As I grew up, I realized that a lot of researchers from the west were writing and publishing 'popular' books about their research experiences while at the same time imparting knowledge on wildlife in a very easy to absorb manner. This unfortunately was missing in India and information on Indian wildlife was difficult to get. Sometime ago I realized that instead of complaining maybe I should write a book on my experiences as a naturalist in Kabini.

What is the target audience for the book?

The book is a compilation of various incidents that occurred during my stint and written in a very easy to read manner - the aim was to cater to both young adults and adults. It is also targeted at those who are not into wildlife as well as those who are. It's not really targeted at hardcore wild livers - but I am sure they will enjoy the stories.

Any specific aim of writing on this subject?

The idea is to get young people interested in wildlife by presenting facts in an easy to read format. The chapters are independent of each other and easy to digest, the book can be read at leisure - it's not a heavy and laborious read. With today's declining attention span this was a deliberate move on my part.

Your favorite chapters?

I love elephants and I think that comes out very strongly in the book. My favorite parts are the ones about elephants - the following chapters in particular:

Spirit of Kabini

A Trunk Full of Tales

A Tale of Two Giants

The Amphitheatre of Life and Death

You had mentioned the book is not tiger centric?

I have purposely not focused too much on the tiger - I feel that too our tourism industry is too tiger centric to the detriment of other species. There is much more to Indian wildlife and therefore I have given more

attention to other lesser known and charismatic species.

Any personal opinions / beliefs you have shared in the book?

Yes, I have also touched upon my personal beliefs which are not quite conventional but at the same time tried not to sensationalize aberrant animal behavior reinforce false myths and stereotypes.

Are you a Critique of current trends in wildlife guiding?

It ends with a mild critique (Last Chapter: The Mystic Naturalist) of the current trends in wildlife guiding which I feel is getting too 'professional' with scripted storytelling and more. I hope that this critique will be taken in the spirit it is intended and lead to a more mindful approach to guiding.

Is this your first book? Were you always into writing? You wanted to be an author?

Yes, it's my first book. I have always enjoyed writing and maintaining an online blog for a long time. I also briefly freelanced as a writer, writing articles on wildlife and men's style. Also dreamt of writing a book so one dream was fulfilled.

Why Kabini?

I spent nearly ten years of my life in Kabini. I know it very well and it's my home jungle. It's my karma Bhoomi as far as wildlife goes

How and when did you become a naturalist?

I became a naturalist in 2003 when I decided to quit my job as a tea planter and work in the wildlife field. As I was not 'qualified' to do research it was the only viable option for me.

How has your journey been as a Naturalist? Pls share a couple of milestones or anecdotes to share.

It was great. The biggest learning was when my boss Krishan Prasad or KP for short who is a great wildlifer himself advised me to ditch my camera for a pair of binoculars. Best advice I ever received- the learning that followed was stupendous.

Also getting the opportunity to interact with Dr Ullas Karanth and other such greats.

My outlook and philosophy towards wildlife was formed and greatly influenced by these individuals.

What did you enjoy the most about the book?

Writing it. I love to write.

What next? Which book? What subject?

Nothing definitive but I would like to write something from a foresters perspective about the day to day challenges of managing a national park in India.

NEW ARRIVALS

September Releases by Aleph Book Company



The Third Eye of Indian Art: Aesthetics as Vedanta
By HARSHA V. DEHEJIA (INR-499, PP-240)

The Third Eye of Indian Art delves into how Indian art offers more than just visual pleasure by inviting deeper, contemplative experiences. Harsha V. Dehejia introduces the 'third eye,' a concept for perceiving art not only objectively but through a serene, inner perspective. This book guides readers in appreciating art's spiritual and subjective dimensions, encouraging a profound understanding of beauty and truth. Dehejia, a physician and Indic studies professor with dual doctorates, offers insights drawn from his extensive expertise in Indian aesthetics.

A Wonderland of Words: Around the Word in 101 Essays
By Shashi Tharoor (INR-999, PP-472)

Words possess extraordinary power. They can move, entertain and reveal the world in profound ways. In this captivating book, renowned wordsmith Shashi Tharoor invites readers into the fascinating realm of the English language. He unravels punctuation, spelling and grammar, while exploring the richness of acronyms, oxymorons, metaphors, idioms and more. Tharoor's engaging prose offers insights into English's history, regional variations and literary brilliance, making *A Wonderland of Words* a delightful read for language enthusiasts.

Unlocking Wealth: Secrets to Getting Rich at Any Age
By ROHIT SARIN (INR-599, PP-224)

Unlocking Wealth reveals how individuals and families can grip India's economic growth to build substantial wealth. Rohit Sarin, a seasoned banker and entrepreneur, offers practical strategies for smart saving, sound investments, and risk-taking, emphasising that it's never too early or late to start. The book is both a guide for personal wealth creation and a broader vision for societal advancement, showing how increased wealth can benefit all Indians. With nearly three decades of wealth management experience, Sarin provides clear, actionable advice for creating and growing wealth at any age.

Journey of Self-Discovery and Courage

Niharika Nigam's debut novel, *Joy of Missing Out*, explores the transformative journey of Nanki Mehta, a young woman searching for meaning and fulfillment beyond societal expectations. Through an unexpected adventure, Nanki learns to embrace uncertainty, redefine purpose and take a leap of faith towards a more authentic life, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Joy of Missing Out by Niharika Nigam is a deeply engaging novel that explores the themes of self-discovery, existentialism and the quest for a meaningful life. Nigam, an entrepreneur with years of experience in the adventure sports industry, brings a unique perspective to her storytelling, blending personal insights with a broader commentary on modern life.

The novel centers around Nanki Mehta, a thirty-two-year-old brand strategist from Delhi, whose seemingly perfect life feels increasingly unfulfilling. Nanki's struggle is relatable, she grapples with societal expectations and a sense of stagnation in her career, marriage and personal life. Nigam paints a vivid portrait of a woman in crisis, yearning for something more than the mundane routines that have come to define her existence. Her portrayal of Nanki's internal conflict is rich and nuanced, making her journey of self-discovery both engaging and thought-provoking.

A turning point in the novel comes when Nanki stumbles upon a Bungy Jumping ad for Rishikesh, a place tied to her childhood memories. This ad becomes the catalyst for Nanki's journey towards transformation. Her interactions with River, a Bungy Jump Master, add a fresh dimension to her life. River's outsider perspective challenges Nanki to reconsider her own beliefs, offering new ways of thinking about purpose and fulfillment. This friendship serves as a mirror for Nanki's own soul-searching, encouraging readers to reflect on their own lives. One of the novel's most effective elements is its use of Bungy



Jumping as a metaphor for Nanki's leap of faith. What begins as a simple adventure turns into a powerful symbol of courage, trust and the willingness to embrace the unknown. This metaphor is woven throughout the narrative, providing a poignant backdrop to Nanki's internal transformation and reinforcing the novel's central themes of risk, renewal, and self-discovery.

Nigam's own experience in the adventure sports sector gives the book an authentic feel, especially in the scenes set in Rishikesh. Her understanding of courage, risk and the human desire for freedom adds depth and realism to Nanki's journey. The novel also delves into the challenges of social



entrepreneurship, showing how Nanki uses her business acumen to support a local NGO, blending purpose with practicality.

The emotional core of the story is further enriched by Nanki's relationship with her grandfather, Nanu, whose illness and eventual death force her to confront her fears and redefine her understanding of loss and resilience. This subplot adds emotional weight to the narrative, making Nanki's journey even more

compelling. *Joy of Missing Out* is a novel that challenges readers to reflect on their own paths and the choices they make. It captures the tension between societal expectations and personal fulfillment, urging readers to take their own leaps of faith. Nigam's writing is insightful and empathetic, making this a book that resonates with anyone who has ever felt the need to step away from the familiar in search of a deeper sense of purpose.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: Joy of Missing Out
Author: Niharika Nigam | **Publisher:** Nu Voice
Price: INR 299 | **Pages:** 288



Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Diamond League season finale in Brussels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has qualified for this month's season finale of the prestigious Diamond League after finishing fourth in the overall standings at the end of its 14 series meetings across the world. The season finale will be a two-day affair on September 13 and 14 in Brussels. Chopra accumulated 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne. He skipped the last series meet in Zurich on Thursday. The 26-year-old is two points adrift of Czechia's Jakub

Vadlech. Grenada's Anderson Peters and German star Julian Weber occupy the top two spots with 29 and 21 points respectively. Peters had pipped Weber in the Zurich meet. Chopra, who won gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and added a silver to his kitty in the Paris edition last month, has been struggling with his fitness this season. The Haryana-lad has talked about a groin injury troubling him since before the Olympic Games that has come in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark. The Indian finished second in the Lausanne Diamond Leg, bested by Peters, who threw 90.61m. In Paris Olympics, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem had

taken the gold with a monster throw of 92.97m. "First goal, go to the doctor and make my groin 100 per cent fit and also I will be technically better and try to throw far again," he had said last month about his plans for this year and the coming one. Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlech in the winner-takes-all finale in Eugene, USA, last year. Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a prestigious "Diamond Trophy", USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships. The DL finale will mark the end of Chopra's season.

India's fast bowling makes it difficult to beat them in Australia: Labuschagne

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Star batter Marnus Labuschagne reckons fast bowlers make India a "difficult" side to beat in Australian conditions as the hosts look to end their barren run in Border-Gavaskar Trophy which has lasted nearly a decade. India have won every bilateral Test series against Australia since losing 1-2 in an away affair in 2014-15. They have recorded identical 2-1 series wins in 2018-19 and 2020-21 Down Under to remain on top. "India's fast bowling is very good, which is really what brings them in Australian conditions and make them such a tough team to beat in Australian conditions," Labuschagne told Star Sports. The middle-order mainstay

termed the rivalry as 'tough' irrespective of where they are playing. "There is always high anticipation. To these two teams, it doesn't matter where we're playing, if it's in England, Australia, or India, it's always a tough contest," he said. Australia spinner Nathan Lyon termed Indian players as "superstars" while hoping to revive his on-field rivalry with India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. "I've always said throughout my whole career (that) I want to compete against the best and you look through the whole Indian line-up, the whole squad, there's absolute superstars everywhere," he said. "I know Ashwin, we debuted around similar times and we've competed against each other in



a number of series. I have got nothing but respect for him. He is an absolute master in the craft of off-spin bowling and it's been an absolute privilege to play against him and learn off him," said Lyon. All-rounder Cameron Green reckoned the five-Test series

between India and Australia starting on November 22 at Perth could be a "preview" for the final of the World Test Championship next year. India lead the WTC table for 2023-25 cycle with 68.52 percentage points and 74 points, followed by Australia

with 62.50 percentage points and 90 points. The WTC final will be played at Lord's from June 11-15 next year and could feature both the current top two teams once again. India have featured in the summit clashes of the WTC on both occasions but have lost to New Zealand (2019-21) and Australia (2021-23). "Every single point is pretty crucial for the World Test Championship. Any way you can kind of (or) get an idea of (to) how to get one up on your opponent, we'll try and take," Green said. "If it is a bit of a preview for a World Test Championship final again, yeah, we've been trying to get as much information out of India and see how we can win it again," he added.

Vikram Rathour, Rangana Herath added to New Zealand coaching staff

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Former India batting coach Vikram Rathour and Sri Lanka spin great Rangana Herath were on Friday added to New Zealand's coaching staff ahead of Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. New Zealand will play a one-off Test against Afghanistan before heading to Sri Lanka for a two-Test series. The one-off Test against the Afghans will be held at the Greater Noida Sports Complex Ground from September 9 to 13. The Kiwis are also due to play a three-Test series against India in October-November. While Herath has been appointed for Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka as New Zealand's spin bowling coach, Rathour will be with the Kiwi side only for the contest against Afghanistan.



Rathour had a successful run as India's batting coach under head coach Rahul Dravid. His tenure ended after India's T20 World Cup win in June this year. The addition of Rathour and Herath

was announced by New Zealand Cricket on their website. "Sri Lankan spin maestro Rangana Herath has been appointed as spin bowling coach for the three upcoming

Tests in Asia, replacing former Pakistan spinner and coach Saqlain Mushtaq who was originally announced to fill the temporary role before pulling out to take up a position with the Pakistan Cricket Board," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement. Head coach Gary Stead said, "We're really excited to introduce Rangana and Vikram into our Test group." "Both men are held in high regard in the world of cricket and I know our players are really looking forward to the opportunity to learn from them." Stead hoped Herath's expertise as a left-arm spinner will help New Zealand's Ajaz Patel, Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra. "For our three left-arm orthodox spinners in particular, Ajaz, Mitch and Rachin, having the chance to work with Rangana across three Tests on the sub-continent will be hugely beneficial," he said.



Gagan Narang lauds performance of Indian athletes at Paris Paralympics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

London Games bronze medalist shooter and India's Chef de Mission at the Paris Olympics, Gagan Narang on Friday heaped praise on the country's para athletes for their performance in the ongoing Paralympics. The Indian Paralympic contingent has already bagged a record 25 medals in this edition of the quadrennial showpiece with 5 gold, 9 silver and 11 bronze and is currently placed at the 16th position in the medal tally. When asked about his analysis of the Paris Olympic Games, the former shooter said he hasn't done it yet. "I haven't done my analysis of the Paris Olympics yet, everybody has spoken about it. But the most important thing right now is that in the

Paralympics we are performing well, we are on the 16th position today. "A fantastic effort by our Paralympians. They surpassed the Tokyo Paralympics medal tally, looking forward for more medals," Narang told PTI Videos on the sidelines of the Media Photojournalist Trust's photo exhibition event at the Press Club of India. Narang also shared his thoughts on his love for photography and expressed his admiration for the photos he saw at the exhibition. "Fantastic exhibition indeed, photographers are lifeline of journalism. They give us a perspective and no AI (Artificial Intelligence) can replace them. I wish, pray and help the association to do this function every year. Fantastic effort and great pictures," he concluded.

Kerala seeks football collaboration with Argentina

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Football-crazy Kerala is seeking collaboration with the Argentine Football Association (AFA), with a high-level delegation headed by State Sports Minister V Abdurahiman holding a meeting with its office-bearers in Madrid, Spain. In a Facebook post, Abdurahiman, who is currently in Madrid, said on Friday that the collaboration with AFA will be a huge investment for Kerala and expressed his desire to make this a reality as soon as possible. "The possibility of considering Kerala as a venue for international friendly matches



was discussed. As part of this, the association representatives expressed interest in visiting Kerala soon. AFA also expressed interest in setting up football academies in Kerala in collaboration with the state government," he said. According to the minister, the AFA said that the Argentine fan community in Kerala has always been warmly

welcomed. Commenting on their meeting, the AFA said: "Together with the delegation from the Government of Kerala, headed by V Abdurahiman, Minister of Sports, we had the opportunity to share initiatives and projects that will surely materialize in the short term." In recent years, the association has established itself as one of

the most important and popular sports brands in this strategic market through its global expansion strategy, it said in a statement. "In this context, our institution is working on developing sports and commercial projects in different parts of the country, with the aim of continuing to expand our brand and being closer to the fans of the Argentine National Team in India," it added. The AFA also thanked the Government of Kerala for "this important visit." Meanwhile, the Abdurahiman-led delegation also visited various sports development centres in Madrid and met with officials from the Spanish Higher Sports Council.



Australia stunned by Bahrain in World Cup qualifying as Palestinians draw with South Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

Australia fell to a shock 1-0 loss to Bahrain at home in the opening game of the third round of Asian World Cup qualifying. Meanwhile, South Korea was held to 0-0 by the Palestinians in Seoul. Despite losing all six previous games against Australia, Bahrain won thanks to an own goal from Harry Souttar with a minute remaining on the Gold Coast. Abdulla Al-Khalasi's cross from the left side of the area hit the defender and flew past goalkeeper Mat Ryan. Australia dominated the game but was reduced to 10 men when Kusini Yengi was red-carded after 77 minutes for a reckless tackle. "It's not the way that we want to start our campaign, a loss at home, but we have to go away and improve," Australia winger Craig Goodwin said. "We have to look at the positives. This is the first game, there are nine games to go." Bahrain is second in Group C behind Japan, which thrashed China 7-0 in Saitama. First-half headers from midfielder Wataru Endo and winger Kaoru Mitoma put Japan in control by the break. Then Takumi Minamino scored twice in quick succession and Junya Ito, Daizen Maeda and Takefusa Kubo also found the target to make it a painful evening for China. Also in Group C, Saudi Arabia was held to a 1-1 draw by Indonesia in Jeddah. Ragnar Oratmangoen scored for Indonesia but Musab Al-Juwayr equalized before the break for Roberto Mancini's

team. Salem Al-Dawsari missed a late penalty. The 18 teams remaining in Asian qualification have been divided into three groups of six. The top two from each qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup while the six teams that finish in third and fourth will advance to the fourth round where there are two more places on offer. South Korea last missed out on the World Cup in 1982 and got off to a poor start in Group B due to the Palestinians. South Korea missed chance after chance - captain Son Heung-min hit the post - but could not find a way through a determined defense from a visitor that has never reached this stage before. The Palestinians almost snatched what would have been a stunning victory in added time. Through on goal, Wessam Abou Ali's shot was saved by Jo Hyun-woo. "It was a difficult match, but we were able to come away with a good result because we brought all the players that we could get our hands on," Palestinian coach Makram Daboub said. "I am extremely happy to bring joy to our fans in Palestine." Iraq is above Korea in Group B after a 1-0 win over Oman in Basra while Jordan drew 1-1 with Kuwait. Iran got off to a winning start in Group A, defeating Kyrgyzstan 1-0 thanks to a first half goal from Inter Milan striker Mehdi Taremi. Uzbekistan is level on three points after a 1-0 victory over North Korea. United Arab Emirates is top of the group with a 3-1 win at Asian champion Qatar.

Indian Hockey can aim for gold in next Olympics: Sreejesh

PTI ■ PATNA

Riding high on the success of winning a bronze medal in Paris - ending a four-decade-long dry spell - the Indian hockey team now aims to build on this momentum with hopes of clinching gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, ace goalkeeper P R Sreejesh said on Friday. The former national team captain, who announced his retirement after the Paris Olympics, told journalists in the Bihar capital that he saw the state as the future "sports hub". "I see many positive developments in Bihar, particularly at the sports complex in Rajgir, which now features an astro turf and will host the women's Asian Cup Trophy tournament later this year," Sreejesh remarked. He added, "I see no reason why Bihar cannot emerge as the country's next sports hub. I have met sports department officials



here and found many initiatives, like establishment of a sports university, quite impressive." Sreejesh, who has taken up a new assignment as the coach for the junior men's hockey team, said he had set his eyes on the next Asia Cup and revealed that he was drawing inspiration from former cricket team captain Rahul Dravid. After a successful playing career, Dravid, known as "The Wall" for his steadfast batting, has made significant contributions as head coach of the Indian cricket team, helping it to new heights.

Sreejesh broke into a wide grin that like his idol, his own skills earned him the sobriquet "The Great Wall of Indian Hockey". At 36, Sreejesh reminisced about his experiences at the Paris Olympics and expressed hope that the national team would "revive the old glory of Indian hockey" by aiming for gold in Los Angeles and performing well in tournaments leading up to the 2028 Games. "We have a very talented team. Krishan Pathak, who has succeeded me, is an excellent goalkeeper," Sreejesh said, highlighting the importance of managing pressure and taking time to unwind between games. A fan of Harry Potter, Sreejesh confessed that his love for fiction has provided him with a means of escape from the intense pressures of competitive sports, helping him navigate the challenges of his demanding career.

AP ■ NEW YORK

Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori won the U.S. Open mixed doubles title with a 7-6 (0), 7-5 victory Thursday over Taylor Townsend and Donald Young, who fell just short of a Grand Slam title in his final match before retiring. Errani, who won a career Grand Slam in women's doubles with fellow Italian Roberta Vinci, added her first career mixed doubles title to the Olympic gold medal in women's doubles she won last month with Jasmine Paolini. "It's incredible for me this

Errani and Vavassori win US Open mixed doubles title in Young's final match before retiring

year. It's amazing," Errani said. Townsend and Young, who have been friends since they were kids, were given a wild card into the event for what was the 35-year-old Young's final tournament. The former top-ranked junior hadn't played much in recent years, having made the switch to pickleball. "Obviously wasn't the result

we wanted," Young said, "but I can't think of a better spot, place to go out in, having watched that as a kid, and playing with someone I've known our whole life. It's pretty cool for me." He and Townsend made their way through the draw, knocking off defending champions Anna Danilina and Harri Heliövarra in the quarterfinals.



But Errani and Vavassori, the No. 3 seeds, dominated the tiebreaker and then won the match by breaking Townsend's serve. Errani hadn't played a mixed doubles event for eight years before partnering with Vavassori at Wimbledon. They were knocked out in the first round, then reached the quarterfinals at the Olympics before coming to New York.