



OPINION 6 THE ONION PRICE AND POLL DYNAMICS

WORLD 9 ISRAELI STRIKES IN SYRIA LEAVE 14 DEAD, MORE THAN 40 HURT

MONEY 10 STRONG GAINS IN FMCG, BANKING DRIVE SENSEX 376 POINTS HIGHER

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2024; PAGES 12-13

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INDIA THRASH JAPAN 5-1 FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE WIN 11 SPORTS

SC directs protesting doctors in West Bengal to return to work immediately

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Protest cannot be at the cost of duty," the Supreme Court observed on Monday as it directed the West Bengal doctors protesting over the rape and killing of a postgraduate medic at the State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata to return to work immediately. A bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud directed the protesting doctors to get back to work by 5 pm on Tuesday and assured them that there will be no adverse action if they resume duty. "The State of West Bengal must take steps to create confidence in the minds of the doctors that their concerns regarding their safety and security are being duly attended to. In order to ensure this, all the district collectors and SPs (superintendents of police) shall take stock of the situation in all Government medical colleges and public hospitals and provide adequate safety. "We also direct that in the event the doctors return to duty on or before 5 pm (on Tuesday), no adverse disciplinary action should be taken against them. If there is continued abstention of work, there may be a likelihood of



A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra during the second day of hearing on a suo moto case related to the alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata, at the Supreme Court in New Delhi, Monday, September 9, 2024. PTI Photo

adverse action," the bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said. The court said the protesting doctors cannot be oblivious to the needs of the general community. "Any protest cannot be at the cost of duty. The young doctors must now return and attend to the patients. We know what is happening on the ground. First, return to work. The district collectors and superintendents of police will ensure (your) safety. You have to now return to work," the bench said. Appearing in the court on behalf of the West Bengal Government, senior advocate Kapil Sibal submitted that 23

people have died in the State as doctors are on strike protesting against the rape and killing that has triggered nationwide protests. The Supreme Court also voiced concern over the absence of a key document that was needed for the postmortem of the medic raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, and asked the CBI to investigate into it. The court also flagged that there was at least a 14-hour delay by Kolkata Police in registering FIR in rape and murder incident. The top court directed the CBI to submit a fresh report by September 17 on the probe in the case. The apex court also

directed immediate removal of photographs of the victim from all social media platforms to protect the dignity and privacy of the deceased. On the issue of security of medical institutions in the State, the Supreme Court said "All DMs, SPs in West Bengal to take stock of situation to ensure safety, security of Government medical colleges". The apex court also directed a senior officer of the West Bengal Government's Home department and a senior CISF officer to ensure all three companies of the CISF, which are deputed for security at the RG Kar Hospital, are given accommodation.



Youth tested Mpox positive, Centre urges to be vigilant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday said that the 26-year-old male who recently travelled from the country experiencing Mpox transmission has tested positive for the viral disease. However, in a bid to allay fears, the Union Health Ministry in a statement issued here stated that the virus is of the West African clade 2, not related to the current clade 1 public health emergency. The patient is currently isolated at a designated tertiary care isolation facility at Delhi Government's LNJP Hospital. "The patient remains clinically stable and is without any systemic illness or comorbidities," the Ministry said. It added that it is an isolated case, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards. It is not a part of the current public health emergency reported by WHO which is regarding clade 1 of Mpox, it maintained. Continued on Page 8

APPOINTMENT OF 69,000 ASSISTANT TEACHERS SC stays HC verdict asking UP govt to prepare fresh selection list

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Allahabad High Court order asking the Uttar Pradesh government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in the state. The top court also stayed the HC verdict setting aside the selection lists of assistant teachers issued by the state authorities in June 2020 and January 2022, which included 6,800 candidates. While putting on hold the high court's verdict, a bench comprising Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also issued notices to the state government and others including the secretary of the UP Basic Education Board on a plea filed by Ravi Kumar Saxena and 51 others. The top court said it will accord a final hearing in the matter and asked the counsel for the parties involved to file short written notes not exceeding seven pages. The bench said it will fix the plea for hearing in the week commencing September 23. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati appeared for the Uttar Pradesh government. The high court, in August, directed the state government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in the state.

A division bench of the high court had issued the order while disposing of 90 special appeals filed by Mahendra Pal and others challenging a single-judge order of March 13 last year. The high court had directed that while preparing the new selection list, any adverse impact on the currently working assistant teachers should be mitigated by allowing them to complete the ongoing academic session. This is intended to prevent disruption in the students' education, it had said. The division bench of the high court had also revised the earlier order and said reserved category candidates who qualify for the general category merit list should be migrated to that category. The high court had upheld the single-judge decision to cancel the January 5, 2022 selection list of 6,800 candidates belonging to the reserved category. The single judge bench had ruled that candidates who benefited from reservations in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) should not be considered under the unreserved category, even if they scored the cut-off marks stipulated for the general category candidates. However, the division bench later clarified that such candidates should be migrated to the general category if they meet the merit criteria.

Come clean on remission issue, SC to state govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh government for making a senior IAS officer a "scapegoat" by shunting him out for giving "false" information to court and blaming the chief minister's office for not processing files related to remission of sentences of convicts when the model code of conduct was in force. The top court said state government officials did not open the email of the jail authorities intimating them about the order of the court that the model code of conduct (MCC), which was in force till June 6 on account of the Lok Sabha elections, will not come in the way of processing the files on remission of sentences. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said it will go deep into the matter to ascertain the truth and gave one last opportunity to the state government to come clean by giving the exact sequence of events following its May 13 order on. Continued on Page 8



The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines for Su-30MKI aircraft in the presence of the Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, in New Delhi on September 9, 2024. PIB

Defence Ministry contract to HAL, a major boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the Defence Ministry on Monday signed a contract with State-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for 240 AL-31FP aero engines for Su-30MKI aircraft at a cost of over Rs 26,000 crore. Official sources said the aero-engines will be manufactured by the Koraput division of HAL and are expected to fulfil the need of the Indian Air Force to sustain the operational capability of the Su-30 fleet. The deal for the engines comes amid concerns over the depleting fleet of the IAF's fighter squadrons and delays in the supply of Tejas jets by HAL. The number of the IAF's fighter squadrons has come down to around 30 as against the authorised strength of at least 42.

The contract agreement was inked by senior officials of the ministry and the HAL in the presence of Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari. The HAL would supply 30 aero-engines annually as per the contractual delivery schedule. The supply of all 240 engines would be completed over the next eight years, according to the defence ministry. "During manufacturing, HAL plans to take support from the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem, involving MSMEs and public and private industries," said the official. "By the end of the delivery programme, HAL would enhance the indigenisation content up to 63 per cent to achieve an average of over 54 per cent," the defence ministry said. It said this would also help increase the indigenous content of repair and overhaul tasks of the aero-engines.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said PM Modi and Crown Prince Al Nahyan discussed the multifaceted relations between India and the UAE with an aim to broaden the comprehensive strategic partnership. "The two leaders discussed the multifaceted India-UAE relations and avenues to broaden the comprehensive strategic partnership to new and emerging areas," Jaiswal said. After holding talks with Modi, the visiting leader paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial Rajghat. An Agreement for long-term LNG supply between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and another between ADNOC and India Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) are among the

PM, Crown Prince talks take ties to next level

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, Monday. Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

four pacts. Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) also inked an MoU for the operation and maintenance of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The fourth pact is a production concession agreement for Abu Dhabi onshore block-one between Urja Bharat and ADNOC. A

separate pact was inked between the Gujarat Government and Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company PJSC on setting up food parks in India. Following the landmark visit of Modi to the UAE in August 2015, bilateral relations between the two countries were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both countries signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in

February 2022 and a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System in July 2023 to promote the use of Indian Rupee and AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) for cross-border transactions. The two countries are among each other's top trading partners with a bilateral trade of about USD 85 billion in 2022-23, according to official data. The UAE is also among the top four investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments in 2022-23. About 3.5 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in the UAE. The UAE was invited as special invitee for G20 during India's Presidency of the grouping. In Feb 2023, the India-UAE-France (UFI) trilateral was formally launched. With India's active support, the UAE joined SCO as dialogue partner in May 2023. The UAE also joined BRICS as a member on January 1 with India's support. The India-UAE defence cooperation has also witnessed a renewed momentum in the last few years. In January 2024, the first India-UAE bilateral army exercise 'Desert Cyclone' was held in Rajasthan. Nahyan also called on the President Draupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan during which she praised the UAE leadership for ensuring the welfare, particularly the special care taken during the difficult times of the Covid pandemic, of more than 35 lakh Indian citizens in the West Asian country. Continued on Page 8

BJP attacks Rahul Gandhi for US remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP on Monday launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his latest remarks in the United States, calling him a "black spot" in Indian democracy. The party accused Rahul Gandhi of trying to weaken Indian democracy with his remarks whenever he is abroad, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reportedly signed between the Congress and the Chinese Communist Party during the UPA rule. BJP claimed that Congress had signed a "party-to-party MoU with China" during its rule. "The series of efforts that Rahul Gandhi has been making to weaken Indian democracy is the outcome of that MoU. If I am wrong, I dare Rahul Gandhi and (Congress president) Mallikarjun Kharge to make the MoU public," the party stated in its first reactions to the Rahul's recent visit abroad. "Everybody knows that Rahul Gandhi is an immature and part-time leader. But People have put a huge responsibility on his shoulders since he became the leader of opposition (in the Lok Sabha). But I feel sad to say that Rahul Gandhi is a black spot in Indian democracy. He does not even know what to talk about when he visits a foreign country," said Gaurav Bhatia, BJP's national spokesperson, at a Press conference at the BJP



LoP in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses the Indian Diaspora, at Dallas in Texas, USA. PTI

headquarters. He was replying to reporters' queries on Rahul's remarks against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at an event in the US. Love, respect and humility are missing from Indian politics, Rahul said in his address to the Indian-American community, where he also criticised the RSS for believing that India is "one idea". The Leader of Opposition made the remarks on Sunday in Dallas, during his first interaction with the Indian diaspora on his current visit to the US. During an interaction with students at the University of Texas in Dallas, Rahul also underscored the need to focus on manufacturing in India, saying India, the US and other countries in the West are facing the problem of unemployment while China is not as it is dominating global production. Continued on Page 8

Kalindi Exp hits LPG cylinder placed on track

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR/NEW DELHI

For the second consecutive day yet another major train accident was averted as the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi Express was brought to a screeching halt after hitting an LPG cylinder placed on the tracks. In what appears to be a sabotage, a bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also recovered from the site. Police said the incident occurred around 8.20 pm on Sunday when the train was running at a high speed. An FIR has been registered in

the matter and multiple teams have been formed to probe the incident. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Rajesh Kumar Singh said the Uttar Pradesh Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has launched an investigation separately. "An attempt was made to derail the Kalindi Express by placing the LPG cylinder on the tracks. Soon after receiving information about the incident around 8.20 pm on Sunday, senior officials rushed to the site and launched an investigation," police said. A forensics team was also called in and the Railway



Police and fire services personnel inspect an LPG cylinder after an attempt was allegedly made to derail the Kalindi Express, heading towards Bhiwani from Prayagraj, by placing the LPG cylinder on the tracks, in the Shivrajpur area in Kanpur on Sunday night. PTI

Protection Force (RPF) is also investigating the matter, they said. Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chandra said the loco pilot saw that the LPG cylinder was placed on the tracks and applied emergency brakes. However, before it came to a halt, the train hit the cylinder, throwing it away from the tracks, Chandra said, adding the loco pilot informed the guard and the gateman about it. The train remained at the incident site for about 20 minutes and was again stopped. Continued on Page 8

GST Council to reduce rates on Cancer drugs: FM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the GST Council has decided to reduce the rates on some cancer drugs to five percent from 12 percent. The Council also reduced the rate on namkeen to 12 per cent from 18 per cent, she said, adding that the Council will take a call on reduction in rate on health insurance at the next meeting in November. Sitharaman, who chaired the 54th meeting of the GST



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with MoS Pankaj Chaudhary and others during the 54th meeting of the GST Council, in New Delhi. PTI

Council said that the revenue generated from online gaming has increased by 412 per cent in the last six months. "The Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation and the GoM on real estate submitted

status reports today. Status on online gaming and casinos was submitted. Revenue from online gaming has increased by 412 per cent at Rs 6,909 crore in six months," she said. Continued on Page 8

BUILDING COLLAPSE

Police verifying complaints about structural defects

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after filing a case against the ill-fated building owner, Rakesh Singhal, on charges including culpable homicide, police have commenced their investigation. As the probe is still in its early stages, the police are gathering corroborative evidence against Singhal and verifying complaints from tenants about structural defects in the building. According to police sources, the building owner is currently at large, having reportedly gone into hiding following his involvement in the case. Preliminary findings suggest that officials from the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) failed to conduct a required safety audit of the building, contrary to departmental standards. The sources noted that following the collapse of a Alaya Apartment last year, a proposal for mandatory safety audits of buildings was introduced but subsequently shelved. The ongoing investigation plans to include technical experts in building safety to assist in determining the charges against Singhal. The owner is alleged to have used substandard materials to cut costs and maximise rental profits, despite having obtained approval for the building's plans. Transporters, on the condition of anonymity, suggested that timely safety audits could have detected faults in the building before the incident, potentially preventing the collapse. The police, having limited experience in investigating structural failures causing fatalities, are consulting with experts. The Allaya Apartment col-

lapse case was a precedent-setting investigation for the Lucknow police, and now, a building in Transport Nagar has been sealed. Experts and engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD), LDA, and National Building Construction Corporation may be involved to aid the investigation. The investigation will assess whether any tenants had previously lodged complaints with relevant authorities. Initial findings reveal that a drug company's warehouse was located on the first floor, and a truck loaded with medicines was present at the time of the collapse. The focus will be on examining the building's structural integrity, its adherence to approved design specifications, and whether it was used beyond its intended capacity. The building will remain sealed until the investigation is complete, with teams verifying the quality of construction materials and overall safety compliance. Meanwhile, a three-member team of experts is set to arrive in Lucknow on Tuesday morning for a structural audit of the ill-fated building. The team, comprising senior faculty members from the National University of Forensic Science in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, will conduct a thorough survey of the construction materials used and assess the collapse's causes. Their arrival, initially scheduled for Monday evening, was delayed for unknown reasons. The initiative was led by Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob, who requested the university's expertise to prevent future incidents.

Physical activities play key role in 'Viksit India': Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that a healthy body is the fundamental requirement for realising the vision of a capable society and a strong nation. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 73rd All India Police Wrestling Cluster-2024, he remarked: "Sports, yoga, and pranayama have been integral to Indian tradition since ancient times. Long time ago, the Indian sages had proclaimed, 'Sharimadyam Khalu Dharma Sadhanam', which means a healthy body is essential for pursuing all paths to righteousness." Congratulating the participants in the competition, CM Yogi said that since becoming Prime Minister in 2014, Narendra Modi has introduced programmes aimed at realising the vision of a 'Viksit India', with sports and physical activities playing a key role. "Initiatives like 'Khelo India', 'Fit India Movement', MP sports competitions and village-level to national-level events are being organised, drawing participation from all sections of society. The world is witnessing the incredible performance of Indian sports persons, including our divyang players, who demonstrated rare talent and resilience in the recently-held Paralympics in Paris. This moment is a source of pride for us, as it embodies the prime minister's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'." CM Yogi emphasised that sports foster dedication to one's



work and inspire resilience in the face of life's challenges, building the strength to overcome adversities and resist malicious attempts to hinder one's progress. "If success is not achieved, sports instill the grace to accept setbacks, often leading to more significant future victories," he added. Addressing the police personnel, the CM said, "Whether it concerns national security or improving law and order across states, the police fulfil their duties with dedication and integrity. However, beyond these responsibilities, engaging in activities that foster social unity and trust is equally important. Policing, therefore, extends beyond law enforce-

ment to include participation in creative endeavours that strengthen society." "Under the leadership of PM Modi, Uttar Pradesh has implemented a comprehensive action plan to advance sports and sporting activities. A dedicated sports policy has been introduced, and steps are being taken to directly recruit athletes who have won medals in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and World Championships into the Uttar Pradesh Police. So far, over 500 such athletes have been recruited through this initiative, and their outstanding performance is helping drive the progress of the state's police force," he said. He added: "Uttar Pradesh is also actively developing sports infrastructure, with playgrounds being built in 57,000 gram panchayats, mini stadiums in 825 development blocks, and full-sized stadiums in all 75 districts. The rapid pace of development is a testament to the state government's commitment to promoting sports activities and fostering a healthy and active community." CM Yogi further remarked that while the names of organisations may differ, their mission remains the same—ensuring the security of India, which is paramount to all. "Whether on the India-Nepal or India-Bhutan borders, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is trying to safeguard these areas while maintaining India's strong social, cultural, and political ties with neighbouring countries. With a 550-kilometre stretch of the border shared with Nepal, Uttar Pradesh Police actively participate in joint patrols with the SSB. By working together to uphold national security, they also build trust among the local communities in these border areas," he stated. With the commitment to ensuring that the nation's security remains unharmed, these initiatives continue through excellent coordination. At the same time, the SSB also engages in numerous creative activities to benefit the local population, he added. Director General of Police (UP) Prashant Kumar, and SSB and Border Security Force Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, among others, were present on the occasion.

Address pending cases top priority: SCW chairperson

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Dr Babita Singh Chauhan, who recently joined as the State Commission for Women's Chairperson, said on Monday that her top priority would be addressing the pending cases. The Commission had been without a chairperson for the past two years. Expressed her gratitude for the opportunity, Chauhan stated, "I am pleased to have been selected as the SCW Chairperson. I thank Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the BJP for this honour. As this is a women's commission, I will focus on advancing women's welfare, particularly in areas such as health, education, and self-dependence." She plans to collaborate with her team to strategise and develop plans in these areas in the coming days. Asked about the current status of women in the state, Chauhan lauded the safety and security measures in place. "Women are safe in Uttar Pradesh. They do not feel insecure when they step out of their homes. This is due to the effective programmes initiated by both the Central and state governments, which focus on women's issues and aim to promote their self-dependence," she said. Chauhan acknowledged that while progress has been made, there is still room for improvement. "We need to enhance these programmes further. It is crucial to reach out to women

in the remotest villages which may not have access to information about education, health, and security. While women in cities are more aware, those in rural areas need greater attention," she added. Regarding the recent Kolkata rape and murder incident, Chauhan commented, "The situation in Bengal indicates a lack of effective law and order. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh has been working to reduce criminal activities. Nevertheless, if any issues are brought to my attention, I will address them." Acknowledging the backlog of cases due to the Commission's recent vacancy, Chauhan said: "I will review the old files to determine how best to address the issues faced by women in the state. The Commission deals with a diverse range of cases from across the state." She emphasised the importance of education for women in building their confidence and self-reliance. "I will focus on women of all age groups, tailoring our approach to meet their specific needs," she added. Chauhan, who joined the BJP in 2013, has a background in working with women's issues. She previously served as the president of Mahila Morcha in the Braj area and is currently the state vice-president of BJP Mahila Morcha. "My extensive experience working with women positions me well for this role," she said. She holds an MA in Political Science and a law degree from Agra University, and completed PhD in Germany.

SMNRU's 9th convocation on Sept 13

Lucknow (PNS): Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (SMNRU) is set to hold its ninth convocation at Atal Auditorium on September 13. Established on September 19, 2008, by the department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the university's mission is to rehabilitate, empower, and educate individuals with disabilities, integrating them into mainstream society. The convocation will be presided over by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, also the Chancellor of the university. India's first Paralympic gold medalist Murali Kant Rajaram Petkar will be the chief guest. Minister of State for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Narendra Kashyap will be the special guest. During the ninth convocation, the university will award degrees to 1,615 students. Additionally, 159 meritorious students will receive medals—59 gold, 50 silver, and 50 bronze.

Cabinet paves way for filling vacant posts in UPSRTC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved 13 proposals, including significant changes for recruitment in the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC). The decisions were taken in a meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday. The vacant Group 'B' positions will now be filled through the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC), while Group 'C' positions will be recruited through the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC). Principal Secretary, Transport, L Venkateshwarlu noted that many Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts are currently vacant, and the last recruitment was conducted via IIM, Lucknow. With the cabinet's approval, recruitment requisitions will be sent to both commissions. **New infrastructure in Chandauli:** A new bus stand and depot workshop will be constructed in Chandauli. The land for these projects will be provided free of cost by the Agriculture department to the Transport Corporation.

Dairy plant expansion in Banda: A dairy plant with a capacity of 30,000 litres per day will be established in Banda under the Bundelkhand package. The capacity of the existing 10,000 litres per day dairy plant in Jhansi will also be increased to 30,000 litres per day. Gujarat-based M/s Indian Dairy Machinery Company will oversee the civil and mechanical work for these plants. **New post in UP Gau Seva Aayog:** The cabinet has approved the creation of a vice-chairman position in the Uttar Pradesh State Gau Seva Aayog, adding to the previously existing chairman position. **Educational developments:** The cabinet has approved the establishment of Chandigarh University in Unnao and a remote centre of Mathura's GLA University in Greater Noida. **Free land for drinking water schemes:** To facilitate the implementation of piped drinking water schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the cabinet has approved the provision of free land. This move aims to overcome technical and administrative challenges related to land allocation by gram panchayats and the Revenue department.

Rainfall predicted for five days

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh is expected to experience significant rainfall for five days starting Tuesday. Currently, the state has a rainfall deficit of 15%, which is anticipated to be offset by these upcoming rains. Senior scientist Mohammed Danish explained that the rainfall is due to a deep depression system located over northwest Bay of Bengal. The system is positioned approximately 50 km east-southeast of Puri (Odisha), 90 km southwest of Paradip (Odisha), 140 km northeast of Gopalpur (Odisha), 140 km southwest of Chandbali (Odisha), 260 km northeast of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and 260 km southwest of Digha (West Bengal). Danish noted that the system is likely to move northwestwards and cross the Odisha coast. It is expected to maintain its intensity as a deep depression until the evening of September 9. The forecast indicates that from September 10 to 13, UP will experience light to moderate rain and thundershowers across most areas.

Form No.5
BEFORE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-ALLAHABAD
9/2 Panna Lal Road Allahabad
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
Date:- 27.08.2024
(Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application No. 250/2024
UCO BANK
...Applicant Bank
VERSUS
Gurusharan & Ors
...Respondents

To,
1. Gurusharan Singh, (Applicant) S/o Late Rajendra Singh R/o 87 N-Block, Kidwai Nagar Kanpur Uttar Pradesh
Also at: Flat No. S-1, F-Block, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 329 Near Panki Railway Station, Panki Kanpur Uttar Pradesh
2. Smt. Jagjeet Kaur (Co-Applicant) W/o Shri Gurusharan Singh R/o Flat No. 87, N-Block, Kidwai Nagar Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Also at: Flat No. S-1, F-Block, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 329 Kanpur Uttar Pradesh

...Defendant
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply/ evidence in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/dually authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 22.10.2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
ALLAHABAD

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE
original allotment letter dated 27.02.1985 of my house 22/14, Indira Nagar, Lucknow is lost, any use of it is illegal Saurabh Jain, partner Shri Vardhman venture.

सूचना
सर्वसामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मकान संख्या F-2090 राजजीपुरम लखनऊ का मूल आवंटन पत्र दिनांक 16.1.78 व मूल कब्जा पत्र व मूल पट्टा विवरण दिनांक 26.4.90 दस्तावेज संख्या 26233 विक्रय विलोप दिनांक 26.4.90 दस्तावेज संख्या 26236 वास्तव में कहीं खो गये हैं। इनका किसी अन्य द्वारा प्रयोग अथवा माना जाएगा। अर्जितगत श्रीवास्तव पुत्र स्व. गौड़ेंद्र श्रीवास्तव F-2090 राजजीपुरम लखनऊ को. 7398290880।

NOTICE
I have changed my name from ANKIT KUMAR MALHOTRA to ANKIT MALHOTRA. In future I shall be known as ANKIT MALHOTRA. ANKIT MALHOTRA S/o Satish Kumar Malhotra Purana Kunda Station Road, Nagar Panchayat Kunda, Pratapgarh, UP.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from ALIMULLAH to ALIMULLAH ANSARI S/o MOHD SAGIR for all future purpose R/o H.No. 116/1066, RAHMAT NAGAR RAWATPUR, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE
I Agrima Jaiswal, D/O Umesh Kumar Jaiswal, inform that my father's correct name is Umesh Kumar Jaiswal, which is printed on his Aadhar card, pan card & my class 12 marks sheet. By mistake in my class 10 marks sheet (roll no. 21231563) my father's name was wrongly printed as Umesh Jaiswal which is wrong. This is also certified that for the above mentioned subject all legal action has been completed by me.

NOTICE
Rabendra Pratap Singh S/o Late Sher Dil Singh, 296 Lakhnapur Housing Society, Vikas Nagar, Kanpur 208 024 have changed my name to RAVENDRA PRATAP SINGH for all future purpose.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Gautam To Gautam Kumar for future purpose. I will be known as Gautam Kumar. Gautam Kumar S/o Jiyalal Address- Village and P.O. Narayanpur Tehsil Sadar Police Station Purakalander District Ayodhya.

NOTICE
I have changed my daughter's name from TALBIA ABRAR to TALBIYA ABRAR. In future her name shall be known as TALBIYA ABRAR. FARHA NAZ W/o Abrar Ahmad, 279/243, Mohatshimganj, Prayagraj.

NOTICE
All ordinary is informed that is my high school number letter, SAHABE AALAM GULAM JILANI wrong, which is wrong. Right name SAHABE AALAM s/o GULAM JILANI, resident Mohallah small Goriyana Jais, District Amethi.

WANTED
Sri Bachchu Ram Ram swaroop Singh P. G. Collage
Aadhali Dhata Fatehpur (U.P.)
Collage Code 2006. One Lecture/Asst. Professor for Hindi Litt., Sanskrit U.G. Classes and one Principal. Qualification and payment as per U.G.C. Rules.
Last Date- 10 October 2024.
Main Trusty/Manejor
Mo. 6306376276, 9935406738

NOTICE
I, Vivek Kumar R/O Gulab kheda, Kuraimi, Banthara Pin : 226401 Uttar Pradesh have changed my minor son's name from Krishna Vashudev Yadav to Krishna Vivek Yadav for all purposes.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Anup Kumar To Anoop Kumar Mishra for all future purpose. Anoop Kumar Mishra S/o Dileep Kumar R/o Plot No.7 Aaraji No.18/2, Shantipuram, Sajari Kanpur Nagar.

2 women docs fall prey to cyber fraudsters

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the investigation into the digital arrest and extortion of over Rs 2 crore from a woman doctor at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) is ongoing, cyber-criminals have now targeted two additional women doctors at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS) using a similar modus operandi. In the first case, a woman doctor reported receiving a call on August 16 last, from an unknown number. The caller, who claimed to be a CBI officer, informed her that her mobile number and Aadhaar card were being used to extort money from people. The caller threatened to arrest her if she did not comply. The victim was instructed to transfer money from her account, resulting in a cyber fraud involving Rs 90,000. The doctor subsequently filed a complaint at the Hazratganj Cyber Crime police station. In a similar incident, another woman doctor at RMLIMS reported that her identity card had been misused to send a parcel containing illicit materials, open a bank account, and engage in money laundering. An arrest warrant was issued in her name by the Mumbai police. Both cases have been registered and are under invest-

igation. This approach mirrors the tactics used in the case of the SGPGIMS woman doctor, who was digitally arrested and defrauded of over Rs 2 crore. The STF has arrested seven techies, their female handler, and two other accused in connection with this case, though the investigation is still ongoing. **COURIER FIRM AGENT DIES IN ROAD MISHAP**
A 53-year-old courier company agent, Afaq Ahmed, died in a road accident in Nigohan on Sunday afternoon. According to reports, Afaq, a resident of Indiranagar, was on his way to Nigohan for work when he lost control of his motorcycle while passing through Lalpur village. The bike rammed into a road divider, causing Afaq to suffer severe head injuries. He was rushed to Mohanlalganj Community Health Centre (CHC), where doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival. In a separate incident, a 32-year-old man, Pawan Kumar Verma, was found hanging at his residence in Rajajipuram under Talkatora police station area on Monday. Verma, a resident of Laxman Vihar locality, was found hanging from the ceiling. His family rushed him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The police have sent the body for autopsy.

Seniors assault junior resident of private medical college

Lucknow (PNS): A group of senior students at a private medical college in Thakurganj allegedly assaulted a junior student over a dispute of supremacy late Sunday night. The victim, a 24-year-old second-year MBBS student from Raunahi, Ayodhya, reported the incident to the police, who have launched an investigation. According to the complaint, between 2:30 and 3:30 am on the night of September 8, the victim was in his room at the boys' hostel when he heard a commotion. Two of his batchmates were arguing, and he went to their room to intervene and resolve the conflict. During this time, several senior students, whose names were provided by the victim, entered his room. They reportedly used their seniority to assault him, kicking him in the stomach and causing injuries that rendered him unconscious briefly. The victim alleged that he notified the hostel warden and the security guard, but they did not offer any assistance. Fearing for his safety, he has requested prompt action against the assailants and additional security measures. The accused reportedly threatened to sabotage his academic career. A case has been registered by the police, and the investigation is underway.

During this time, several senior students, whose names were provided by the victim, entered his room. They reportedly used their seniority to assault him, kicking him in the stomach and causing injuries that rendered him unconscious briefly. The victim alleged that he notified the hostel warden and the security guard, but they did not offer any assistance. Fearing for his safety, he has requested prompt action against the assailants and additional security measures. The accused reportedly threatened to sabotage his academic career. A case has been registered by the police, and the investigation is underway.

647 youths to be inducted into Forest depart today

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, will induct 647 youths into the Forest and Wildlife Department on Tuesday. This addition follows the appointment of 534 youths as forest guards/wildlife guards and 217 as regional forest officers. Under the 'Mission Rozgar' initiative, the Yogi government has provided over 6,50,000 government jobs to youth in the past seven and a

half years, emphasising fairness and transparency. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced plans to add over 2,00,000 more youths to government roles over the next two years, with preparations already in progress. CM Yogi will distribute appointment letters to the 647 newly-appointed forest/wildlife guards at Lok Bhavan on Tuesday. Additionally, 41 junior engineers have been appointed to the UP Pollution Control Board.

FORM NO. URC-2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre that Vijay Super Speciality Hospital partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013 namely VSSH AND HEALTHCARE LIMITED, as a company by shares.

2. The Principal objects of the company are as follows:-
2.1. To undertake, promote, assist or engage in all kinds of research and development work required to promote, assist or engage in setting up hospitals and facilities for manufacturing medical equipment.
2.2. To carry on the business of design, construction and running of all kinds of hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, laboratories and health clubs.
2.3. To design, manufacture, import, export, buy, sell, install, maintain and improve all kinds of equipment and instrumentation for hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, laboratories and health clubs.
2.4. To set up laboratories, purchase and acquire any equipments and instruments required for carrying out medical research.
2.5. To educate and train medical students, nurses, midwives, Doctors, Paramedical Technicians, other medical professionals and hospital administrators and to grant such diplomas or recognitions as the company may prescribe or deem fit from time to time and to outsource and place the Nurses, Doctors, Para-Medical Technicians and other medical professionals to clients in India and abroad on contractual / noncontractual basis.
2.6. To buy, sell, manufacture, import, export, treat and deal in any kind of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, medicines and drugs.
2.7. To grant stipends, scholarships or any other assistance, monetary or otherwise to whomsoever after the course of medicine and / or medical research.
2.8. To undertake to provide suitable hotel accommodation primarily for patients and their friends and relatives and to undertake all or any of the business activities incidental thereto.
2.9. To carry on in India and elsewhere all or any of the business of hoteliers and restaurateurs, caterers, cab owners and hirers, pharmacy and drug house owners, travel agents, provisions and general merchants, theatre owners, proprietors of art saloons, beauty parlours, shopping arcades, health clubs and clubs dealing in sports, art and entertainment activities including music dance and drama, and any other business which can be conveniently and efficiently carried on in connection therewith.
2.10. To act as consultants and render technical and managerial services in the field of medical research and running of multi speciality hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, laboratories and health clubs.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at: Gandhinagar Colony, Lachhirampur, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh 276 001.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (ICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.
Dated: 5th September, 2024
Name of Applicants
1. DR RAM BACHCHAN TRIPATHI
2. DR MANISH TRIPATHI
3. DR MAYANK TRIPATHI
4. DR RAJANI TIWARI
5. DR POONAM PANDAY
6. DR SHUBHI DUBEY
7. GYANMATI TRIPATHI
8. DR RAJANI TIWARI
9. DR SHUBHI DUBEY

CM virtually lays foundation for Ikea store



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday virtually laid the foundation stone of the Ikea store in Noida from Lucknow.

with Ikea India being a key example. Yogi said that the state has now become the preferred investment destination in India, embarking on a new era of growth.

Since 2017, UP has been actively promoting infrastructure development, fostering new investment opportunities, skill development, and promoting traditional products, all of which are now yielding tangible results," he noted.

The state actively contributes to national development through a sectoral policy covering 27 different sectors. He also mentioned that by the end of this year, Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Authority areas will be connected through public transport facilities and India's largest Noida International Airport.

should be linked to employment. The ground-breaking of the Ikea India store directly results from this guidance. The chief minister also said that the state's unemployment rate has decreased over the past seven and a half years. The state actively contributes to national development through a sectoral policy covering 27 different sectors. He also mentioned that by the end of this year, Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Authority areas will be connected through public transport facilities and India's largest Noida International Airport.

ONE KILLED IN MISHAP: One person was killed and five others were injured after two cars collided head-on on the

Muzaffarnagar-Budhana road on Monday, police said. Circle Officer (Budhana) Gajendrapal Singh told reporters that the

deceased was identified as Shyam Lal (65) of Uttarakhand. The body was sent for post-mortem. Muzaffarnagar/PTI

Why feel bad about someone 'on his way out': AKY SP president launches veiled attack on CM Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday launched a veiled attack on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying he is not bothered by remarks made by someone who is 'on his way out'.



performance in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. The BJP won 33 out of 80 seats in UP in the Lok Sabha polls,

down from 62 it had won in the 2019 general elections. Overall, the saffron party's seats came down from 303 in 2019 to 240 in 2024. Yadav, the Lok Sabha MP from Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh, was responding to comments by Chief Minister Yogi against him in a public rally recently. "Those who used to consider power as their family property have started realising that they will never return to Uttar Pradesh, that is why they are trying to conspire. They (SP) are trying to create anarchy. They have nothing to do with development and the safety of daughters and businessmen," Yogi had said. The chief minister had criticised Yadav for questioning the police encounter involving Mangesh Yadav, who was

allegedly linked to a robbery at a jeweller's shop in Sultanpur. "You tell me, if a dacoit is killed in an encounter with the police, the Samajwadi Party feels bad. You ask these people what should have happened," Yogi said. Yadav had claimed that Mangesh Yadav's encounter was fake. "IPS officers have remained absconding for months, police stations are earning Rs 15 lakh per day. BJP members themselves are kidnapping the police and the 'Bulldozer Code' has replaced the 'Penal Code'; 'law and order' has become just a word. Those who have made it a habit to get rebuked by courts should better remain silent," Yadav said targeting the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government.

Mahant Nriyaa Gopal Das hospitalised

Lucknow (PTI): Mahant Nriyaa Gopal Das, president of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, has been admitted to a private hospital here in critical condition. He was admitted to the Intensive care unit (ICU) of Medanta Hospital at about 6.30 pm on Sunday after he fell ill due to a urinary problem and low food intake, according to medical bulletin issued by the hospital. The 86-year-old Mahant was undergoing treatment in Gwalior for the last few days, and was brought to the Medanta Hospital after his condition showed no improvement. His condition still remains critical, it said. The team of medical experts of Medanta Lucknow is constantly working to provide him better treatment. He has previously received treatment at the same hospital in critical health condition.

Politics heats up over Mangesh encounter

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Politics has intensified following the encounter of Mangesh Yadav, who had a bounty of Rs 1 lakh on his head, in Sultanpur. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has questioned the legitimacy of this encounter, prompting a retort from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Police actions not influenced by caste, says UP DGP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mid allegations from opposition parties regarding the encounter of Mangesh Yadav, an accused in a robbery case in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar addressed these claims on Monday, firmly denying any bias. He stated that police actions are not influenced by caste. Responding to allegations by the Samajwadi Party that the police are targeting criminals based on caste in their encounters, the DGP, while speaking to reporters at the inauguration of the 73rd All India Police Wrestling Cluster-2024, said: "The police do not engage in such practices. I deny all such allegations. The police act with complete impartiality."

He argued that either properties are demolished by bulldozers or fake encounters take place, and called for a judicial inquiry by a High Court judge to uncover the truth and hold guilty officers accountable. Former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur also questioned the encounter, writing to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for an investigation. He posted a photo of an STF deputy SP wearing slippers at the encounter site, expressing surprise at the perceived lack of seriousness by the police. Akhilesh Yadav had previously raised concerns about the encounter, suggesting that the ruling party had connections with those involved in the Sultanpur robbery, and that the main accused was coerced into surrendering before the encounter. He alleged that others were shot based on caste considerations. In response, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath countered that the Samajwadi Party seems to oppose the killing of dacoits in police encounters. The STF had killed Mangesh Yadav in an encounter on September 5. Yadav, who had a reward of ₹1 lakh on his head, was accused of robbing a jeweller in Majoranj on August 28, along with four accomplices. Jewellery worth ₹1.5 crore was stolen during the robbery, which was captured on CCTV. During the encounter, Yadav was killed, and three other robbers were shot in the legs.

Priyanka slams UP govt over 'child sale' case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Monday expressed concern over an incident in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, where a man was allegedly forced to sell his son to clear the hospital bill. She questioned whether survival in the country would now require "buying and selling" people.

Consequently, the hospital refused to discharge the mother and child." She continued, "Desperate to bring his wife and newborn home, Harish Patel sold one of his sons for ₹20,000. The person who bought the child had the transaction formalised with a stamp at the tehsil, and the police also accepted a bribe of ₹5,000. This shows that the government machinery was complicit in this inhumane act." Priyanka Gandhi also criticised the government's failure to address the issue, saying, "Harish's family is already burdened with loans from numerous microfinance companies, which charge exorbitant interest rates of 30 to 40 per cent. Where are the government schemes? Where is the health

department? Who is the government serving? Will people now have to buy and sell other humans to survive in our country?" Officials confirmed that Harish Patel had admitted his wife to a private hospital for delivery but was unable to clear the bill. To secure their discharge, Patel agreed to sell his son under a fraudulent child adoption agreement. This incident led to public outrage, and on Saturday, the police arrested five individuals, including a couple who had taken the child. Priyanka also criticised the Uttar Pradesh Police, accusing them of turning law and order into a "joke". In a Facebook post, she alleged that torturing the innocent and protecting criminals had become the "basic mantra" of the administration in Uttar Pradesh.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330, 1st Floor, Gunti No. 5, Kaushalpur, Kanpur - 12

Possession Notice Branch: Panki Site-1, Kanpur

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

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.

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date

Borrower : Shri Devendra Kumar S/o Shri Dhanesh Kumar and Smt. Babita Devi W/o Shri Devendra Kumar D/o Shri Manindra Sarkar, Both Residence Address : 45, Sewagram, Nai Basti, Dada Nagar, Udyog Nagar, Kanpur Nagar and also at Flat Address : Flat No. C-13/12, 2nd Floor, Sulabh Awas Type-3 (Arawali), Shatabdi Nagar, Kanpur Nagar. O/S/Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 5,34,538.66 +Intt.+Others Charges

Property : Residential Flat Bearing Sulabh Awas Type-3, Flat No. C-13/12, 2nd Floor, Sulabh Awas Type-3 (Arawali), Shatabdi Nagar, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Devendra Kumar S/o Shri Dhanesh Kumar and Smt. Babita Devi W/o Shri Devendra Kumar. Area : 29.45 Sq. Mtr., Bounded (Building)-North : 9 Mtr. Wide Road, South : Block No. C-14, East : 9 Mtr. Wide Road, West : Open Space, Bounded (Flat)-North : 9 Mtr. Wide Road, South : Flat No. C-13/9, East : 9 Mtr. Wide Road, West : Flat No. C-13/11.

Demand Notice Date: 26-06-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 05-09-2024

Date : 05-09-2024 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

CIN : L65110TN2014PLC09792

Registered Office : KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031. Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax : +91 44 4564 4022

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 29.05.2024 calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors 1. GAURAV KUMAR SINGH, 2. POOJA SHREE, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 40,52,121.00/- (Rupees Forty Lac Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty One Only) as on 28.05.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Demand notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 04th day of SEP 2024.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount of Rs. 40,52,121.00/- (Rupees Forty Lac Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty One Only) and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES.

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF FLAT NO. P.R.-15 (S.F.), PREMAYAN-1, ADMEASURING 73.35 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED AT NEHRU ENCLAVE, GOMTI NAGAR YOJNA, WARD-RAFEA AHMAD KIDWAI NAGAR, DISTRICT: LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-226010, AND BOUNDED AS: ADJOINING: FLAT NO. P.R.-14 ON TOP; FLAT NO. P.R.-21 AT BOTTOM: FLAT NO. P.R.-9

Date: 04-09-2024 Authorised Officer
Place: LUCKNOW IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
Loan Account No:2470985824714985

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank (A Govt of India Undertaking) ई-नीलामी

अंचल कार्यालय : तिवदवासी रोड, सेंट मेरी स्कूल के पास बाँदा उत्तर प्रदेश- 210001

अचल संपत्ति के विक्रय हेतु विक्रय नोटिस (नियम 8(6) का परन्तुक देखें)

प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम, 2002 के परन्तुक के साथ पंजीकृत वित्तीय आधिकारिक और पुनर्गठन तथा प्रतिभूति हित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 के अधीन अचल संपत्तियों के विक्रय हेतु ई-नीलामी विक्रय नोटिस आम लोगों को तथा विशेष रूप से उधार लेने वाले और प्रत्यक्ष-दाता को यह नोटिस दिया जाता है कि नीचे वर्णित अचल संपत्ति जो प्रतिभूत लेनदार के पास 'निजी/प्रमातित है, का प्रतिकल्पक (सांकेतिक) कक्षा प्रतिभूत लेनदार के प्राधिकृत अधिकारी इंडियन बैंक द्वारा लिया गया है, 'जहाँ है, जैसा है और जो कुछ भी है' के आधार पर प्रतिभूत लेनदार की निम्नलिखित संपत्तियों अग्रियों एवं प्रत्याभूति दाताओं से बकाया धनराशि की वसूली हेतु दिनांक 25.09.2024 को बेचा जायेगा। विस्तृत विवरण निम्नलिखित है:

क्र.सं.	अर्जी/खाताधारक का नाम	जमानतकर्ता का नाम	बैंक की दावा राशि	सम्पत्ति का विवरण (सेल कीड के अनुसार) /आई.डी.संख्या	रिजर्व प्राइस धरोहर धनराशि वृद्धि वाली राशि
1.	अर्जी: श्री वृजेंद्र सिंह पुत्र गजेंद्र सिंह बचककर्ता एवं जमानतकर्ता: श्रीमती सुधा सिंह पत्नी गजेंद्र सिंह, पता: आर.के. पुरम कॉलोनी, कलेक्टर गंज, फतेहपुर	श्रीमती सुधा सिंह पत्नी गजेंद्र सिंह, पता: आर.के. पुरम कॉलोनी, कलेक्टर गंज, फतेहपुर	₹. 13,46,141.00 तिथि 12.10.2022 तक ब्याज, लागत अन्य शुल्क एवं खर्च दिनांक 13.10.2022 से	₹. 20.31 लाख ₹. 2.031 लाख ₹. 10,000.00	एक आवासीय मकान गाटा संख्या 3020, राजस्व ग्राम कस्बा फतेहपुर दक्षिण से जाना जाता है जो मोहल्ला गद्दीवा सिटी फतेहपुर परगना सहसली एवं जिला फतेहपुर पर स्थित है। क्षेत्रफल: 85 वर्ग मीटर चौहद्दी: पूर्व: 20 फिट कच्चा रास्ता, पश्चिम: बेंडर द्वारा माली को बेचा प्लॉट, जिसने मकान निर्माण किया, उत्तर: बेंडर द्वारा आर.के. श्रीवासव को बेचा गया प्लॉट, जिसने मकान निर्माण किया, दक्षिण: बेंडर द्वारा संतोष बाजपेयी को बेचा गया प्लॉट, जिसने मकान निर्माण किया, सम्पत्ति आई.डी. सं. : IDIB3292370849
2.	अर्जी: मेसर्स फेमस पॉइंट 2, व्यावसायिक पता: आर्टीआई रोड, दक्षिण गौतम नगर, फतेहपुर प्रो. अंकित वर्मा पुत्र राम बली वर्मा, जमानतकर्ता एवं बचककर्ता: सुरीला देवी पत्नी राम बली पता: गंगा नगर, फतेहपुर उ. प्र.	सुरीला देवी पत्नी राम बली पता: गंगा नगर, फतेहपुर उ. प्र.	₹. 14,05,253.00 तिथि 09.01.2023 तक ब्याज, लागत अन्य शुल्क एवं खर्च दिनांक 10.01.2023 से	₹. 20.10 लाख ₹. 2.01 लाख ₹. 10,000.00	एक आवासीय प्लॉट जो स्थित है महर्षि शिवा मंदिर स्कूल के पीछे गाटा संख्या 1425 एम, ग्राम-कस्बा फतेहपुर उत्तर परगना सहसली एवं जिला फतेहपुर और जो सुरीला देवी पत्नी राम बली के नाम पर है। क्षेत्रफल: 186 वर्ग मीटर चौहद्दी: पूर्व: 15 फिट कच्चा रास्ता, पश्चिम: प्रेमलता श्रीवासव का प्लॉट, उत्तर: प्लॉट सं. 90 (बेंडर), दक्षिण: प्लॉट सं. 87 (बेंडर) सम्पत्ति आई.डी. सं. : IDIB3278731862
3.	अर्जी एवं बचककर्ता: श्री संजय कुमार पुत्र विजय किशोर गुप्ता एवं अर्जी: श्री पुष्पराज पुत्र विजय किशोर गुप्ता दोनों पता: जेल रोड, तांबेधर नगर परगना हबीबपुर फतेहपुर	श्री संजय कुमार पुत्र विजय किशोर गुप्ता पता: जेल रोड, तांबेधर नगर परगना हबीबपुर फतेहपुर	₹. 23,52,948.00 तिथि 23.11.2022 तक ब्याज, लागत अन्य शुल्क एवं खर्च दिनांक 24.11.2022 से	₹. 19.68 लाख ₹. 1.97 लाख ₹. 10,000.00	एक आवासीय प्लॉट जो भाग है, गाटा संख्या 115 का, मोहल्ला हबीबपुर, परगना सहसली एवं जिला फतेहपुर पर स्थित है। और जो श्री संजय कुमार पुत्र विजय किशोर के नाम पर है। चौहद्दी: पूर्व: 20 फिट रास्ता, पश्चिम: कल्लू सिंह का प्लॉट, उत्तर: परशुराम वर्मा का प्लॉट, दक्षिण: मोला बाजपेयी का प्लॉट सम्पत्ति आई.डी. सं. : IDIB3155311600

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ई.एम.डी. राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तारीख 24.09.2024 अपराह्न 05.00 तक एवं नीलामी की तारीख व समय - 25.09.2024 पचाह्न: 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 04.00 तक असीमित विस्तार के साथ 10 मिनट अन्तराल पर चाली वृद्धि राशि उपरोक्त अनुसार

इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं/खरीदारों से अनुरोध है कि वे अपने मोबाइल नंबर और ईमेल आई.डी. का उपयोग करके ऑनलाइन पॉइंट (<https://www.ebkraiy.in>) पर पंजीकरण करें। इसके अलावा, अपना eKYC पूरा करने के बाद, इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं/खरीदारों को दिनांक 24.09.2024, शाम 5 बजे तक ईमेल की राशि अचल - ई-पॉइंट में स्थानांतरित करनी होगी। पंजीकरण, eKYC और वॉलेट में इंटरमिडी का हस्ताक्षर नीलामी से पहले ही पूरा किया जाना चाहिए।

ई-नीलामी के लिए प्लेटफॉर्म (<https://www.ebkraiy.in>) हमारे ई-नीलामी सेवा प्रदाता पीएसबी एनायंस माइनेट लिमिटेड द्वारा प्रदान किया जाएगा। लिमिटेड, (सम्पर्क: 8291220220, ईमेल आई.डी. - support@ebkraiy@psbfinance.com) इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं/खरीदारों को ई-नीलामी सेवा प्रदाता की वेबसाइट <https://www.ebkraiy.in> पर ई-नीलामी प्रक्रिया में भाग लेना आवश्यक है।

कारपोरेट ऑफिस: अन्वर्ड रानमुगम सलर्स सॉल्यूटिंस चेन्नई - 600014

दिनांक : 10.09.2024 स्थान : बाँदा प्राधिकृत अधिकारी इंडियन बैंक

Lolark Chhath: Devotees throng mythological pond

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Huge crowd of devotees, especially women, was seen at the mythological Lolark Kund at Bhadhaini (near Assi) on the auspicious occasion of Lolark Chhath here on Monday. In view of the rush, the local administration had made elaborate security and other arrangements a day in advance. Senior district and police officers were present there to take stock of situation. As more than two lakhs devotees from different states across the country and Nepal thronged there, the police personnel from all the police stations of Kashi Zone were deployed to maintain peace and smooth movement. The mythological pond saw heavy rush of devotees on this auspicious occasion of Surya Shasthi, popularly known as Lolark Chhath. A large number of couples reached there and bathed in the ancient Kund (pond) seeking blessings from the Lord Sun and Lord Shiva for children, especially sons. Most of these couples have no



children. However, many people were seen reaching nearby ghats to perform 'mundan' (first shaving of a boy's head) ritual of their sons. Besides, rush was also seen on the occasion at Parao located Shri Sarveshwari Samuh Sansthan Devasthanam (Aghor Peeth) where the followers of this leading ashram also celebrated the 88th birth anniversary of Aghoracharya Maharajshri Baba Kinaram,



(Left) Devotees going to take bath at Lolark Kund in Varanasi on Monday (right) rush at Kri-Kund, Ravindrapuri, on occasion of Lolark Shasthi

falling on Lolark Shasthi in the presence of chief of the group Gurupad Sambhav Ram. After offering the 'shramdaan' to clean the entire premises in the morning, Gurupad Sambhav Ram offered prayers at the statue of Kinaram. It was followed by recital of 'safayoni' by director of Aghor Shodh Sansthan Dr Ashok Kumar Singh and then Gurupad performed the 'havan' at Chirkut Devi Vihar (worship site) fol-

lowed by recital of 'sankirtan' and 'parikrama'. A crowd of devotees was also seen at Kinaram Ashram at Ravindrapuri. Besides, on the occasion Baba Kinaram Sthal (Kri-Kund), Ravindrapuri also reverberated with the deafening chants of 'Har Har Mahadev'. A festive atmosphere was seen as it was celebrated on the sixth day after the birth of Aghoracharya Baba

Keenaram, the great worshiper of the modern form of Aghor tradition. Thousands of devotees from across the country and the world were standing in a queue outside the ashram premises since 5 am. After the aarti and puja of the Samadhi of Baba Keenaram, Aghorashwar Mahaprabhu and the samadhi of nearly 60 Aghor-Aghorashwar, as soon as Aghoracharya Baba Siddharth Gautam Ram sat on his Aghor-Takht, the devotees became restless for 'darshan'. This sequence of darshan-puja and prasad-taking continued till afternoon in a disciplined manner.

On the occasion under the aegis of Aghoracharya Baba Keenaram Aghor Shodh Evam Seva Sansthan, the Mahila Mandal wing of the Sansthan had organised a huge blood donation camp in which about 75 people donated blood voluntarily. There was a fair-like scene outside the ashram premises and a large number of people were seen enjoying shopping and delicacies after darshan-puja.

DM directs lekhpals to make field visits

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The inaugural function of the training programme for the newly-selected lekhpals was held in Sadar tehsil premises here on Monday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam. The DM said lekhpals should work with full sensitivity and improve their performance by resolving the complaints in a timely and qualitative manner. "By doing good work, the image of the government administration will improve", he said, directing the lekhpals to go on field visits and work seriously in their areas. On the occasion, congratulating the newly-selected lekhpals, the DM said that lekhpals have



DM S Rajalingam addressing a training programme of the newly-selected lekhpals in Varanasi on Monday.

an important role in the Revenue department. "The implementation and accounting of all the schemes/ works related to revenue at the village

level is done by the lekhpals only", he said, asking the lekhpals to work with complete transparency and responsibility in their area of work.

19th UPRTOU convocation tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 19th convocation of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj will be held on September 11 at Atal Auditorium in Saraswati Campus. Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor Anandiben Patel will preside over the convocation. Chief guest Professor Kameshwar Nath Singh, Vice-Chancellor, South Bihar Central University, Bodh Gaya, will deliver the convocation address. UP Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, and UP Minister of State for Higher Education, Rajni Tiwari, will attend as special guests. This information was given by Vice-Chancellor Prof Satyakam to the journalists at a press conference held on Monday. He said Aarti Yadav, a student of



Azamgarh, will get the Chancellor's Gold Medal. As many as 26 gold medals will be awarded to the students who get the highest marks, out of which 16 gold medals will go to girl students and 10 gold medals will go to boys. In the convocation ceremony, degrees will be awarded to 31,940 students who passed the examination of the session December, 2023 and June 2024, in which 19,096 are male and 12,844 are females. In the postgraduate category, gold medals will be

awarded to seven toppers of the faculties. In which University Gold Medal from the Faculty of Humanities will be given to Yash Yadav, a student of MA (Economics) affiliated to Regional Centre, Agra, the University Gold Medal from the Faculty of Health Sciences will be given to Vineeta Singh, a student of MA (Home Science) affiliated to Regional Centre, Azamgarh. **FARMERS STAGE PROTEST:** Under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), a large number of farmers staged a protest at All Saints' Cathedral in Civil Lines over problems related to electricity, water, roads etc here on Monday. Farmer leader Anuj Singh alleged that the officials are not taking the problems of the farmers seriously. The protest has been going on for many months but no conclusion is coming out of it.

the University Gold Medal from the Faculty of Science will also be given to Pawan Kumar, a student of MSc (Biochemistry) affiliated to Regional Centre, Agra, the University Gold Medal from the Faculty of Health Sciences will be given to Vineeta Singh, a student of MA (Home Science) affiliated to Regional Centre, Azamgarh. **FARMERS STAGE PROTEST:** Under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), a large number of farmers staged a protest at All Saints' Cathedral in Civil Lines over problems related to electricity, water, roads etc here on Monday. Farmer leader Anuj Singh alleged that the officials are not taking the problems of the farmers seriously. The protest has been going on for many months but no conclusion is coming out of it.

IKMG organises cultural programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The International Khatri Mahasabha Group (IKMG) organised a cultural programme at AIWC Hall, Mahila Park, Civil Lines, on Sunday in which around 25 children took part in dance, singing and fancy dress competitions. Around 10 adults also participated in the dance, singing and poetry competitions. The theme of the programme was Independence Day and Janmashtami. Dr Kamal Dhawan, Dr Anurag Mehrotra (President, Mens' Wing), Shashi Mehrotra, Varun Mehrotra, Laxmi Khanna, Abhilaasha and Rohan Tandon were the organisers. Varun Mehrotra proposed the vote of thanks.

DJ flags off Lok Adalat promotional vehicle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As per the instructions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA), National Lok Adalat will be organised in the Civil Court premises on September 14 under the chairmanship of District Judge/Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Sanjeev Pandey. Giving this information, Secretary/Additional District Judge, DLSA Vijay Kumar Vishwakarma said for the promotion of National Lok Adalat the promotional vehicle was flagged off by the District Judge in the court premises here on Monday. DLSA Secretary has appealed to the general public



to get all types of cases (like motor accident compensation cases, marital disputes, NI Act cases, bank recovery cases and loan recovery etc) settled through National Lok Adalat on compromise basis. On the occasion Chief Justice of Family Court Arvind Kumar Srivastava, President of Permanent Lok Adalat Santram, Additional District Judge-I Ravindra Kumar Srivastava and all other judicial officers were present.

Cash, jewellery stolen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Cash and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees were stolen from a house in Unnao late Sunday night. On coming to know about the incident on Monday morning, the victim informed the police which carried out investigation. Pawan Yadav of Mihikheda under Purwa police station in Unnao, said miscreants had stolen ₹59,000 cash besides jewellery. On Monday morning, he found the household goods ransacked and valuables missing. On getting information Station Officer (SO) Purwa Rakesh Gupta rushed to spot and took stock of the situation. **FOUND HANGING:** A teenaged girl was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in a room of her house in Sarai village under Fatehpur Chaurasi police station area of Unnao late on Sunday evening. Other family members were not present at the house at the time of incident. Police have started probe in the matter. When the family members returned from work the 17-year-old girl was found hanging late on Sunday evening. The body was sent for an autopsy. The reason for the suicide could not be ascertained. Police quizzed the kin and local residents.

Contribution of physiotherapists appreciated

Prayagraj (PNS): The World Physical Therapy Day (WPTD) was celebrated in the Physiotherapy Department of Naini-based Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) here. The chief guest of the event Dr

Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Executive President of Indian Association of Physiotherapists appreciated the contribution of physiotherapists to the physical well-being of humans. He encouraged the students to grow physical therapy skills for development of a healthy society.

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NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

It is to bring to your notice that your loan account has been declared as NPA by secured creditor Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited having its registered office at 609 - 609 - 6th Floor, Block - C Ansal Imperial Tower, Community Center, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi - 110028. (herein after called 'SHDFCL') and you are liable to pay total outstanding against your loan to SHDFCL. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Therefore, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to SHDFCL within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which SHDFCL will be empowered to exercise the power under Section 13(4) of the ACT. The details of borrowers and secured assets are as under:

S. No.	Loan Account No. Borrower(s) Name	Applicant Address	Demand Notice Amount & Date	Secured Asset
1.	DALB211000005053606, Ansu, Asha Devi, Rikumar	Katra Heeraram Chakravartur Srinath Mandir, Sira Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh - 212305	Rs. 11,72,742/- & 23/08/2024	H.No. 110, Mauza Sira Mohalla Katra Heera Ram Tappa B4, Tehsil Meja District Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh-212305
2.	OVNR171000005008922, Abhushad Ahmad, Rukhsana Begam	CK 40/43 Ghughrani Gali Sent Garj English School, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh -221001	Rs. 8,05,295/- & 23/08/2024	Flat No E 4th Floor, House No C 2/ 107, Majua Harkatola Ward Chetpuri Distt Varanasi Uttar Pradesh -221001
3.	OLKX1210700005037504, MANNO, MANSHU	1 Rana Pratap Marg Bapunagar Hazratganj Near Moti Mahal Lucknow Uttar Pradesh -226001	Rs. 18,85,624/- & 23/08/2024	Plot Part of Kharsa No.-370 Ka Min Situated at Gram Bharmauli Shahpur, Ward- Haiderganj Tehsil & Distt Lucknow Uttar Pradesh -226001
4.	OLKW170500005006048, Legal Heirs (Deceased Shri. Laxmi Sharan Awasthi), Harsh Narayan Awasthi	H.No. 19/890, Indra Nagar Sec-19, Ring Road Pani Ki Tinkl Lucknow Uttar Pradesh -226016	Rs.16,61,918/- & 23/08/2024	Shop No. 03, With Land at Ismailganj Sector -15 Indira Nagar Yojna Kh.No.30, Tehsil & Distt Lucknow Uttar Pradesh -226012

PLACE: GURGAON, DATE: 09-09-2024

AUTHORIZED OFFICER, SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD.

Milk provided to kid on train

Varanasi (PNS): Aiming at customer satisfaction, Varanasi Division of NER is providing better travel facilities to its consumers along with Indian Railways. After receiving a complaint through 'Rail Madad' app on helpline number-139 on Sunday a woman travelling on berth number 72 in the AC Economy coach of 02569 Darbhanga-New Delhi Clone Special train provided milk to feed her infant kid, resolving demand in a timely and quality manner. PRO. Varanasi, Ashok Kumar said after receiving milk demand around 6.30 am information was conveyed to specialised centres like SGPGI-Lucknow or AIIMS-New Delhi. Dr Pandey said that within the past month they have successfully completed their second Meso-Rex bypass case. "In this complex surgery, the obstructed portal vein is bypassed using a graft from the internal jugular vein, taken from the neck", he said, adding that the procedure involves meticulous dissection of the liver, its vessels, abdominal vessels and neck vessels. Once prepared, the bypass is completed by connecting the liver vessels to the graft from the neck

Meso-Rex bypass surgery introduced in IMS-BHU

Varanasi (PNS): Head of Paediatric Surgery department at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), Dr Vaibhav Pandey, has initiated the Meso-Rex bypass surgery for children suffering from Extrahepatic Portal Vein Obstruction (EHPVO), a life-threatening condition. Earlier, such patients were referred to specialised centres like SGPGI-Lucknow or AIIMS-New Delhi. Dr Pandey said that within the past month they have successfully completed their second Meso-Rex bypass case. "In this complex surgery, the obstructed portal vein is bypassed using a graft from the internal jugular vein, taken from the neck", he said, adding that the procedure involves meticulous dissection of the liver, its vessels, abdominal vessels and neck vessels. Once prepared, the bypass is completed by connecting the liver vessels to the graft from the neck

vein, restoring normal blood flow. Until 2016, the Surgery Department at IMS- BHU did not perform shunt surgeries for EHPVO, leaving patients with limited options. At that time, only the Lieno-Renal Shunt procedure was available. However, with the recent introduction of Meso-Rex bypass surgery, IMS-BHU now offers the most advanced and physiologically natural bypass procedure for these patients. When performed on properly selected patients, this surgery yields excellent outcomes and provides long-term relief, he said. Speaking on this significant achievement, Dr Arvind Pandey from the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) at IMS-BHU and a member of the surgical team, said, "Meso-Rex bypass practically cures children from a condition that could have persisted throughout their lives, dras-

tically improving their quality of life." EHPVO is a condition where the vein that carries blood from the intestines to the liver becomes blocked, leading to severe complications, including sudden and life-threatening bleeding. Dr Devesh Kumar Yadav from the Department of Gastroenterology at IMS-BHU, explained that many of these children present with episodes of blood vomiting, which can be fatal in several cases. Along with Dr Anurag Tiwari and Dr Vinod, Dr Yadav manages the medical treatment of these patients and highlighted that BHU has significantly expanded paediatric endoscopy facilities to provide timely care in such cases. The success of the Meso-Rex bypass surgery relies on a highly skilled, multidisciplinary team. Head of the Department of Anaesthesia, Prof RB Singh, along with Prof Bikram Gupta and Dr Sanjeev, assistant professor of Anesthesia, played a cru-

cial role in ensuring the safe completion of these surgeries. "These surgeries can last 8 to 10 hours and carry significant risks due to the underlying complications in children. High-level expertise is essential for their management," said Prof RB Singh. According to Dr Vaibhav Pandey, the success of these complex surgeries depends on advanced surgical equipment, such as retractor systems, vessel sealers and stapling devices. These facilities have been developed at IMS- BHU over the past few years with the support of Medical Superintendent (MS) at Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH), BHU, Prof KK Gupta. An experienced physician and hematologist, Prof KK Gupta, commented, "This surgery is a boon for children in the Purvanchal region. The waiting period for such surgeries at institutions like SGPGI and AIIMS can range from months to years. The availability of this surgery at BHU provides a timely and life-saving alternative."

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

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

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

Borrower : Shri Mokam Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, R/o : 31, Village Lakara-Bhojla, Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, R/o : 31, Village Lakara-Bhojla, Distt. Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 15,46,730.00 + Intt. + Other Charges
Property : Plot No. C-7, Situated at Mauza Shiv Parivar Colony, Outside Unnao Gate, Distt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Shri Mokam Singh S/o Shri Veeran Singh, Area : 167.17 Sq. Mtr., **Bounded :** North- 9 Mtr. Road, South : Plot No. C-27 & C-28, East-Plot No. C-8, West: Plot No. C-6
Date & Time of E-Auction : 26-09-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 49,50,000/-, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 4,95,000/-. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Subhash Chand S/o Shri Deep Chand & Smt. Rama Devi W/o Shri Subhash Chand and Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lata Ram, All R/o : 58, Idgha, Puliya No. 9, Near Power House, Tehsil & Distt. Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 9,30,387.70 + Intt. + Other Charges
Property : Residential House No. 58, Idgha, Puliya No. 9, Distt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lata Ram, Area : 61.68 Sq. Mtr., **Bounded :** North- Rasta 5 Ft., South : House of Ram Swaroop Kansoria, East- Kachha Rasta 10 Mtr., West : Rasta 5 Ft.
Date & Time of E-Auction : 26-09-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 11,16,000/-, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1,11,600/-. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Jaipal Singh S/o Shri Than Singh, R/o : Near Vipesh Inter College, Rashgarh, Jhansi, Guarantor : Shri Prabhu Dayal S/o Shri Ganesh Prasad, R/o : 538, Indra Nagar, BHEL, Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 3,49,172.00 + Intt. + Other Charges
Property : Residential House Situated at Rashgarh, Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Shri Jaipal Singh S/o Shri Than Singh, Area : 1296 Sq.Ft., **Bounded :** North- Plot of Garibey., South : 10 Ft. Wide Rasta, East- Plot of Seller, West : House of Devi & Jagdish
Date & Time of E-Auction : 26-09-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 8,55,000/-, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 85,500/-. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

Branch Name : Nagar Nigam Jhansi • Address : Nagar Nigam Premises, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Shivam Gupta • Mob. : 9935157041

Borrower : Shri Shrif Bux S/o Mohd. Haneef & Smt. Nargis W/o Shri Sharif Bux and Mohd. Haneef S/o Shri Raheem Bux, All R/o : 111/1, Singara, Bhatta Gaon, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Suheb Khan S/o Shri Rasool Khan, R/o : 1/8, PWD Colony, Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 10,23,541.80 + Intt. + Other Charges
Property : Residential House situated at Part of Arazi No. 6, Mauza Singara, Bhatta Gaon, Distt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Smt. Nargis W/o Shri Sharif Bux, Area : 1344 Sq. Ft., **Bounded :** North- Road, 15 Ft., South : Land of Ajeet, East-Plot of Mohd. Sahfeeq, West : Plot of Seller.
Date & Time of E-Auction : 26-09-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Reserve Price : Rs. 17,44,200/-, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1,74,420/-. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://ebkraj.in>

Date : 09-09-2024 Place : Jhansi Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Training of trainers certification course concludes

Kanpur (PNS): The two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) certification course organised by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in collaboration with the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, concluded successfully. Hosted at Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre (SPSEC), Kamla Nagar, the training aimed at preparing educators to take on the role of CBSE resource persons and ensure the effective implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Over the course of two days, 70 Principals, Heads and Educators from Kanpur and nearby districts participated in the workshop, gaining invaluable insights into modern teaching methodologies and approaches. These participants were divided into two groups. Group A was led by Jy Mittal, National Facilitator for the Ethics & Values in Public Governance Course, known for his vast expertise in ethics and governance in the educational domain. Group B was jointly led by Puneet Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director, ISTM, DoPT, Government of India, and UC Joshi,



Recognised TNA Consultant, DoPT, Government of India. The trainers emphasised various aspects of educational reforms, including systematic approaches to learning, the role of coaching, leading discussions, and group exercises. The second day of the training opened with a recap of the first day's learnings, followed by an in-depth session on NEP 2020 and its facilitation. Aditi Bhasin, OSD School Branch, Directorate of Education, Delhi, took the lead in this session, engaging the participants with a comprehensive module on the new pedagogical structure under NEP 2020. Her session focused on understanding child and adolescent development, competency-based education, innovative pedagogies and nurturing ethical and constitutional values. Participants also explored the significance of capacity building and professional standards for teachers. The session was further enhanced with discus-

skills, understanding of concepts and ability to implement training methodologies. The two-day event concluded with a valedictory ceremony. The ceremony was graced by chief guest Dr Akhilesh Kumar, Head, CoE, Prayagraj, who congratulated the participants on their successful completion of the training programme. In his valedictory address, Dr Kumar lauded the participants for their commitment to enhancing their skills and expressed his confidence that they would contribute significantly to improving teaching practices across the country. Bhawna Gupta, Principal of Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre and the Venue Director, proposed the vote of thanks, expressing her gratitude to the dignitaries, trainers and participants for making the workshop a resounding success. She acknowledged the dedication of the trainers and the enthusiasm of the participants, emphasising the importance of such initiatives in shaping the future of education in India. The two-day event concluded with participants sharing their feedback on the training. Many praised the course for its comprehensive content, insightful presentations, and hands-on learning approach.

NIA files chargesheets against four in Bengaluru Rameshwaram Cafe blast



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday charge sheeted four accused in the high-profile Bengaluru Rameshwaram Cafe blast case. The charge sheeted accused — Musavir Hussain Shazib, Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taaha, Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Muzammil Shaheer — were earlier arrested and are currently in judicial custody in the case, the NIA said in a statement.

The funds were used by the accused to perpetrate various acts of violence in Bengaluru, NIA investigations have revealed. "These included a failed IED attack at the State BJP Office, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, on the day of Pran Pratishtha ceremony at Ayodhya on January 22, after which the two key accused had planned the Rameshwaram Cafe blast," the statement said. The charge sheet was filed in a special NIA court in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru, had left nine persons injured and extensively damaged the hotel property. NIA, which started investigation in the case on March 3rd, conducted several technical and field investigations in coordination with various state police forces and other agencies. "The investigations revealed that Shazib was the man who had planted the bomb. He, along with Taaha, had previously been absconding since 2020 after the Al-Hind module was busted, the NIA statement said. Extensive searches by the NIA had led to their arrest from their hideout in West Bengal 42

days after the Rameshwaram Cafe explosion. "The two men, hailing from Shivamogga District of Karnataka, were ISIS radicals, the probe agency. They were actively involved in radicalising other gullible Muslim youth to the ISIS ideology, and Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Muzammil Shaheer were among such youth. "Taaha and Shazib had used fraudulently obtained Indian SIM cards and Indian bank accounts, and also used various Indian and Bangladeshi Identity documents downloaded from the Dark Web," the statement said. Investigations further revealed that Taaha had been introduced by an ex-convict, Shoab Ahmed Mirza, to Mohammed Shaheed Faisal, an absconder in the LeT Bengaluru conspiracy case, it added. Taaha then introduced Faisal, his handler, to Mehaboob Pasha, an accused in the Al-Hind ISIS module case, and to Khaja Mohideen, Amir of ISIS South India, and later also to Maaz Muneer Ahmed, the NIA said.

Dharmendra Pradhan accuses CM Stalin of dividing States over NEP implementation



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday accused Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin of trying to pit States against each other to make a point about non-implementation of the new National Education Policy (NEP). Pradhan made the comments in response to Stalin's statement alleging that the

best performing States are being denied funds by the Centre under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme for refusing to implement NEP. "Healthy competition amongst the States is always welcome in a democracy. However, pitting States against each other to make a point goes against the spirit of the Constitution and the value of a unified India. NEP 2020 was formulated through wide range of consultations

and has the collective wisdom of the people of India," Pradhan said. The Education Minister questioned Stalin on the state's "principled" opposition to NEP. "Are you opposing education in mother tongue including Tamil? Are you opposing the conduct of exams in Indian languages including Tamil? Are you opposing the creation of textbooks and content in Indian languages including Tamil? Are you opposed to the holistic, multi-disciplinary, equitable, futuristic and inclusive framework of NEP?" he questioned. Stalin had shared a news report on social media about Samagra Shiksha funds being slashed by the Centre for the States refusing to implement NEP. "Denying funds to the best-performing States for refusing to bow to the #NEP, while generously rewarding those who are not delivering on the objectives — Is this how the Union BJP Government plans to promote quality education and equity? I leave it to the wisdom of our nation and our people to decide!" Stalin wrote.



CDS Gen Chauhan unveils joint doctrine for amphibious operations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Monday unveiled a joint doctrine for amphibious operations in a key move in the National security domain. The doctrine, released at a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), came as the Government is looking at implementing the ambitious theaterisation project. The release of the key document came nearly three months after the unveiling of the joint doctrine for cyberspace operations. It was aimed at guiding military commanders in conducting cyberspace operations. "In a landmark event, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan released the joint doctrine for amphibious operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting," the defence ministry said. "The doctrine is a keystone publication which will provide guidance to the commanders for the conduct of amphibious operations in today's complex military environment," it said. The amphibious capability empowers the armed forces to conduct a multitude of operations in the Indian Ocean Region, both during war and peace. "These operations are a crucial component of multi-domain operations and serve as the best example of the cohesion and integration amongst the armed forces," the ministry said. The doctrine provides due focus on jointness and integration of armed forces in general and amphibious operations in particular. The Government has been focusing on boosting synergy among the armed forces as it looks at rolling out the theatre commands. Under the theaterisation model, the Government seeks to integrate the capabilities of the army, air force and navy and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations. As per the theaterisation plan, each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory. At present, the Army, Navy and the Air Force have separate commands.



Culture Ministry announces 2nd International Buddhist Media Conclave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Culture announced on Monday that the second International Buddhist Media Conclave will take place on Wednesday with an aim to promote ethical journalism, mindful communication, and build a network of Buddhist media professionals across Asia. This event is being organized by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), said a statement from the Ministry. The theme of the event will be — 'Mindful Communication for Conflict Avoidance and Sustainable Development'. It will be held at VIF. 'Baichung Bhutia, former captain of the Indian football team will be the guest of honour, while Gurumurthy, Chairman of VIF, will deliver

the keynote address on the occasion. The event will be attended by representatives of the media from 18 countries, the ministry added. "The primary objective of the 2nd International Buddhist Media Conclave will focus on how Buddhist teachings can be assimilated into modern media practices to address global crises and enhance trust in media institutions," the statement said. "The first conclave brought together around 150 delegates, including Buddhist journalists and media personalities from 12 different countries and laid a strong foundation for integrating Buddhist principles into media practices, it added. "The conclave aims to foster ethical journalism, promote mindful communication, and establish a network of Buddhist media professionals across Asia," the statement said.

Indian Army, IAF sign agreement with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army and the IAF on Monday signed an agreement with Vadodra-based Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the collaboration as a "monumental partnership" towards further strengthening the logistics backbone of the armed forces in sync with the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence. The Memorandum of Understanding will enable the two Services to acquire higher expertise on logistics. It will ensure development of in-house expertise on various facets of logistics operations and contribute effectively towards the national development plans — PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022, the defence ministry said in a statement. The MoU was signed in the presence of Singh and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi. The defence minister described the collaboration as "a monumental partnership towards further strengthening the logistics backbone of the armed forces in sync with the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence." He emphasised that logistics is no longer just a support function of the armed forces, but is emerging as an important factor in military



operations and national security. "An efficient logistics system plays a key role in quickly mobilising the forces and delivering resources to the right place in less time. Keeping in mind the conditions in which our forces operate, we need a seamless movement of troops, equipment and supplies. The MoU will prove to be very important in terms of how the needs of our forces can be fulfilled through knowledge, innovation and collaboration," Singh was quoted as saying in the statement. The defence minister asserted that the MoU will prove to be beneficial in achieving the government's vision of attaining self-reliance in defence sector. "If we need expertise in logistics, we should get it training from our own resources like Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. If we need equipment, we should get it manufactured in India itself. The foundation of a strong India can be laid only

by being 'Aatmanirbhar,'" he added. On the MoU's provision of experiential learning through real-world case studies, Singh exuded confidence that Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, through the leadership, management, and operational experience of the armed forces personnel, will help shape a new generation of logistics experts and managers who will fulfil the dynamic needs of modern warfare. Vaishnaw expressed confidence that the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will serve as a vital partner in empowering the armed forces with cutting-edge logistics education, research, and innovation. The event was also attended by CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, Chairman of the Railway Board and Vice Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and other senior officers of both the ministries.

Health Secretary Apurva Chandra highlights HMIS Integration with RCH, portals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra on Monday highlighted the potential of integrating the Health Management Information System (HMIS) with the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) and other health portals to enhance data efficiency. He was sharing his views during the release of the annual report 'Health Dynamics of India (Infrastructure and Human Resources) 2022-23', previously known as 'Rural Health Statistics'. "The annual publication is a valuable document furnishing much-needed information on manpower and infrastructure within the National Health Mission, helpful in policy-making, improving processes and problem-solving," said the Health Secretary. "Need to integrate the HMIS Portal with RCH and other portals of the Ministry to reduce the burden of work of health functionaries and to ensure that the data are uploaded timely and analysed carefully," he added. Chandra said that the document gives a cross-analysis across the states on the availability and deficiencies in manpower and infrastructure. The report released at the event showed that as of

March 31, 2023, As of March 31, 2023, the country has a total of 1,69,615 Sub-Centres (SCs), 31,882 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 6,359 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 1,340 Sub-Divisional/District Hospitals (SDHs), 714 District Hospitals (DHs), and 362 Medical Colleges (MCs) serving both rural and urban areas. These healthcare infrastructures are supported by 2,39,911 health worker (male and female) at SCs, 40,583 doctors/medical officers at PHCs, 26,280 specialists and medical officers at CHCs, and 45,027 doctors and specialists at SDHs and DHs. Additionally, there are 47,932 staff nurses at PHCs, 51,059 nursing staff at CHCs, and 1,35,793 paramedical staff at SDHs and DHs across the country, according to the report. "This data is crucial for the stakeholders in the health sector as it supports effective planning, monitoring and management of the health infrastructure across the country," said Chandra. By providing a clear snapshot of the current state of healthcare infrastructure and human resources, the publication serves as a foundational tool for identifying gaps and addressing needs in various areas, including in rural, urban and tribal regions, he added.

Congress asks India's position on Brazil's wealth tax proposal at G20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday asked the Government to spell out what will be India's position on Brazil's proposal of a two per cent wealth tax on dollar billionaires when it is debated at the November G20 Summit. Congress General Secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said India has been conspicuously silent on the matter which is not irrelevant for it since according to one new report, the country has 334 dollar billionaires worth over USD one billion. "Exactly a year ago, the annual G20 Summit began in New Delhi. The Presidency of the G20 rotates among its member countries every year. Two months from now the next G20 Summit will take place in Brazil, which has chosen to not create the hype and self-glorifying publicity like the non-biological PM did," Ramesh said in a post on X. "And what a difference a year has made. In September 2023



He was riding super high. Now he is still reeling from his personal, political, and moral defeat of June 4 2024," the Congress leader said. For the November 2024 summit, Brazil has floated a proposal for a two per cent wealth tax on dollar billionaires, he said. "This proposal has been supported already by France, Spain, South Africa, and Germany. India has been conspicuously silent on it. What will be our country's position on this proposal when it is debated?" Ramesh said. It is not irrelevant for, since according to one new report India has 334 dollar billionaires worth over one

billion dollars, he said. Brazil's G20 presidency has put the proposal on the table. Commissioned by the Brazilian G20 presidency, the report 'A Blueprint for a Coordinated Minimum Effective Taxation Standard for Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals' had said, "a minimum tax on billionaires equal to two per cent of their wealth would raise USD 200-250 billion per year globally from about 3,000 taxpayers." These revenues would be collected from economic actors who are both very wealthy and undertaxed today, the report prepared by French economist Gabriel Zucman had said.

No National TB guidelines for healthcare workers despite 2025 elimination goal: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Despite India's ambitious goal to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025—five years ahead of the global target— intriguingly there are no national guidelines for routine TB screening and surveillance among healthcare workers deeply involved in treatment, placing medical staff at a significantly higher risk of contracting multidrug-resistant TB strains than in the general population, flags a study. It reached this disturbing conclusion after analysing data from ten separate studies conducted between 2004 and 2024. It found an average prevalence of 2,391.6 cases per 100,000 healthcare workers in India, starkly contrasting with the 300 cases per 100,000 in the general population. The study "Prevalence of Tuberculosis Among Healthcare Workers in India: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," also noted that inadequate ventilation, insufficient protective

equipment, and frequent exposure to MDR among others are severely affecting the well-being of medical staff with the infection. Given that TB remains a critical public health challenge globally, particularly in high-burden countries like India— accounting for approximately one-fourth of the global TB cases— the authors emphasised the need for guidelines specifically targeting high-risk groups such as medical trainees and those in high-exposure departments. Dr. Jugal Kishore, Director and Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital highlighted the alarming incidence of TB among healthcare workers (HCWs) as indicative of broader systemic vulnerabilities within healthcare infrastructure. Dr Ravindra Nath from Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad, Dr Pranav Ish, Dr Aninda Debnath, and Dr Nitin Panwar, from VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, and Dr



Anirban Bhaumik from Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, Delhi are other authors of the study. Dr Kishore lamented that despite the acknowledged risks, comprehensive epidemiological data on TB among HCWs in India is sparse and often inconsistent. This points to significant occupational hazards that are often overlooked in the healthcare

treatment but also highlight the critical need for stringent infection control measures in healthcare facilities. The study has also stressed routine TB screening for all HCWs, especially those in high-risk roles, to facilitate early intervention and reduce transmission besides, holding ongoing training programs to raise awareness about its risks and the importance of preventive practices. "For instance, despite the high threat, many HCWs do not consistently use PPE, such as N95 masks, particularly in high-exposure areas," said Dr Kishore. He emphasised that national guidelines should include investments in better ventilation systems and dedicated isolation rooms to curb TB transmission in healthcare settings and stressed the importance of providing adequate nutrition, mental health services, and support for managing work-related stress, which are crucial for reducing healthcare workers' vulnerability to TB.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India's bravehearts

India's stellar performance at the Paris Paralympics is a testament to resilience, grit, and the unyielding spirit of Indian para athletes

Former President APJ Abdul Kalam once remarked, "dreams are not what you see in sleep; dreams are those that keep you awake until they're fulfilled." The Indian squad for the Paris Paralympics has embodied this very spirit. With unwavering determination, they've shown that no dream is too big when fueled by the indomitable human will. The performance of Indian para-athletes has once again proved that sons and daughters of India have the mettle to take on the world against all odds. With the largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes, India soared to unprecedented heights, making the world sit up and take notice of the nation's sporting prowess. Their extraordinary performances went far beyond mere medal counts—they embodied the true spirit of sportsmanship and perseverance, transcending physical limitations to achieve the impossible. India's medal tally in Paris showcased a remarkable blend of talent and hard work. Winning medals across various disciplines, including athletics, archery, and badminton,



these athletes brought pride to the nation, igniting inspiration for future generations. Archery sensation Sheetal Devi, competing without hands, captured the world's attention with her sheer determination and skill, clinching a historic gold in the women's compound archery event.

Track and field athletes, always a strong suit for India, delivered breathtaking performances. The likes of Sumit Antil, who made a world record in javelin throw and Avani Lekhara, a champion rifle shooter who overcame spinal injuries to once again stand atop the podium, proved that India's strength in adaptive sports is only growing stronger. What stands out in the Indian con-

tingent's performance is the remarkable spirit they embody. Every Paralympian carries a story of personal struggle and perseverance, but in Paris, these stories converged into one—a collective tale of breaking barriers. From training under adverse conditions to overcoming the societal stigma, these athletes have shown the world that true strength lies not in physical abilities but in mental tenacity. Athletes like Nishad Kumar in high jump, who continued to train despite financial constraints, and Bhavina Patel, a table tennis champion who overcame her polio-induced limitations, are emblematic of the fighting spirit that permeates the Indian contingent. The success in Paris is also a reflection of the increased support and recognition that para-athletes are finally receiving. Government initiatives, corporate sponsorships, and a growing awareness of inclusivity in sports have played a key role in fostering an environment where differently-abled athletes can thrive. But the success in Paris isn't just about winning medals—it's about breaking the boundaries of what para-sports can be in India. The inspiring stories of athletes like Mariyappan Thangavelu, Devendra Jhaharia, and others resonate with the idea that disability is not a limitation. They have sparked a national conversation about inclusion, diversity, and the importance of creating opportunities for all.

PICTALK



Army jawans perform stunts during the closing ceremony of 'Know Your Army' programme in Ranchi

The onion price and poll dynamics



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Soaring onion prices are causing concern for both consumers and politicians alike, with historical evidence showing that onion price can sway electoral outcomes

Kya pyaj rulayega — Would the onion bring tears? — is the common refrain in poll-bound states of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra. and many a time it has hit not only the common man but even the political masters.

The rise in Indian onion prices is feared to spur international prices and food bills. Could the prices come down to wipe off tears? Maybe not. Its support prices have increased manifold. The Centre is procuring onion at a price 74 per cent higher than last year in Maharashtra, the highest onion-growing state.

Last year, onion was procured at Rs 16.93 per kg. This year it is being procured at Rs 29.5 per kg through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to eliminate middlemen. The centre is not taking any chances. It is selling through NAFED outlets, mobile vans and others at Rs 35. For how long it could be sustained? Even at Rs 16.93 per kg procurement, national prices rarely came down below Rs 30 a kg. Onion prices hover around Rs 60 and 70 a kg. The overall national prices are unlikely to come down as the Maharashtra government is investing Rs 1500 crore to buy onion from the state to keep its farmers and traders happy to secure a political future. The government imposed a ban on onion exports in December 2023 to curb rising retail onion prices, ahead of the Lok Sabha election. It led to a fall in onion prices by approximately 40 per cent from Rs. 42.2 a kg in December 2023 to Rs. 24.5 kg in March 2024. On 23rd March 2024, the ban was extended indefinitely Lok Sabha election. Prices lowered.

The declining onion prices continued to create uproar among the farmers and traders. The government lifted the ban with the third phase of polling on May 4 to six countries - Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. Historically, high onion prices have led to discontent among consumers, whereas lower onion prices have upset a large voting bloc of farmers,



making the onion market a crucial topic for the government, especially around elections.

India is one of the largest producers and consumers of onions and fluctuations in onion prices have large-scale socio-economic impacts on the domestic and international markets.

In 2023-24 yield came down by 15 percent to around 25.47 million tonnes (MT), compared to the previous year's production of about 30.21 MT, according to an official release. The production may further fall this year. Traders fear that despite the lifting of the ban with 40 per cent export duties Indian onion remains highly-priced at \$ 770 per MT (Rs 64 a kg). The Egyptian onion is sold at \$ 387 per MT, almost half of the Indian price making it uncompetitive. Countries such as Egypt, Pakistan and China compete with India in the Asian onion export market. The onion has been a political game-changer since the 1980 general elections when rising onion prices contributed to the return of Indira Gandhi to power wiping out the Janata Party.

Again because of high onion prices in 1998, the BJP lost to the Congress despite having changed its chief minister a few months before. In the 2024 Lok Sabha 2024 elections, the BJP has significant losses in



INDIA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF ONIONS AND FLUCTUATIONS IN ONION PRICES HAVE LARGE-SCALE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Maharashtra's onion-growing belt. Except for one seat, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has been completely trounced in this crucial agricultural region. Out of the 13 Lok Sabha constituencies where the majority of onion farmers are concentrated, 12 have been won by the opposing INDIA bloc.

This is a stark contrast to the 2019 parliamentary elections, where NDA — comprising BJP and formerly united Shiv Sena — won 11 out of these 13 seats, with BJP alone securing seven. Since the extension of the export ban, there has been simmering anger among onion cultivators of Nasik, which has the largest Asian onion market at Lasangaon. The export ban led to significant financial losses for farmers, who struggled to recover their cultivation costs as wholesale prices nosedived. Other major constituencies with significant onion grower populations, such as Dhule, Ahmednagar, Nandurbar, Baramati, Beed, Latur, Maval, Shirur, Solapur, Shirdi and Osmanabad, also saw NDA's influence wane. The government has also decided to fill in the state emergency reserves with 500,000 tonnes of onions for the 2024-25 period.

This initiative aims to mitigate future price volatility and protect farmers from sudden market fluctuations. It is also planning to increase

27 per cent onion acreage during the kharif season for onion in addition to the rabi crop. According to food analyst Mintec Analytics of the UK, the BJP has historically invested more in manufacturing and infrastructural development than in agricultural growth.

Agricultural exports reached \$ 48.9 billion in 2023-24, a decline of 8 per cent from \$ 53.2 billion in FY 2022-23. The export value in FY 2023-24 is significantly short of the ambitious target of \$ 60 billion set by the BJP government.

Also, the agri-exports during the last 10 years grew by 1.9 per cent since 2014 against the annual average growth rate of 20 during 2004-14.

The onion is a staple vegetable for the poor, indispensable to many Indian cuisines and recipes, from spicy curries to tangy relishes. "In Maharashtra, if there are no vegetables or you can't afford to buy vegetables, people eat 'kanda bhakari' (onion with bread)," says a food historian Dr Mohseena Mukadam.

It is more than butter for politicians, whose success depends on how they can handle the onion. The cheers and tears of impending state elections are closely linked with onion.

(The author is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRESH VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

Madam — Manipur is back on the boil given to fresh ethnic conflagrations that erupted between Kuki and Meitei groups have disrupted peace and paralysed normal lives.

The recent rocket attack in Moirang village and brutal murder of six Meitei people after that by the suspected Kuki militants is a desperate attempt to derail the peace process initiated under the auspices of Home Minister Amit Shah who has been closely monitoring the law and order situation in the state with priority. Its been more than a year but the violence and hatred against each other still persist and so is the remedy of this conflict.

The Centre and State government must find a possible and pragmatic solution to this problem with the stakeholders without any delay but first they need to ensure the safety of the Kuki politicians including people who have lost trust on Biren Singh's BJP regime.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

KERALA AT THE FOREFRONT

Madam — What makes southern states a crown jewel of India than their northern counterparts is their will to take technology, growth, generate employment opportunities, to newer levels. Now, the southern most state of India Kerala is in for a major overhaul in terms of attracting foreign capital and industry which few years ago had seen a major setback.

Kerala where literacy rate is high is slowly marching forward for a conducive industrial environment in terms of attracting world class industries. The recent announcement by the Ministry of trade and commerce awarding top slot in ease of doing business reforms, has put Kerala on the world industrial pedestal. Surprisingly, it has overtaken Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat while Tamil Nadu, India's most industrialised state does not even figure in the list. In the sphere of Citizen centric reforms

Water woes of rural India



Residents of rural areas often face more health problems compared to those in urban areas, primarily due to the government's greater focus on urban development and well-being facilities. One of the major causes of poor health in rural regions is the

lack of access to clean drinking water. Millions of rural inhabitants are still forced to rely on contaminated water sources.

The PM Har Ghar Jal Scheme, launched in 2019, is still in progress, having achieved over 50% coverage across all states and Union Territories in terms of tap water connections. Notably, 100% coverage has been achieved in 11 states, including Punjab, Gujarat, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, among others.

However, the bigger issue lies in the lack of timely maintenance and repairs. Water systems often remain clogged for months or even years, which continues to create difficulties. The government should expedite the completion of this scheme and also ensure proper maintenance. This will prevent the wastage of funds and ensure that the benefits last longer.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Freedom for all: Breaking gender stereotypes

For decades, Indian households have upheld certain gender roles—men return to a home-cooked meal while women cook after returning home from work

My wife came across a feed on her social media, "Men come back home to a cooked meal; women come home to cook a meal. It is not the women who need freedom; it is the men who should have the freedom." The first half of the statement is something that we observe in almost all Indian households. It was the second part that I could not comprehend till I introspected. I was born in 1959, a few years after India gained independence. I was the firstborn in my generation. During those days, and even now in many parts of the country, young couples are blessed by family and friends to have a male first-born. My mother told me that my paternal aunt went to the terrace to announce my birth to the locality by banging a steel plate with a spoon. "A son is born." I was a cherished and much-loved child, and then an adult.



was not expected to enter the kitchen except to fetch a glass of water, and certainly not for cooking. My mother would insist on reheating the cooked food in case my wife had to go out for some work, till she could not do it any longer due to her medical condition. I was not alone in my generation to receive special treatment.

A friend would be served freshly made bread by his wife, however late he returned from the office, or however tired the lady was after a hectic day spent in the kitchen or running after the children. Almost all my friends from that era were pampered first by their

mothers, aunts, sisters, and even females from the extended family, and then by their wives and daughters. Many of us, from relatively better social milieu, have raised our children to question the age-old customs.

More women are going out for work. Men are also raised to help with household chores. Young couples make efforts to take care of each other. There is no gender bias. A friend's son-in-law loves cooking, especially preparing masala tea. It is almost a ritual for him to prepare tea whenever he and the daughter visit the parents. The maid and a few others were scandalized at this blatant display of deviation from the traditional, till they had tasted the special tea.

The change is slow, and only in certain sections of society. Women in many families are still expected to learn the art of looking after the household, husbands, and children, even after a tiring day at work. They are made to feel guilty for leaving their newborn child at home to resume

work. Men still do not enter the kitchen, and more often are not permitted to enter the kitchen, even if they have an interest or an inherent desire to help the wife. Men need the freedom to make their choices without being judged by people. They also need the freedom to break the shackles of gender biases. Certain gender-specific roles and responsibilities were assigned based on the requirements of the times. Many of these may no longer be relevant.

It is for us to adapt to changing times, and we can. We have reached where we are because of the ability of humans to change. Welsh writer and critic Stephen Bayley expresses it well, "The assumption must be that those who can see value only in tradition, or versions of it, deny man's ability to adapt to changing circumstances."

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



SANJAY CHANDRA

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Anansha Godani | Ujjain

NEERAJ PROVES HIS EXCELLENCE

Madam — Neeraj Chopra, a Javelin juggernaut, has once again proved it. The Olympic champion has secured his

spot in the Diamond League final, the pinnacle of track and field competition. It's where the best of the best come together to battle for supremacy. And Neeraj, with his consistent brilliance, has earned his place among them. Every throw he makes is going towards the success.

This qualification marks a significant milestone for Chopra and Indian athletics. Beyond his athletic prowess, Chopra has become a symbol of inspiration for countless young athletes in India. His steadfast determination and dedication have not only propelled him to the top of the global javelin rankings but also motivated a generation to pursue their dreams in sports. As he heads to Brussels, the nation is eagerly awaiting his performance, hoping for another golden moment. Neeraj is one of the sports icon with a 'never say die' spirit. Wishing him all the best!



FIRST COLUMN

REST IS ESSENTIAL FOR A BALANCED LIFE

True relaxation extends far beyond sleep. It is a must for rejuvenation



RACHNA LAKHPATI

In today's fast-paced world, many individuals believe that rest is limited to getting a good night's sleep. That is completely incorrect. Genuine relaxation is complex. Researchers highlight the importance of six different types of rest in maintaining overall well-being. By embracing each form of rest, individuals can achieve a more balanced and energised life. Our minds are constantly bombarded with information from various sources such as work, social media, and daily responsibilities.

With this ongoing situation, the mind will eventually succumb to fatigue and stress. To find peace of mind, it is important to detach oneself from an overwhelming fixation on the thoughts in one's head. Meditation, deep breathing exercises, or even taking quiet walks are some of the simple practices that can assist in clearing the mind and enhancing cognitive clarity. Taking regular breaks can have a positive impact on your mental well-being, boost your creativity, and improve your ability to make decisions. Additionally, it involves allowing your body sufficient time to recuperate from physical exertion. Naturally, getting sufficient rest is crucial, and it complements well with gentle physical activities, stretching, or even methods to alleviate muscle strain. Physical rest can be achieved through various methods, including sleeping, engaging in yoga exercises, or taking warm baths.

It's important to prioritise injury prevention, muscle recovery, and maintaining energy levels throughout the day. We often overlook a crucial aspect: our emotional boundaries. We strive to ensure the satisfac-



tion of those in our vicinity. Emotional rest involves acknowledging and honestly addressing your emotions. It's important to listen to your body and prioritise self-care when you're feeling exhausted and on the verge of emotional exhaustion. Discussing your thoughts with close friends or a therapist can play a crucial role in finding emotional solace. This type of rest is essential for preventing emotional overwhelm and enables you to genuinely respond to any challenges that come your way. Interacting with others is essential, although it can be quite tiring. Emphasising the importance of quality over quantity, social rest involves stepping away from large gatherings and focussing on personal well-being.

Spending time alone or with a few close friends can help you maintain a strong connection with your true self. This is about creating an environment that encourages solitude or meaningful conversations, rather than the shallow interactions that often occur in crowded places. Finding moments of spiritual rest allows us to re-establish a deep connection with the essence of life and the things that bring us fulfilment. For some individuals, this may have a religious connotation, while for others, it is more focused on nature, meditation, and mindfulness.

Experiencing spiritual rest doesn't always require a specific routine or ritual. It's more about feeling a profound connection to something larger than oneself, which can bring about a profound sense of tranquility and harmony. In our modern society, it is rare for anyone to avoid the overwhelming amount of information and stimuli that bombard us through screens and notifications. Creating a peaceful environment for relaxation includes stepping away from electronic devices, dimming the lights, and enjoying some peace.

Reclaim moments of tranquillity to rejuvenate your senses: indulge in a good book, immerse yourself in nature, or bask in the blissful absence of sound. Rest is incredibly important to minimise strain on the eyes, ears, and nervous system. Discovering the harmony among these six forms of rest will enable you to rejuvenate yourself comprehensively, leading a life that is both balanced and satisfying.

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)

A roadmap for boosting India's agri-export



A S MITTAL

By incorporating cutting-edge food processing technologies and establishing globally recognised quality standards India can push its agri-exports substantially



In a bid to give impetus to strengthen the supply chain from farm to fork, foster collaboration among global and Indian food sector stakeholders, and support food processing units near farm gates to ensure better profits for farmers and reduce post-harvest losses, The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is taking the lead by hosting 'World Food India' from September 19-22 in New Delhi. In addition, the Union Budget for 2024-25 has allocated Rs 1.52 lakh crore to prioritise agricultural sector development. This funding will focus on climate resilience, productivity, innovation, and processed food exports.

This is crucial as agricultural product exports saw an 8% decline to \$48.9 billion in 2023-24 from \$53.2 billion in 2022-23. The average annual growth rate of agri-exports was just 2% during 2014-23. Notably, five products — rice, wheat, meat, spices, sugar and tea/coffee — account for over 50 per cent of total agricultural exports and sometimes face restrictions to match the domestic demands and supplies to control inflation. Only 25 per cent of our agri-exports are processed or value-added, a figure that has remained virtually unchanged over the last decade.

This is significant due to a need for more tech-based operational size and production capacity and for meeting international standards to tap the global market. However, the success of global giants like Nestle (Switzerland), with an annual turnover of \$111 billion in the processed food and beverages sector, shows us what is possible with technology and research. Notable Indian firms in domestic processed agriculture, such as AMUL, with a turnover of \$9 billion, are far behind in operational size, production capacity, and meeting international standards. Still, they can achieve similar success with the proper support and approach.

The Global exports of processed agricultural products are nearing \$1 trillion, with Germany (\$63 billion) at the top, the US (\$58 billion), the Netherlands (\$57 bil-



IN 2020, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AN AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND OF INR 1 TRILLION TO PROVIDE MEDIUM-TO-LONG-TERM DEBT FINANCING FOR ESTABLISHING COLD CHAINS AND POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AT FARM GATES AND AGGREGATION POINTS

lion), China (\$53 billion), and France (\$50 billion). Southeast Asian nations like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand are also major exporters of processed agricultural products. While, India's value-added exports increased by \$6.5 billion over the last five years since the agro-export policy was introduced to boost value-added agriculture exports, taking the total to \$15 billion, it only marginally improved our global rank from 21 to 17.

This can be surely improved. The Economic Survey 2023-24, reveals that the annual output of fruits and vegetables in India is the world's second-largest at a substantial 300 million tonnes after China, yet the processing levels at 4.5 per cent for fruits, 2.7 per cent for vegetables, 21.1 per cent for milk, 34.2 per cent for meat, and 15.4 per cent for fisheries, compared to 25-30 per cent in China and 60-80 per cent in Western countries.

This deficiency in processing capacity leads to a substantial amount of produce going to waste in India. Estimates of post-harvest losses in the country vary from 18% to 25% across the entire supply chain, though they are thought to be much higher, at up to 45%, for fruit and vegetables. NITI Aayog estimated annual post-harvest losses of close to Rs 90,000 crore. To improve this situation, it is suggested to focus on proper sorting and grading near the farm gate and enhance processing capacity. Incentivizing Farmers: It's crucial to repurpose agricultural incentives to motivate farmers to reduce losses and waste on and near farms.

In 2020, the central government announced an agriculture infrastructure fund of INR 1 trillion to provide medium-to-long-term debt financing for establishing cold chains and post-harvest man-

agement infrastructure at farm gates and aggregation points. Tamil Nadu's recent unveiling of its food processing policy is a promising step toward reducing wastage and increasing the value of farm produce.

The policy encourages Farmer's Producers Organisations (FPOs) and the food processing industry to access financial support from central schemes.

However, it's important to note that Punjab has yet to make a similar move, despite the success of neighbouring states like Haryana with their dedicated Agribusiness and Food Processing Policy. Revisit the PLI Scheme: The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) will be Rs 10,900 crore (\$1.25 billion) from 2021-22 to 2026-27, precisely to attract large globally competitive firms to produce in and export from India. This scheme aims to expand processing capacity, grow strong Indian brands, increase global market presence, create jobs, and boost farmer incomes. As of May 2024, 90% of the PLISFPI funds still need to be utilised. The government has disbursed only Rs 1,073 crore among 158 SME beneficiaries, using only 10% of the funds over half of the timeline expired.

This underutilisation highlights the need for more focused policy intervention. To achieve the twin objectives of the PLI scheme—global competitiveness and increased exports—these SMEs must form joint ventures with globally established 'anchor' firms. Over the past decade, India has attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth Rs 500 billion, with 100% FDI being permissible. The Way Forward: Food processing is considered India's sunrise industry and plays a crucial role in the transformation to ben-

efit farmers effectively, a multi-pronged approach combining MSP, value addition and industry integration is essential for agricultural development due to its strategic importance in providing food security.

As the world's most populous country, we exert significant environmental pressure on Earth, resulting in ecological issues such as soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and water depletion. Within the broader food systems, waste reduction stands out as one of the leading climate change mitigation solutions, contributing to reduced emissions throughout the food supply chain from farm to fork. By incorporating cutting-edge food processing technologies, establishing globally recognized quality standards, and opening up access to international markets, this focused strategy to attract anchor global firms will help achieve our goals. Apple serves as a prime example of the success of this targeted approach in the electronics sector; it manufactures 14 per cent of the world's i-Phones in India. Electronics exports, mainly intelligent mobile phones, have surged from under \$3 billion in 2020 to \$15.6 billion in 2023 and have led to the creation of over one lakh jobs. This same model should be replicated across various industries. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries should roll out a time-bound outreach program to attract anchor global firms and facilitate their partnerships with Farmer's Producers Organisations (FPOs) and SMEs.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council; Views expressed are personal)

Ravenshaw University renaming: A step toward decolonising India's education system

While the move may appear symbolic, it reflects the Govt's broader aim to reclaim India's intellectual heritage by dismantling British-era frameworks

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's proposal to rename Ravenshaw University in Odisha has sparked a much broader discussion about India's educational system. Though the suggestion might seem symbolic on the surface, it indicates a larger governmental intent: reclaiming India's educational heritage and aligning it with Bharat's civilisational knowledge. The renaming is part of a wider effort to challenge the enduring influence of British-established institutions and the colonial educational framework that has shaped the country for over a century. The proposal is not without complexity. While a name change may grab headlines, the true challenge lies in the com-



PADMALOCHAN DASH

prehensive realignment of India's education system—a goal that can only be achieved through the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The success of this shift hinges on integrating the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) into modern educational practices, ensuring that India's rich intellectual heritage takes its rightful place at the core of the system.

Colonial Legacy in India's Education: India's education system continues to carry the imprint of its colonial past. British institutions like Ravenshaw University were not designed to foster intellectual growth or cultural preservation but to serve the Empire's administrative needs. The British created educational institutions to produce clerks and bureaucrats who could operate within the colonial system. Unfortunately, this utilitarian approach to education persisted even after India gained independence. The leaders of the newly formed nation failed to envision an alternative model that could replace the colonial framework with a system aligned with India's civilisational goals. As a result, the Indian educa-

tion system has remained tethered to its colonial roots, prioritizing skills for a global market over intellectual, spiritual, or scientific growth. This narrow focus undermines India's holistic knowledge traditions, reducing them to exercises in skill development rather than the broader pursuit of knowledge and self-reliance. The debate over renaming Ravenshaw University, therefore, becomes symbolic of a larger struggle: breaking free from the colonial mindset that continues to shape India's educational and intellectual landscape. **The British Model: A Tool for Control:** The British education system in India was never intended to develop the intellect or spirit of the Indian people. Instead, it was designed to



produce a workforce literate in English and skilled enough to support the colonial administration. Lord Macaulay's infamous education reforms focused on turning India's vast and diverse traditional knowledge systems into utilitarian skills that could be exploited for colonial profit. As a result, India's once-thriving intellectual and cultural traditions were marginalized, forced into obscurity to serve the needs of the British Empire.

Even decades after independence, the colonial model remains entrenched. India's education system continues to prioritize skill development over fostering creativity, innovation, and intellectual growth. While skill development is undoubtedly important, the singular focus on it raises concerns about the broader vision and purpose of India's educational objectives. **Moving Beyond Skill-Building:** To truly break free from its colonial past, India must shift its focus from mere skill-building to fostering holistic individual growth. Education should nurture creativity, intellectual curiosity, and the inherent potential of every individual, paving the way for self-reliance. A system that prioritizes intellectual

vibrancy over skill production will help India reclaim its rightful place as a leader in global thought and innovation. The British colonial mindset has left a lasting impact on Indian society, one that is deeply embedded in the psyche of its educational institutions. The British aimed not only to advance their economic interests but to reshape the very thought processes of the Indian population. Their goal was to replace India's ancient knowledge systems with Western paradigms, thus weakening the cultural and intellectual foundation of the nation. In this context, renaming institutions like Ravenshaw University becomes a step toward decolonizing the Indian mind. **A Forgotten Imperative:**

Decolonizing Indian Minds The question arises: has India taken sufficient steps to decolonize its education system? The colonial indoctrination of Indian minds has lasted for generations, and its effects are still visible today. If India is serious about reclaiming its intellectual sovereignty, what concrete steps are being taken to dismantle the remnants of this colonial education system? The ultimate goal should be to create an educational framework that aligns with India's civilisational values and promotes intellectual independence. (The author is an ICSSR-Post Doctoral Fellow, School of National Security Studies, Central University of Gujarat. The views expressed are personal)

Little hopes of alliance in Haryana as AAP declares first list

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

What could be the first indication of the failure of a poll alliance or pressure tactics on the Congress for an alliance, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday decided to go solo in the Haryana Assembly polls as it released its first list of 20 candidates. This comes amid days of hectic parleys between the two parties over seat-sharing arrangements that dragged on looking at the nomination window for the polls closing on September 12. This decision could complicate the potential alliance between the AAP and the Congress in Haryana and might impact the possibility of the two major INDIA bloc allies coming together for the Delhi Assembly polls next year. Interestingly, the AAP has fielded candidates from at least 12 seats including Naraingarh, Assandh, Samalkha, Uchana Kalan, Dabwali, Meham, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Badli, Beri, Mahendragarh and Badshahpur where the Congress has already announced its candidates. Interestingly, AAP has fielded its party's vice president of

Haryana unit, Anurag Dhanda from Kalayat, which is considered to be a stronghold of former chief minister and veteran Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Besides, this AAP has fielded Kuldeep Gadrana from Dabwali, a bastion of the Chautala clan, Indu Sharma from Bhiwani, Vikash Nehra has been fielded from Meham, while Bijender Hooda is in the poll fray from Rohtak, which is considered as Hooda's stronghold. The Congress has so far announced 41 candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls to elect 90 MLAs, scheduled for October 5. The votes will be counted on October 8. The talks between the Congress and the AAP have been stuck over the number of seats to be contested by the latter, with Arvind Kejriwal-led party demanding 10 seats and the Congress offering five. The Haryana unit Congress leadership opposed alliance talks as they were not ready to accommodate AAP on these seats. Some of the seats AAP was demanding already had strong Congress candidates, State Leaders told the Central leadership. Hooda was against any seat-sharing

with AAP. Hooda even reportedly walked out of one of the party meetings held on the matter in Delhi. In fact, State unit Haryana Congress Leaders were worried that an alliance might give a platform to AAP and help find its footing in the region. According to AAP insiders, the alliance seemed nearly sealed on Saturday and the delay from Congress in final confirmation led to an impasse, irking the AAP which had threatened to release the names of all 90 candidates if no final word is received from the grand old party till Monday evening. Other party contestants include Kuldeep Chikara from Bahadurgarh, Randir Guliyia from Badli, Sonu Ahlawat Sheria from Beri, Ravinder Faujdar from Ballabgarh, Dharmender Khatana from Sohna, Bir Singh Sarpanch from Badshahpur, Gural Singh from Naraingarh; Narender Sharma from Pundri, Jaipal Sharma from Gharaura, Amandeep Jundla from Assandh, Bittu Pahalwan from Samalkha, Pawan Fauji from Uchana Kalan, Kuldeep Gadrana from Dabwali, Happy Raina from Rania, Ranbir Guliyia from Badli,

Sonu Ahlawat from Beri and Manish Yadav from Mahendragarh. On the issue of an alliance with the Congress, AAP's Haryana president Sushil Gupta said, "I want to say it very clearly that we have been preparing for all the 90 seats since day one. There is not much time left for the polls, the last date for filing nominations is September 12. So the wait is over." He asserted that the AAP is in a position to provide a strong alternative in Haryana, adding that the party's second list of candidates will also be released soon. Another AAP leader, Sanjay Singh, said the party will fight the Haryana polls with full strength. Earlier in the day, Gupta had said the AAP would release the names of its candidates from all 90 seats if the Congress failed to seal the deal by the evening. Gupta said the countdown for the exit of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has begun in Haryana and added that "the AAP will not allow the BJP to benefit at any cost". He was replying to reporter's question on whether the AAP's decision to go solo will benefit the saffron party in Haryana.



Man killed, daughter injured after MCD truck hits motorcycle

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man was killed and his 16 year old daughter was injured after a truck of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) mowed down their motorcycle in southeast Delhi on Monday. According to a senior police officer, police received a call regarding a motorcycle being hit by a MCD truck near Shiv Mandir red light on Mehrauli Badarpur road near Pul Prahladpur area at 1.06 pm. The police teams rushed to the spot and took Kuldeep and his daughter Anshika to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Trauma Centre. "Second PCR call was received at 03:36 pm regarding Medico Legal Case (MLC) from AIIMS Trauma centre of the two patients.

Kuldeep was declared brought dead by the doctor and injured Anshika is under treatment," another senior officer stated. Moreover, the truck driver fled from the spot after the incident. The father and daughter were residents of Pul Prahladpur area. "The inspection of the spot was conducted by the Crime Team and the offending vehicle i.e. truck and accidental motorcycle have been taken in police possession," he said. An FIR has been registered under sections 281 (Rash driving or riding on a public way), 106(1) (Causing Death by Negligence) and 125 A (Act endangering life or personal safety of others) of BNS and further investigation is underway, the officer added.

MCD conducts special drive to check mosquito breeding



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday conducted a special drive to check for mosquito breeding at 290 construction sites across all of its 12 zones with mosquito breeding was found in 148 of them. A senior official from the civic body said that this drive was conducted in an ongoing effort to combat the spread of Vector Borne Diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya. "During the drive, 290 construction sites were inspected, and mosquito breeding was found in 148 of them. The breeding were destroyed then and there, and 83 legal notices and 60 prosecutions were issued to the responsible

owners/builders," he added. He further said that the drive was conducted at construction sites because of their propensity for water stagnation which are potential breeding grounds for Aedes and Anopheles mosquitoes, which are the sole vectors for transmitting these diseases. "However, mosquito breeding can be easily prevented by taking simple measures such as channelizing water or treating stagnant water with diesel/kerogen oil," the officer stated. MCD officials emphasized the importance of cooperation from construction site owners and builders in preventing mosquito breeding and ensuring a safe and healthy environment for citizens.

Rajasthan: Bodies of four girls recovered from Parbati river

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The bodies of four girls who drowned while taking a dip in the Parbati river in Rajasthan's Dholpur district were recovered on Monday, police said. On Sunday, Mohini (14), Priya (12), Anjali (14) and Tanu (10) went to take a dip in the river on the occasion of Rishi Pancharami festival. While one of the girls was taking a dip in the river, her

feet slipped and she drowned in the 20 feet deep water, Dholpur Superintendent of Police Sumit Meharda said. While trying to save her, three more girls drowned in the deep water, he said. On Monday morning, the SDRF and police team recovered the bodies of all four about 1.5 km away from the accident spot and handed them over to the family after post-mortem.

Delhi Police arrests 24 year old man for extortion

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police arrested a 24 year old man in connection with an extortion bid of Rs 50 lakhs where he threatened a cloth trader for his life in North Delhi's Lahori Gate. According to the police on Monday, the accused has been Aman Qureshi, resident of Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar. "He used to visit the complainant's shop to purchase clothes at wholesale prices. He made this plan to extort money as he has borrowed money from different shopkeepers and needed money to maintain his lavish lifestyle," DCP

North Manoj Kumar Meena said, adding that two days police custody remand of Qureshi has been obtained to arrest the co-accused. "On August 4, Mohd. Abrar, resident of Dabri in Uttar Pradesh, who is dealing in readymade garments and having his shop in Katra Neel had received a mobile phone call for Ransom wherein he was asked to deliver Rs. 50 lakhs to the extortionist at Jama Masjid," Meena stated. Further, more ransom calls were received by him where the caller asked to give the money or to face life threatening consequences.



"Under extreme fear the matter was not reported to the local police, however the local police had learnt of the incident and after much

persuasion on his statement, a case under section 308(4) of BNS was registered at Lahori Gate police station and investigation has been taken up," the DCP said. He also added that the trader was provided with an officer for his security as he was extremely afraid and also closed his shop for a few days. During the course of investigation, it was revealed that the calls were made by two persons by borrowing it from labourers. "To mislead, the purported calls were made from Bahalgarh and Panipat, Haryana. Qureshi was apprehended from Khatauli, Mujaffar Nagar, Uttar

Pradesh, who during investigation has disclosed that he along-with his associates were behind this conspiracy, as they had credible information that Abrar was doing well in his business and would be a source for making some easy money. Teams have been formed and raids are being conducted in Delhi and other states to apprehend the co-accused and conspirators," the DCP shared. One Wagon-R Car which was used in the offence and an I-phone of the accused was recovered by the police and the investigation of this case is in progress.

Bike-borne gunmen shoot BJP member to death in Patna

PTI ■ PATNA

Bike-borne assailants gunned down a BJP member outside a restaurant in the Bihar capital Patna in the early hours of Monday, police said. The deceased was identified as Munna Sharma who was associated with the BJP for years. "Munna Sharma was shot at by three unidentified bike-borne armed assailants outside a restaurant when he was waiting for an autorickshaw. The armed men fled the spot after the shooting," Patna Rural Superintendent of Police Raushan Kumar told



reporters. He succumbed to his injuries in a government hospital. "Police registered a case and launched a manhunt to nab the gunmen. Forensic experts collected evidence from the spot. Officials are analysing CCTV footage of the area to identify the accused," he said. Leader of the opposition in the assembly Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD claimed that the

incident showed crime was flourishing under the NDA government in the state. "The state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has miserably failed to check the deteriorating law and order situation in the state," the RJD leader posted on X. Union minister Chirag Paswan said it is a matter of serious concern. "Law must be enforced strictly so that people cannot even think of committing crimes. I am sure that police will soon nab the accused," said Paswan, also the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief.

500 sniper rifle bullets seized in Moti Nagar, West Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A routine traffic check in West Delhi's Moti Nagar area has led to the seizure of 500 sniper rifle bullets while being transported on a motorcycle. According to police on Monday, the traffic police were checking vehicles on Saturday night when they signalled a motorcycle rider to stop. Instead, the rider picked up speed and tried to flee, leading to a chase, said a senior police officer privy to the probe into the matter. "While being chased, the man abandoned the motorcycle near a traffic stop and fled,"



the officer said, adding that when they searched the motorcycle they saw a bag in which they found 10 boxes containing 500 live cartridges of 7.62 calibre. "The Moti Nagar police station was informed about the matter and the cartridges were seized," the police officer said. An FIR under the Arms Act has been registered and multiple teams have been formed to identify the

accused. "We are checking CCTV footage and the route taken by the accused," the officer said. Another senior police officer, who requested anonymity, said 7.62 cartridges are used in AK-47 rifles, self-loading rifles (SLRs), light machine guns and also for sniper rifles. "These bullets are very pointed. When fired at someone, it leaves a small entry wound but causes maximum damage while exiting," said the officer. He said, "Recovery of such bullets is alarming. The accused will be nabbed soon as every bullet has its batch numbers marked."

PM, Crown Prince talks...

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Murmu was also happy to note the high rate of participation and contribution of women in all aspects of Emirati society, a statement issued by the President's office said. "Both Leaders agreed that India and

the UAE have societies with a syncretic and multicultural heritage, and that the path of peace, tolerance, and harmony shown by Mahatma Gandhi and HH Sheikh Zayed, are deeply imbibed in our national character," the statement added.

BJP attacks Rahul Gandhi...

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The former Congress chief also said there is no shortage of skills in India and the country could compete with China if it starts aligning itself for production. Reacting sharply, Bhatia said Rahul cannot "utter a single word or give a statement against China." "He weakens India....

He stands by China," the BJP leader said. Bhatia said that this was not the first time that Congress leader has demeaned the country while speaking on foreign soil but unfortunately he has also received thumbs up and support over his statements from certain quarters from abroad.

Youth tested Mpx positive, Centre urges to be vigilant

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The case aligns with earlier risk assessments and continues to be managed according to established protocols, it said, adding that public health measures, including contact tracing and monitoring, are actively in place to ensure the situation is contained. "There is no indication of any widespread risk to the public at this time," the Health Ministry stated even as it urged states and Union Territories to stay vigilant and avoid unnecessary panic. Authorities are advised to enhance surveillance, including screening, testing, and contact tracing, to manage the situation effectively and prevent further spread, said Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra in a letter to States and Union Territories (UTs). The Centre has also advised them to ramp up surveillance including screening, testing and tracing contact of all suspect Mpx cases and identify isolation facilities in hospitals for both suspect and confirmed patients. Presently, three Centre-led hospitals in the national capitals have been designated for treatment of the Mpx cases if needed.

Chandra asked the States and UTs to review public health preparedness, particularly at the health facility level, identify isolation facilities in hospitals, and ensure the availability of required logistics and trained human resources at such facilities. The Secretary also called for the orientation of all key stakeholders with a focus on surveillance units under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) at state and district levels to re-orient them on definitions of suspect, probable, confirmed cases, contact tracing and other surveillance activities. In the letter, Chandra asked all states to make people aware of the Mpx disease, its mode of spread, the need for timely reporting and taking preventive measures, besides reviewing the public health preparedness and isolation facilities for both suspect and confirmed cases. In the letter, Chandra said the World Health Organization (WHO) on August 14 declared the current outbreak of Mpx a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Health units at points of entry

(airports) have been instructed to strengthen health screening of incoming travellers to detect any suspected case, the Union Health Secretary said, adding the laboratory network under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also been strengthened. Dr. Jugal Kishore, Director Professor and Head of Community Medicine at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, described Mpx symptoms as resembling those of chickenpox or smallpox, including sores, blisters, rashes, or pimples on the face or body, sometimes with yellow pus. Additional symptoms may include itching, vomiting, fever, headache, muscle stiffness, and lethargy. He said there was no need to panic but precautionary measures need to be taken such as avoiding crowded places, maintaining distance, washing hands frequently, and avoiding contact with immunocompromised individuals. He stressed the importance of consulting a doctor if Mpx symptoms appear, given the potential confusion with chickenpox.

GST Council...

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Besides this, the Minister said that the revenue from casinos went up by 34 per cent in the last six months. On health insurance, Sitharaman said that the GST Council has decided to set up a new GoM on rate reduction, which will submit its report by October-end. "Two new GoMs have been decided. One is on the medical and health insurance. It will be the rate rationalisation GoM headed by the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar but with newer members added for this limited purpose. We have told them that they will look into this matter and come up with a report by the end of October 2024. The GST council which will meet in November will finalise based on this report which will come from the GoM," Sitharaman said. Briefing reporters on the outcome of the 54th GST Council meeting, Sitharaman said it has decided to have a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the GST rate on life and health insurance. The GoM will be headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is currently heading the panel on GST rate rationalisation. Sitharaman further said that a GoM will also be constituted to deal with the issue concerning compensation cess which will cease after March 2026.

Come clean on remission issue, SC to state govt

From Page 1

processing the files related to remission. "We direct the chief secretary of the state to file a personal affidavit in this court to explain the entire episode and the conduct of the state and its officers by September 24," the bench said. The top court also issued a show cause notice to senior IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Singh, who until recently was the principal secretary of Uttar Pradesh's prison administration department before being shunted out on September 7 by the state government for "misleading" the court. "Prime facie it appears to us that the stand taken by him (the IAS officer) in the affidavit is contrary to the statements made by him on August 12 when he appeared virtually," the bench said while issuing notice to Singh as to why proceedings for criminal contempt should not be initiated against him. "Because of him, someone's lib-

erty was at stake," the bench said and directed that notice be also issued against the IAS officer for initiating perjury proceedings for making contradictory statements before the court. Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the UP government, said the IAS officer has been recently relieved of all his duties and disciplinary action has been initiated against him. "Prime facie, we find that he is being made scapegoat by the state government. This is because from the records it is clear that a section officer did not open the email intimating our orders from the jail authorities till June 6, when the Model Code of Conduct got over. It means until then the files did not move a single inch," the bench told Additional Advocate General Garima Prasad, appearing for the state government. "Entire state machinery was sleeping," the bench observed

while noting that the act of not processing the remission files during the operation of the model code of conduct "was clear defiance of our orders." The top court said it was "unfortunate" that the IAS officer tried to blame the advocate on-record for the state government in the Supreme Court for not intimating the orders properly. "If this was the attitude of a senior officer of the state government, then we will have to go deep into the matter. We would also like to know whether any order was passed for not processing the files related to the remission till the model code of conduct got over," the bench said and listed the matter for September 27. On August 27, the top court had admonished Singh for filing "false" affidavits, warning that it will not tolerate an IAS officer "lying" to the court and changing stand according to convenience. It had noted that the stand

taken by Singh in the affidavit affirmed on August 14 was completely different from the solemn statements made by the officer which were recorded in the apex court's order of August 12. Singh had on August 12 submitted that it was the chief minister's office which delayed the processing of a file related to remission the sentence of a convict due to the MCC. The IAS officer, however, later apologised and submitted that he had earlier inadvertently told the court that the chief minister's secretariat did not accept the files related to remission. The bench had granted temporary bail to the convict on whose plea the entire controversy broke out. Warning of contempt action against officers in the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's office, the top court had on August 12 sought to know the names of officials who had refused to accept files related to remission pleas.

Kalindi Exp hits LPG cylinder placed on track

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at the Bilhaur station for a check, the ACP said. The damaged cylinder has been recovered. A bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also recovered from the spot,

Chandra said. On Sunday coupling of the Magadh Express from New Delhi to Islampur broke, splitting the train into two between Turiganj and Raghunathpur railway

stations in Bihar's Buxar district near Patna. However, no one was injured in the incident. An inquiry has been ordered to probe the exact cause of the incident.

Railways is also probing several incidents of surfacing of big boulders placed on the railway tracks in last few months resulting many derailments in recent times.

Israeli strikes in Syria leave 14 dead, more than 40 hurt

AP ■ DAMASCUS/ WEST BANK

The number of people killed in overnight Israeli strikes in Syria has risen to 14 with more than 40 wounded, Syrian state media said Monday morning. Israeli strikes hit several areas in central Syria late Sunday, damaging a highway in Hama province and sparking fires, Syrian state news agency SANA said. The initial death count reported by the Masyaf National Hospital in western Hama province was four. SANA, citing hospital head Faysal Haydar, said 14 were killed and 43 wounded. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war monitor, said at least four of those killed were civilians. One of the strikes targeted a scientific research centre in Maysaf and others struck sites where "Iranian militias and experts are stationed to develop weapons in Syria," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Local media also reported strikes around the coastal city of Tartous. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of war-torn Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowl-

edges or discusses the operations. The strikes often target Syrian forces or Iranian-backed groups. Israel has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment in Syria, particularly since Syria is a key route for Iran to send weapons to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Hezbollah has been clashing with Israeli forces for the past 11 months against the backdrop of Israel's war against Hamas — an ally of Hezbollah — in Gaza. Meanwhile three Israelis were shot and killed at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said, in what appeared to be an attack linked to the 11-month-old war in Gaza. Israel's military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck on Sunday and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed him in a shootout. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said the three Israelis were men in their 50s and the military said they were civilians. Relatives identified the gunman as Maher al-Jazi, a retired Jordanian soldier from Athroh, a town in the impoverished Maan area. Jordan's state-run



Petra News Agency said he was transporting goods to the West Bank. The interior ministry said that, based on initial investigation results, the incident was an individual act. Jordan was investigating. The Western-allied Arab country made peace with Israel in 1994 but is deeply critical of its policies toward the Palestinians. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen mass protests against Israel over the war in Gaza. Hundreds of Jordanians marched in Amman to cele-

brate the attack, chanting slogans in support of al-Jazi and burning the Israeli flag. "We bless this heroic operation carried out by this noble Jordanian hero," said Murad Adaleh, head of the local Muslim Brotherhood Party. The Allenby crossing over the Jordan River, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, is mainly used by Palestinians and tourists. The crossing has seen few security incidents, but in 2014 Israeli security guards shot and killed a Jordanian judge who they said had

attacked them. The crossing was closed, and Israel announced the closure of its land crossings with Jordan. It later said all would reopen on Monday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the attack and linked it to Israel's larger conflict with Iran and allied militant groups, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Israeli-occupied West Bank has seen a surge of violence since Hamas' October 7 attack on Gaza triggered the war there. Israel has launched near-daily military arrest raids into dense Palestinian residential areas, and there has been a rise in Israeli settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis. Loved ones mourned Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, an American-Turkish woman shot dead on Friday in the West Bank. She had been demonstrating against Israeli settlements. The White House has said it was "deeply disturbed," while her family seeks an independent investigation. Her body remained at a hospital in Nablus. In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed five people, including two women, two children and a senior official in the Civil

Defense — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. The Civil Defence said the strike targeted the home of its deputy director for northern Gaza, Mohammed Morsi, in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The army says it tries to avoid harming civilians and only targets militants. Another Israeli strike hit the Eid family home in the Nuseirat refugee camp and killed at least two girls, according to an Associated Press journalist who counted the bodies and witnesses. Paltel, one of the territory's main telecom providers, said all household internet in central and southern Gaza was down because of ongoing attacks. Gaza's Health Ministry says over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war began. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in their October 7 attack. They abducted another 250 and are still holding around

100 after releasing most of the rest in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel during a weeklong ceasefire last November. Around a third of the remaining hostages are believed to be dead. The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire and the return of the hostages, but the negotiations have repeatedly bogged down. Also on Sunday, Netanyahu said government ministers may no longer visit Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site — revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif — without his permission. Israel's far-right national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, visited it again in July and has called for allowing Jewish prayer there. Tensions over the compound have fuelled past violence. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — territories the Palestinians want for a future state — in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005 but maintained control over its airspace, coastline and most of its land crossings. Along with Egypt, it imposed a blockade on Gaza after Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007.

Af's London embassy to be closed

London (AP): Afghanistan's embassy in London is being shut down after it was disowned by the country's Taliban rulers, the UK government said Monday. The Foreign Office said "the embassy is being closed following the dismissal of its staff by the Taliban." Britain does not recognise the Taliban government. Ambassador Zalmay Rassoul wrote on the social network X that the embassy would shut its doors on Sept. 27 "at the official request of the host country." Neither the UK government nor the ambassador said what would happen to the embassy's staff. Diplomats who served under Afghanistan's former Western-backed government were left in limbo when the Taliban seized Kabul and returned to power in August 2021. Many embassies in Europe and beyond have continued to operate, but have been accused by Kabul of failing to cooperate with the government. Afghanistan has sent Taliban-approved diplomats to some countries, including Pakistan and China.



Firefighters work against the advancing Line Fire in Mentone, Calif. on Sunday.

Death toll in Vietnam storm rises to 59

AP ■ HANOI

A bridge collapsed and a bus was swept away by flooding Monday as more rain fell following a typhoon in Vietnam that has caused at least 59 deaths in the Southeast Asian country and disrupted businesses and factories in the export-focused northern industrial hubs, state media reported. Nine people died when Typhoon Yagi made landfall in Vietnam on Saturday before weakening to a tropical depression, and at least 50 others have died in the consequent floods and landslides, state media VN Express reported. The water levels of several rivers in northern Vietnam were dangerously high. A passenger bus carrying 20 people was swept into a flooded stream by a landslide in mountainous Cao Bang province Monday morning. Rescuers were deployed but landslides blocked their path. In Phu Tho province,



rescue operations were continuing after a steel bridge over the engorged Red River collapsed Monday morning. Reports said 10 cars and trucks along with two motorbikes fell into the river. Three people were pulled out of the river and taken to the hospital, but 13 others were missing. Pham Truong Son, 50, told VNExpress that he was driving on the bridge on his motorcycle when he heard a loud

noise. Before he knew what was happening, he was falling into the river. "I felt like I was drowned to the bottom of the river," Son told the newspaper, adding that he managed to swim and hold on to a drifting banana tree to stay afloat before he was rescued. Dozens of businesses in Haiphong province hadn't resumed production by Monday because of the extensive damage to their factories, reported state media

Lao Dong newspaper. The report said that the roofs of several factories were blown apart while water had seeped into industrial units, damaging finished goods and expensive equipment. Some companies said they still didn't have electricity on Monday and that it would take at least a month to be able to resume production. Toppled electricity poles meant that Haiphong and Quang Ninh provinces were still without power on Monday. The two provinces are industrial hubs, housing many factories that export goods, including EV maker VinFast and Apple suppliers Pegatron and USI. Authorities are still assessing the damage to industrial units but initial estimates show that nearly 100 enterprises were damaged by the typhoon, resulting in losses amounting to millions of dollars, reported the newspaper. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chin visited Haiphong city on Sunday and approved a package of USD 4.62 million

to help the port city recover. Typhoon Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit Vietnam in decades when it made landfall Saturday with winds up to 149 kph (92 mph). It weakened Sunday, but the country's meteorological agency warned the continuing downpours could cause floods and landslides. On Sunday, a landslide killed six people including an infant and injured nine others in Sa Pa town, a popular trekking base known for its terraced rice fields and mountains. Overall, state media reported 21 deaths and at least 299 people injured from the weekend. Skies were overcast in the capital, Hanoi, with occasional rain Monday morning as workers cleared the uprooted trees, fallen billboards and toppled electricity poles. Heavy rain continued in northwestern Vietnam and forecasters said it could exceed 40 centimetres (15 inches) in places. Yagi also damaged agricultural land where rice is mostly grown.

Pope cheers East Timor's recovery while acknowledging bishop's abuse scandal

AP ■ DILI

Pope Francis received a raucous welcome Monday as he arrived in East Timor to celebrate its recovery from a bloody and traumatic independence battle, even as he indirectly acknowledged an abuse scandal involving its Nobel Peace Prize-winning hero. Timorese jammed Francis' motorcade route into town from the airport, waving Vatican and Timorese flags and toting yellow and white umbrellas — the colours of the Holy See — to shade themselves from the scorching midday sun. "Viva el Papa!" they shouted as he passed by. The 87-year-old Francis seemed to relish the greeting, smiling broadly from the open-backed pickup truck and waving as he passed by billboard after billboard featuring

his image and words of welcome. The overwhelmingly Catholic East Timor, one of the world's poorest countries, had eagerly awaited Francis' arrival, which came on the heels of the 25th anniversary of the UN-backed referendum that paved the way for independence from Indonesia. It was a far different atmosphere than when the last pope visited. St. John Paul II came in 1989, when Timor was still an occupied part of Indonesia and fighting for its freedom. After Timorese voted overwhelmingly for independence a decade later, Indonesia's military responded with a scorched-earth campaign that destroyed 80 per cent of the country's infrastructure and shocked the world. Overall, as many as 200,000 people were killed during the 24 years of Indonesian rule.

John Paul's visit, which culminated with a massive Mass on the seaside near Dili, helped draw international attention to the plight of the Timorese people and shine a spotlight on the oppressiveness of Indonesia's occupation. Francis arrived in Dili from Papua New Guinea to follow in John Paul's footsteps and open the third leg of his trip through Southeast Asia and Oceania. President Jose Ramos Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, two of East Timor's most revered independence heroes, greeted Francis at the airport and were meeting with him privately. In remarks to them and other dignitaries Monday, Francis applauded the Timorese people for having recovered from their "greatest suffering and trial" to put East Timor on the path of peaceful development. And he praised

them for having reconciled with Indonesia. But he said new challenges and problems were now confronting the country, Asia's newest, including emigration and poverty, as well as alcohol abuse and violence involving martial arts gangs. "Let us also not forget that these children and adolescents have their dignity violated," Francis said. "In response, we are all called to do everything possible to prevent every kind of abuse and guarantee a healthy and peaceful childhood for all young people." It was a generic and indirect reference to "abuse." But it nevertheless recalled the scandal involving Timorese Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo who, along with Gusmao and Ramos Horta, is regarded as a hero for their efforts to support Timor's independence.

Third INDUS-X summit to boost US-India defence relations

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The third edition of the two-day INDUS-X summit will begin on Monday, during which India and the US will explore ways to strengthen partnerships in defence innovation, according to an official release. The India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit, themed: "Harnessing Investment Opportunities to Enhance Cross-Border Defence Innovation Ecosystems," will be held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California from September 9-10, said a press release by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). It will focus on the critical role of private capital in advancing the defence innovation sector, bringing together leading defence policymakers from Washington and New Delhi. "The event will facilitate interactions between

American and Indian leaders in defence innovation, including startups, venture capitalists, academia, accelerators, and industry professionals, to foster co-production and investment opportunities," according to the press release. It will include sessions with leaders from the private and the public sectors touching on themes of "strengthening defence and advanced technology partnerships, funding defence innovation, and resilient supply chains". The summit will be co-hosted by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and Stanford University. INDUS-X, which stands for enhanced strategic and defence partnership between India and the US, was launched on June 21 last year by the US Department of Defence and the Indian Ministry of Defence during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

state visit to Washington, DC. The India-US defence and strategic ties have been on an upswing in the last few years. The two countries have inked key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies. The two sides also signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and also provides for the sale of high-end technology from the US to India. In October 2020, India and the US sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) pact to further boost bilateral defence ties.

UN rights chief warns of 'strongman' politics

Geneva (AP): The UN human rights chief is urging voters to be wary of "strongman" politicians and personalities "that throw glitter in our eyes" as more elections loom in a busy electoral calendar this year. Volker Turk didn't mention leaders or countries by name, but alluded to a schedule that includes votes to come in countries like Georgia, Tunisia and the United States. The rights chief spoke Monday in his traditional opening remarks to sessions of the Human Rights Council, which typically list a wide array of rights concerns globally. The 47-country body — whose membership changes each year — was opening a five-week autumn session. "I urge voters to ask themselves which of the political platforms or candidates will work for the human rights of everyone," Turk said. "And I urge all voters to be vigilant. Be wary of the shrill voices, the strongman types that throw glitter in our eyes, offering illusory solutions that deny reality." He denounced some politicians who "scapegoat migrants, refugees and minorities" around electoral periods in places like France, Germany, Hungary, the United Kingdom and the US. The Austrian-born UN veteran contrasted both hopeful and worrying developments. He noted a "positive trend" toward the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, but a rise in executions in Iran and Saudi Arabia. He hailed a shift toward decriminalization of same-sex relations in many places, but decried "a spate of laws" that aimed to penalise them in countries like Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq and Uganda.

Kerala-born Jinson Charls appointed minister in Aus Northern Territory

Melbourne (PTI): Kerala-born Jinson Charls, who defeated a sitting Labour minister in Australia's Northern Territory (NT) elections, will become the new minister for disability, arts, veterans and multicultural affairs in the regional government, according to a media report on Monday. Charls was among the two India-born politicians elected to the regional assembly last month. Khoda Patel of Gujarat descent, also won a seat. Their Country Liberal Party (CLP) secured a landslide victory in elections in the Northern Territory on August 24, claiming 17 of the Legislative Assembly's 25 seats. Charls, who worked as a registered nurse and in health leadership roles, will become the



new minister for disability, arts, veterans and multicultural affairs. He will also manage the portfolios of youth, seniors and equality, as well as people, sport and culture, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported on Monday. "His appointment marks a historic occasion for the NT parliament, with the new government featuring the highest-ever representation of

politicians of South Asian and South-East Asian heritage," it said in an earlier report. Charls and the new Casuarina MLA, Khoda Patel, were born in India, while the new Fong Lim MLA, Tanzil Rahman, has Bangladeshi roots, and the new Wanguri MLA, Oly Carlson, is of Indonesian heritage. "I have been getting phone calls, messages, for the last few days, including the media back in India - they are excited as well," Charls, who topped a sitting Labour environment minister, was quoted as saying by the ABC. "A first-generation migrant coming over to a different country, to a different culture, and people up here supporting, because it's for the people's mandate."

Indian-American releases song to rally South Asians for Harris

Washington (PTI): To harness the power of Bollywood music, an Indian-American entrepreneur and a major fundraiser for the Democratic party has released a music video to mobilise South Asians in key battleground states to vote for presidential candidate and Vice President Kamala Harris in the November 5 election. The song, "Nacho Nacho", has been performed by Bollywood singer Shibani Kashyap and produced by Ritesh Parikh and his creative team is the brainchild of Ajay Jain Bhutoria, National Finance Committee member for Harris for President. "Nacho Nacho" isn't just a song, it's a movement.

Google faces new antitrust trial

Alexandria (AP): One month after a judge declared Google's search engine an illegal monopoly, the tech giant faces another antitrust lawsuit that threatens to break up the company, this time over its advertising technology. The Justice Department and a coalition of states contend that Google built and maintains a monopoly over the technology that matches online publishers to advertisers. Dominance over the software on both the buy side and the sell side of the transaction enables Google to keep as much as 36 cents on the dollar when it brokers sales between publishers and advertisers, the government contends in court papers. Google says the government's case is based on an internet of yesteryear, when desktop computers ruled and internet users carefully typed precise World Wide Web addresses into URL fields. Advertisers now are more like-

ly to turn to social media companies like TikTok or streaming TV services like Peacock to reach audiences. In recent years, Google Networks, the division of the Mountain View, California-based tech giant that includes such services as AdSense and Google Ad Manager that are at the heart of the case, actually have seen declining revenue, from USD 31.7 billion in 2021 to USD 31.3 billion in 2023, according to the company's annual reports. The trial over the alleged ad tech monopoly begins Monday in Alexandria, Virginia. It initially was going to be a jury trial, but Google maneuvered to force a bench trial, writing a check to the federal government for more than USD 2 million to moot the only claim brought by the government that required a jury. The case will now be decided by US District Judge Leonie

Brinkema, who was appointed to the bench by former President Bill Clinton and is best known for high-profile terrorism trials including September 11 defendant Zacarias Moussaoui. Brinkema, though, also has experience with highly technical civil trials, working in a courthouse that sees an outside number of patent infringement cases. The Virginia case comes on the heels of a major defeat for Google over its search engine, which generates the majority of the company's USD 307 billion in annual revenue. A judge in the District of Columbia declared the search engine a monopoly, maintained in part by tens of billions of dollars Google pays each year to companies like Apple to lock in Google as the default search engine presented to consumers when they buy iPhones and other gadgets. In that case, the judge has not yet imposed any remedies.

Strong gains in FMCG, banking drive Sensex 376 points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex bounced back from early lows and closed higher by nearly 376 points on Monday, snapping its four-day losing run following a rally in blue-chips ICICI Bank, HUL and HDFC Bank. The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 375.61 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,559.54. The index opened lower and hit a low of 80,895.05 points in early trade. Later, it recovered from lows and jumped 469.43 points or 0.57 per cent to hit the day's high of 81,653.36. The NSE Nifty went up by 84.25 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 24,936.40 after three days of fall. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI



Bank, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers. Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, NTPC, Tata Motors, Power

Grid and Titan were among the biggest laggards. "Despite a negative opening amidst weak global cues, the domestic market exhibited some recovery from last week's steep fall. The market is currently attempting to gain stability between potential rate cuts and recession fears in the US," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading higher. The US markets ended significantly lower on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 620.95 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.13 per cent to USD 71.84 a barrel. The BSE benchmark Sensex had tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at 81,183.93 on Friday. The NSE Nifty dropped 292.95 points or 1.17 per cent to 24,852.1.

Rupee slips one paisa against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a narrow range and slipped 1 paisa to close at 83.96 against the American currency on Monday, as the support from a positive trend in equity markets was offset by a strong US dollar against major crosses overseas. Concerns over global economic growth weighed on investor sentiments, forex traders said, adding that investors remained cautious ahead of US CPI and European Central Bank (ECB) monetary policy this week. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.96 against the American currency. It rose to the intra-day high of 83.86 but pared gains to finally settle at 83.96 against the US dollar, down 1 paisa from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee gained 2 paise to close at 83.95 against the US dollar. "The Indian rupee strengthened marginally, supported by expected



intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the last few weeks. This was despite Asian currencies, which slipped on worries of a slowdown in the US after data released on Friday fanned slowdown worries in the US. "Market participants noted that the Indian central bank has been 'consistently supporting' the rupee to help it hold above 84," said Maneesha Sharma, AVP - Commodities & Currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers. Globally, the focus remains on whether the Federal Reserve will deliver a 25- or 50-basis point (bp) rate cut at its policy decision next week, which may keep the dollar index tilted in favour of bears, traders said. Meanwhile, the rupee is expected to be supported by inflows related to local IPOs this week while also keeping an eye on US consumer inflation data for August, due on Wednesday. Meanwhile, in the domestic equity markets, Sensex climbed 375.61 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,559.54 points, while Nifty rose 84.25 points or 0.34 per cent to close at 24,936.40 points. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.37 per cent to 101.54. Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose 0.97 per cent to 71.75 in futures trade. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 620.95 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, 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.

FPI disclosure deadline approaches amid legal tussle with SEBI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Some FPIs have sought legal avenue to avoid complying with rules requiring disclosure of ultimate beneficial ownership (BO) to the markets regulator Sebi as the deadline expires on Monday. Two Mauritius-based foreign portfolio investors -- LTS Investment Fund and Lotus Global Investment -- have reportedly approached the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) to seek urgent relief from adhering to Sebi's new norms for foreign investors. These two FPIs were named in the January 2023 report on Adani Group by the US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research. They have asked SAT to direct Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to give more time to meet these rules. Sebi set a deadline of September 9 for non-compliant FPIs that fail to provide detailed ownership

disclosures to sell off their excess holdings and correct their violations. On Friday, there were rumours that some overseas funds were rushing to sell their holdings ahead of Monday's deadline. "Even though Sebi's deadline for disclosure of beneficial owners in FPI holdings ends on Monday, September 9, it is learnt that two FPIs have moved the appellate tribunal SAT seeking time till March 2025 to meet these norms. Therefore, the verdict from SAT is awaited. "If the verdict comes in their favour, that will not impact the market. Otherwise there may be some selling pressure from these FPIs which might impact the market marginally. Sebi enforcing these norms is a healthy and desirable trend that will make FPI investment completely transparent," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. In August 2023, Sebi came out

with a circular, whereby it directed FPIs with over 50 per cent of their equity assets under management (AUM) in a single corporate group, or with total holdings in Indian equity markets exceeding Rs 25,000 crore, to disclose detailed information on all entities that have any ownership, economic interest, or control in the FPI. These regulations were introduced to prevent potential round-tripping by certain promoters through the FPI route. The move by Sebi had its genesis in the Adani issue where the markets regulator could not identify the beneficial owners of some foreign portfolio investments in Adani stocks since the existing regulations were lax in identifying the true owners of many investments. These framework, though effective from November 1, 2023, provided a time frame of 90 calendar days for existing FPIs to re-adjust their



holdings. It suggested that FPIs had time till January-end 2024 to realign their investment within the threshold prescribed in a bid to avoid providing the details of the beneficial owner as required. Going by the circular, FPIs whose investments continue to exceed the prescribed threshold after the expiry of the timeline will be given 30 trading days to make disclosures, after which their registration will become invalid. The FPI will then liquidate its securities and exit the Indian securities market by surrendering its registration within 180 calendar days from the day the certificate becomes invalid, according to the circular. During these 180 days, the investee companies will restrict the FPIs' voting rights to its actual shareholding or its shareholding corresponding to 50 per cent of its equity AUM on the date its FPI registration is rendered invalid, whichever is lower. "Certain FPIs have been observed to hold concentrated portion of their equity portfolio in a single investee company/corporate group. Such concentrated investments raise the concern and possibility that promoters of such investee companies/corporate groups, or other investors acting in concert, could be using the FPI route for circumventing regulatory requirements," the Sebi circular stated. On Sunday, the Congress said

that Sebi investigation into "the Adani Group's brazen attempt" to bypass regulations is still languishing and the capital markets regulator has a lot to explain. "Two Mauritius-based foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), a part of the revelations in the still-unfolding 'Modani' mega scam, have now petitioned the Securities Appellate Tribunal, seeking urgent relief from complying with Sebi's new foreign investor norms before the September 9th deadline," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh had stated. Both the FPIs are alleged to be violating rules that require investors to not be over-invested in a single stock, he had said. These rules are meant to ensure that black money routed through tax havens does not flood back into Indian capital markets, Ramesh had said, adding they must be upheld at all costs.

Auto industry breaks ₹ 20 lakh crore barrier in FY24, contributes high to GST revenue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian automotive industry has crossed Rs 20 lakh crore mark in FY24 and now contributes 14-15 per cent of the total GST collected in the country, SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said on Monday. The auto sector also contributes significantly to the direct and indirect employment generation in the country, he said while speaking at the 64th annual ACMA session here. "The Indian automotive industry has crossed a landmark figure of Rs 20 lakh crore (around USD 240 million) in FY24...We are contributing almost 14-15 per cent of the total GST collected in the country," Aggarwal said.

The auto industry will contribute more and more to the GDP of the country from the current level of around 6.8 per cent, he noted. It is not just the growth numbers, but equally important is the transformation in the technology, he added. Aggarwal stated that globally also the standing Indian auto industry has risen. "We have become the third largest passenger vehicle market, the largest two and three wheeler market and third largest commercial vehicle market as the country marches towards Viksit Bharat by 2047," he noted. The automotive industry is poised to grow even faster and contribute immensely to the growth of the country, Aggarwal said.

He stated that the auto industry has identified 50 critical components for local production in order to reduce import dependence. Aggarwal said SIAM along with ACMA started the journey of enhancing indigenous manufacturing and has voluntarily set targets for increasing localisation. "It was committed to reduce import content by 60 per cent to 20 per cent by 2025 from the base 2019-20 levels, thereby targeting the reduced reports to the tune of Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 crore in five years. We have very well achieved the first phase of import reduction of 5.8 per cent in first two years," Aggarwal said at the ACMA annual session here. In order to go to the next level and commence



manufacturing of high tech critical items for which the industry has been dependent on imports, the industry has now identified a list of 50 critical components. "We are encouraging ACMA members to commence manufacturing them in India to enable the vehicle OEMs to source these items locally," Aggarwal said. Since most of these items are electrical or electronics, there is a need to develop capabilities and capacities in India for such high tech items, he added. Besides, having expertise in the conventional internal combustion engine technologies such as gasoline and diesel, the industry has now developed strong capabilities in multiple powertrains such as CNG and

electrified vehicles such as electric vehicles and hybrids, Aggarwal said. The industry is also developing hydrogen and fuel cell based technologies, he added. "Going forward, as the aspirations of the country grow we have to focus more and more aggressively on cleaner and safer vehicles," Aggarwal said. "We are also thankful to the Ministry of Heavy Industries for identifying the need to develop the third automotive mission plan from 2024 to 2047 which will lay down the broad controls of how the industry is expected to grow over these years in three distinct phases, from now to 2030 from 2030 to 2037 and finally, 2037 to 2047," he said. The automatic mission plan

will become a guiding document, not only for the entire automobile and the auto component industry for committing and planning the investments in the country, but will also serve as a ready reckoner for all the line ministries of the government of India, and also to many state governments for framing suitable policy measures that need to align with the growth and research for the auto sector, he noted. "We look forward to the final document on the automotive mission plan," Aggarwal said. Speaking at the session, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) President Shradha Suri Marwah said the industry is looking forward to the third version of the automotive mission plan.

BMC denies pothole reports on Mumbai coastal road

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid reports in the print, electronic, and social media about the bad state of Mumbai's newly constructed coastal road, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday categorically stated that the prestigious road was completely "safe" and it had not developed potholes as was being claimed by motorists using this road. After a few leading newspapers went to town quoting complaints made by motorists in social, print and electronic media that the north-bound stretch of the Mumbai coastal road had developed potholes near Haji Ali junction, the BMC said: "The coastal road is completely safe and has not developed potholes as is being claimed by some citizens. The patches you see are actually a 'mastic coat' applied to prevent potholes on the Mumbai Coastal Road (MCR)". "Based on the photographs published or aired in the social, print and electronic media, some sections of people have complained that the

coast road -- known officially as the 'Dharmaveer Swaraj Rakshak Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Mumbai Coastal Road' -- has developed potholes. Questions have been raised by the quality of construction. We appeal to the citizens not to lend credence to the misinformation being spread on the various media platforms," the BMC said in a statement issued here. "Denying that there was no basis for reports in that 'shoddy work' had been carried out on the toll-free Mumbai Coastal Road (MCR), the BMC said that 'mastic coat' applied to prevent potholes on the MCR and the road would be restored to its original position after the monsoon". "It may be recalled that it said that the north-bound arm (Chowpatty-Worli) of the MCR was opened in July 2024 as a tarred road, but an additional coating of mastic was applied at certain places to ensure the asphalt remains strong during the continuous and heavy rains witnessed in Mumbai during the monsoon months. "However, the mastic coating has not been applied on the south-bound

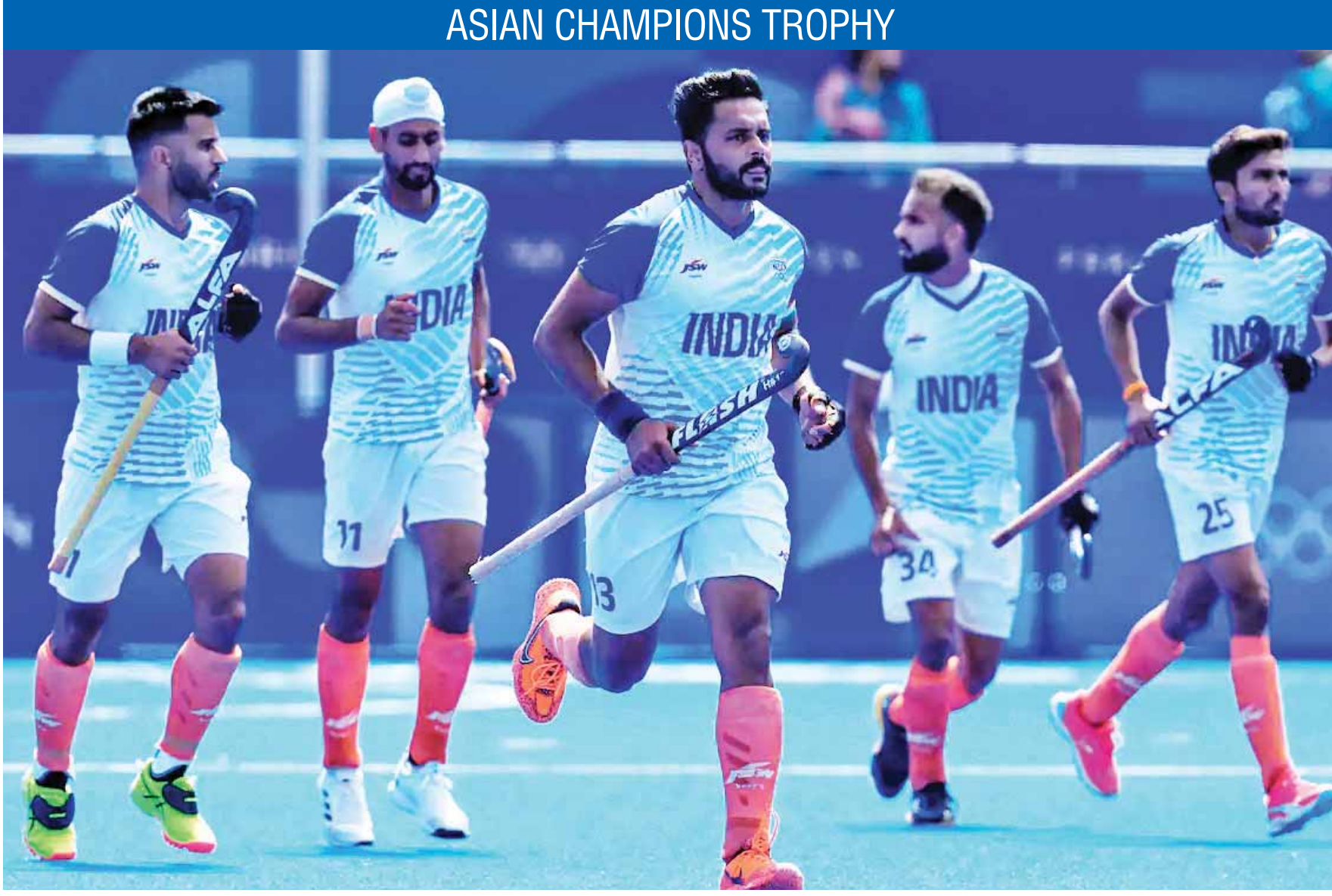


arm (Worli-Chowpatty). This is because this stretch was opened in March 2024 and the asphaltting got sufficient time to solidify before the monsoon, proving that there is no defect in the road construction. "According to the BMC, massive beams have been set up to link the MCR with the Rajiv Gandhi Bandra Worli Sea Link, but to complete the work, a temporary route has been provided to facilitate the traffic going to the sea bridge. This alternative route comprises a road leading to the Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan Marg in Worli at the Worli Interchange, and once the direct access to the sea bridge is completed, it will be discontinued, and hence has nothing to do with the road quality of MCR, as speculated. "There have been posts, photographs and videos of cracks/potholes developed on the MCR. While some have slammed the BMC and compared it with the cracks that had developed on the approach route to the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, 'Atal Setu' in June, and certain other projects.

INDIA THRASH JAPAN 5-1 FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE WIN

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

Sukhjeet Singh struck a brace as defending champions India thrashed Japan 5-1 in a league match to notch up their second consecutive win in the men's Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Monday. Sukhjeet scored in the second and 60th minutes while Abhishek (3rd), Sanjay (17th) and Uttam Singh (54th) were the other Indian goal getters. Matsumoto Kazumasa pulled one back for Japan in the 41st minute. Four-time champions India, who had beaten China 3-0 in their opening round-robin league match on Sunday, got two penalty corners as against five of Japan. India were quick to get the lead with Sukhjeet scoring a brilliant field goal in the second minute of the match itself. It was Sanjay, hovering on the right side of the circle, lobbed in a cross that was swiftly deflected by Sukhjeet. India extended the lead to 2-0 in the next minute with Abhishek dribbling past several Japanese defenders before rounding off the goalkeeper to score. The onslaught continued in the second quarter with Sanjay converting a splendid penalty corner in the 17th minute. With 3-0 lead at half-time, India were in a comfortable position while Japan tried to shake off the early nerves and bounce back. Japan, who finished third in the 2023 edition of the tournament, made amends in their attack to fetch a PC in the 21st minute. But Japan's drag-flick was finely blocked by the Indian rushers, enabling their team to launch a quick counter attack.



ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Attacking from the right, Jugraj Singh got a nice turn and won a free hit. After a flurry of swift short passes, Indian forwards missed the goal-mouth by inches. With one goal coming in the second quarter, India completely dominated with 67 per cent ball possession that led to 11 circle entries and three shots on goal. Returning from the 10-minute half-time break, India looked to keep up the momentum. They played patiently, with discipline, to launch their first attack in the third quarter but Japan won the ball back. Japan did well to build on a structured attack that eventually led to a field goal in the 41st minute by Kazumasa. India goalie Krishan Pathak could do little to stop Kazumasa from scoring. Only minutes earlier, there was a brilliant opportunity for India but Vivek Sagar fell inches short of a fourth goal. A fourth goal eventually came for India, thanks to good stick work by Jarnmanpreet Singh who assisted Uttam Singh in converting a fine field goal. Sukhjeet added another goal to his name in the 60th minute after a fine assist by Abhishek to end the match on a high. "It was a complete team effort today and we stuck to basics. We produced good attack and ensured we were on target," Hero of the Match Abhishek said. Harnmanpreet Singh-led India will meet last-edition's runners-up Malaysia on Wednesday, as Tuesday is a rest day. After the round-robin league among the six teams, the top-four sides qualify for the semifinals to be played on September 16. The final is scheduled for September 17.

Jannik Sinner beats Taylor Fritz in US Open men's final, weeks after doping exoneration

AP ■ NEW YORK

Jannik Sinner started slowly at the US Open, dropping the first set he played after being exonerated in a doping case no one knew about until shortly before play began at Flushing Meadows. If that episode initially hung over him during the tournament, Sinner was able to put it aside while on court. Was he ever. The No. 1-ranked Sinner beat Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 with his typical relentless baseline game to win the men's championship at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday, less than three weeks after word emerged of his two positive drug tests. "This title, for me, means so much," said Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy, "because the last period of my career was really not easy." He won the second Grand Slam trophy of his nascent career - the other was at the Australian Open in January - and prevented No. 12 Fritz from ending a major title drought for American men that has lasted 21 years. Andy Roddick's triumph at Flushing Meadows in 2003 was the last Slam title for a man from the United States. The last before Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, to even contest a final at one of the four biggest tournaments in tennis also was Roddick, who lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009. "Being an American at the US Open is just incredible. Feeling the love all week. So thank you so much," Fritz said during the trophy ceremony. "I know we've been waiting for a champion for a long time, so I'm sorry I couldn't get it done this time. But I'm going to keep working and, hopefully, I'll get it at the next one." Still, this tournament was a success in many ways for US tennis, with two women and two men from the country all reaching the semifinals for the first



time at a major since the 2003 US Open. Jessica Pegula reached the women's final before losing Saturday to Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus. Sinner improved to 55-5 with a tour-high six titles in 2024. That includes a 35-2 mark on hard courts, the surface used at both the Australian Open and US Open. He's the first man since Guillermo Vilas in 1977 to win his first two Grand Slam trophies in the same season. "So many big wins for me this season," said Sinner, who took full advantage of Week 1 exits by Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. "But the work never stops." The world found out on August 20 that Sinner had tested positive twice in an eight-day span for trace amounts of an anabolic steroid in March but was cleared because his use was ruled unintentional - the banned substance entered his system via a massage from a team member he later fired.

While some players wondered whether he was accorded special treatment, most believed he wasn't trying to dope. And the US Open's fans never gave him a hard time. "We just went day by day... believing in ourself, which is the most important," said Sinner, who mentioned that an aunt of his is in poor health. "I understand, especially in this tournament, how important the mental part is." As expected, Fritz enjoyed something of a home-court advantage on a cool afternoon under a nearly cloudless sky. In a celebrity-filled crowd that included Taylor Swift and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, some spectators occasionally engaged in chants of "U-S-A!" between games or rose whenever Fritz picked up what felt like a crucial point. Fritz is not the sort to show much emotion beyond a shake of his neon-colored racket, even after he went up

3-2 after 20 minutes. Then again, that was pretty much the last significant highlight for Fritz until 3-all in the third set, when he smacked an overhead winner to get to 15-30, punched the air and screamed, "Let's go!" People all around rose, applauding and shouting. After Fritz deposited a volley winner to earn a break point a minute later, he celebrated in the same fashion, and thousands in the seats went wild. Sinner then double-faulted, putting Fritz in front 4-3. But when he tried to serve out the set at 5-4, Fritz buckled enough to let Sinner pull even by breaking. Sinner used a drop shot to lure Fritz to the front court, then slid a passing shot that Fritz volleyed into the net. Fritz bounced his racket off the court. Sinner loped to the towel box, not even smiling. About 10 minutes later, the victory was Sinner's thanks to a closing four-game run. When it was over, Sinner raised his arms, threw his head back and closed his eyes. He generally asserts himself during matches in what perhaps is best described as a rather casual way. His style is less spectacular than solid, less magical than metronomic. Either way, it was masterful, using his long limbs and squeaking, sliding sneakers to get to everything before aiming high-speed shot after shot right near lines - and usually succeeding. Neither player seemed all that interested in venturing forward Sunday unless forced to, instead content to ply their forehands and backhands from the back of the court. That's decidedly Sinner's territory. By the end, Sinner, the second Italian to win a singles title at the US Open, joining 2015 women's champion Flavia Pennetta, had an impressive ledger: just 21 unforced errors, 13 fewer than Fritz, and 23 winners.



Will Los Angeles 2028 be the moment when Paralympics conquer America?

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Paris raised the game for the Paralympics, with more than 4,000 athletes as well as 2.4 million tickets sold, which was second only to the London Games of 2012. Now the challenge for US organisers is to top it with another breakout moment for para sports. "We want to conquer America," said Craig Spence, a spokesman for the International Paralympic Committee. Retired Army Lt. Gen. Reynold Hoover, CEO of the organizing committee for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympics, is confident the Paralympics can do just that. "We don't have the Eiffel Tower, we don't have the Grand Palais, but we've got the Coliseum and we've got the Rose Bowl and we've got SoFi (Stadium), and all these tremendous state-of-the-art venues," he said in an interview Friday as the Paris Games wound down. The Paralympic venues for Los Angeles haven't been announced yet - ideally, they'll be finalized by the end of 2024. Since LA received the bid in 2017, several venues such as Crypto.com Arena and SoFi Stadium have either been re-envisioned or built. With five new sports coming to the Olympics, and the addition of para climbing in the Paralympics, a record combined total of up to 15,000 athletes are expected to compete. "We try to figure out what is the sport that is kind of new, engaging, emerging and can offer the Paralympians another avenue in which to show their intensity and commitment to sport," Hoover said. If the Paralympics are to take a jump in popularity in the United States, several areas are generally considered key to that success. TelevisionAs the Paris Games finished, the NFL kicked off and college football finished its second full week, dominating the U.S. Sports market.

Chris Hammer, a para triathlon veteran who won his first gold medal in the PTS5 classification for athletes with mild impairment, wouldn't be surprised if the attention in the U.S. Landed elsewhere - he said he's "guilty" of it, too. "I love American football, that's what I watch on TV," he said. "We don't embrace the niche sports as much as Europeans do, so I think that is a challenge that we need to overcome if we want to replicate the success of Paris." Since the London Games in 2012, Channel 4 in the United Kingdom has broadcast the Paralympics on live, linear television. France's national broadcaster, France Télévisions, had near continuous coverage of the games, but while NBC and Peacock's Olympic and Paralympic coverage has expanded, there is no guarantee Americans will pay for subscriptions when it's behind a paywall. Aaron Phipps, a veteran of Great Britain's wheelchair rugby team, remembers U.S. Athletes excited about being on TV back in 2012: "I was thinking What are you talking about?" For us, it's just completely normalized. Olympic FatigueWith the Olympics and Paralympics, there's several weeks of competition for people to pay attention and remain engaged. The Parisian crowds have done it, but can the Southern Californians? Hoover said with new technology in the works to generate a more interactive experience, Olympic fatigue shouldn't be an issue. Instead, he thinks fans will be "more excited" because Los Angeles will act as a "home field advantage" for the United States. True StarsWith access to Hollywood, Spence said the organizing committee has a chance to make an impact that extends outside Los Angeles - he expects a global cultural shift when it comes to making Paralympic athletes true pop

culture stars. Visibility isn't a new issue. Scout Basset, who competed in Rio de Janeiro and is on the athletes' commission for Los Angeles, thinks more work should be done together between Paralympians and Olympians to generate more awareness through already established stars. "We are a country that celebrates winning, success, and until we start telling these stories and really giving these athletes the opportunities they deserve in that spotlight, that's the only way we're going to grow the Paralympics and change the perceptions about people with disabilities," she said. Seasoned Paralympians noted most up-and-coming athletes went years without knowing of para sports programs available to them. They say that must change to grow the games. "My hope is that LA is gonna be this moment for so many people with disabilities to say, 'Oh gosh, I could compete, there's something I could do,'" said Chuck Aoki, a veteran of Team USA's wheelchair rugby team. The U.S. Once again dominated the Summer Olympics medals table in Paris but, in the Paralympics, China has been the leading force since 2004. "I think we need to go back to the drawing board," said Jessica Long, one of the most decorated Paralympic swimmers. Long doesn't think the U.S. Reached its full potential in Paris and some Paralympians, who were a part of the three-year turnaround from Tokyo, have struggled. "I think we need to really get on board, the whole U.S., just to showcase what we can do," she said. Medalists from the United States do receive financial bonuses: \$38,000 for gold, \$23,000 for silver, \$15,000 for bronze. As for Los Angeles, Aoki said reaching the top of the medal table would be tough, but anything is possible.

Ronaldo scores late winner as a substitute for Portugal

AP ■ LONDON

Cristiano Ronaldo is showing just why Portugal is persisting with him at the age of 39. Make that a record-extending 132 international goals for the five-time world player of the year after Ronaldo came on as a halftime substitute and slotted home an 88th-minute winner for Portugal in its 2-1 victory over Scotland in the Nations League on Sunday. Minutes earlier, Ronaldo had struck both posts within a matter of seconds. Indeed, he was an ever-present danger in Lisbon, demonstrating he is far from finished as a force in international soccer - especially against the likes of a struggling Scotland. Ronaldo failed to score at all in five games at the recent European Championship, but Portugal coach Robert Martinez has kept faith with the country's greatest ever player and is reaping the rewards. On Thursday, Ronaldo scored



his 900th career goal - spanning games for club and country - in a 2-1 win over Croatia. The quest for 1,000 began three days later and he didn't disappoint, despite only playing one half. In stoppage time, a spectator got on the field and attempted to get a selfie with Ronaldo, but was stopped by security. That happened repeatedly at Euro 2024. Scotland went ahead through Scott McTominay in the seventh minute before an equalizer from the edge of the

area by Bruno Fernandes in the 54th. Luka Modric turns 39 on Monday but, like Ronaldo, remains as integral as ever for his country. The Real Madrid midfielder again demonstrated his enduring quality by clipping home an exquisite free kick from the edge of the box in Croatia's 1-0 win over Poland. It was Modric's 27th goal in 180 appearances for his country, which left him tied with former Spain defender Sergio Ramos as the second highest-capped European

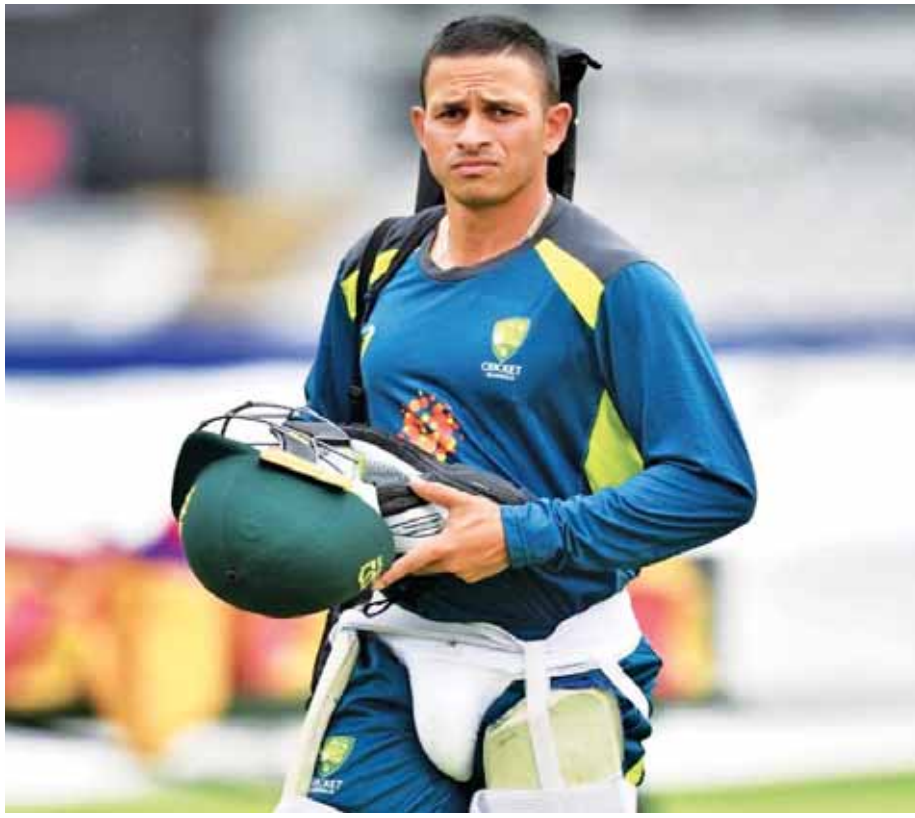
players in men's international soccer - only behind Ronaldo with 214. Robert Lewandowski, another veteran at age 36, hit the goal frame for Poland, which beat Scotland 3-2 in the first round of Nations League group games on Thursday. Fabian Ruiz scored twice for Spain in its 4-1 win at Switzerland, with the recently crowned European champions emerging victorious despite playing the majority of the game with only 10 men. Center back Robin Le Normand was shown a straight red card in the 20th minute for bringing down Breel Embolo as the last man, by which time Spain was leading 2-0 thanks to Joselu's header from Lamine Yamal's cross in the fourth minute and Ruiz's goal in the 13th after Nico Williams' shot was saved. Zeki Amdouni pulled a goal back for the Swiss before halftime but substitute Ferran Torres set up Ruiz for his second goal then scored himself to clinch Spain's first

win of its Nations League title defense. The team drew 0-0 at Serbia on Thursday. Swedish soccer fans paid tribute to one of the country's most famous coaches - and then celebrated the further blossoming of the team's new strikeforce. There was a minute's silence before Sweden's home match with Estonia in honor of Sven-Goran Eriksson, who died on Aug. 26 after battling cancer. An image of Eriksson was shown on the big screens in the Strawberry Arena just outside Stockholm. Sweden won 3-0, with Viktor Gyokeres - with two goals - and Alexander Isak scoring. They also each scored in a 3-1 win in Azerbaijan on Thursday, with the Swedes showing improved form after missing out on qualification for both the World Cup in 2022 and this year's Euros. There was another Scandinavian win as Denmark beat Serbia 2-0 thanks to goals by Albert Gronbaek and Yussuf Poulsen.

India beating Australia in last two Test tours Down Under has made rivalry more intense: Khawaja

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India beating Australia in the last two Test series in the latter's backyard has made the rivalry between the two teams more intense, feels senior batter Usman Khawaja ahead of the five-match battle beginning November 22. India had beaten Australia on their last two tours of Australia (2018-19 and 2020-21) with an identical 2-1 margin. In fact, India have won all the last four series of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, taking into account their home wins in 2016-17 and 2022-23 -- both also 2-1 results in a four-match contest. "For Indians it's always been the case to beat Australia. And more recently, you know, since the rise of India and IPL and everything else that happened, it's the same way with Australia against India," Khawaja said. "And particularly since India's beaten Australia in Australia the last two times they've come out of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. It just means a little bit more," he told Star Sports. The 37-year-old left-handed opener said that the rivalry between the two teams is huge. "We're world number one, world number two teams really over the last two years. We were there at the last World Test Championship together.



The rivalry has always been huge," said Khawaja who has 5451 runs from 71 Tests after making debut in 2011. "I take it as a sign of respect and I know it that Indians love beating Australia in any sort of form of cricket. And the

tradition that Australia has had over so many years as being one of the dominating teams in world cricket has staked that reputation." The first Test begins in Perth on November 22 while fifth and the last will be played in

Sydney from January 3. Another senior player Mitchell Marsh talked about "great friendships" complementing intense rivalry with Indian players. "If you look at recent history, we've won stuff, they've won

stuff. And I think that when it's back and forth like that, it builds that rivalry within yourselves. There's great friendships in the Indian team with our team, so there's no hatred. But it's a great on field rivalry, both teams want to win. "And Australia versus India, it's another opportunity to grow the game of cricket. Not that cricket needs growing in India, but worldwide. People tune into these big series," said all-rounder Marsh, who has been vice-captain of the team and currently skipper of the T20 side. Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood admitted that it's always a great challenge playing against India, especially since they are so used to the conditions Down Under. "Their top order, no matter who's playing, is unbelievable, their top six or seven. I played them in my debut series, obviously, and we got the win, that might have been the last time. A lot of the same players are still playing, I think I got Virat that game. "So a lot of our players, I guess, haven't beaten India in a Test series. The guys were playing, such as Travis Head, Cameron Green, guys like that. So, yeah, huge summer for us coming up and hopefully get that trophy back."

'Pant on course to become all-time great in Tests'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly believes Rishabh Pant is on course to become an all-time great in Test cricket but at the same time, the southpaw needs to raise his game in the shorter formats. Pant on Sunday returned to the Test side for the first time since his life-threatening car accident in December 2022. He is expected to start the first Test against Bangladesh beginning in Chennai on September 19. Since his return earlier this year following the accident, Pant has played T20s and ODIs and has done well. "I consider Rishabh Pant one of India's best Test batsmen. I'm not surprised that he's back in the side, and he will continue to play for India in Tests," Ganguly said at a promotional event here. "He will be an all-time great in Tests if he keeps performing like this. For me, he needs to get better in the shorter formats. With the talent he has, I'm sure with time, he will become one of the best." Indian selectors have opted to give Mohammed Shami more time to recover from an ankle surgery and have named uncapped left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Akash Deep in the squad. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj are the two frontline pacers. "I know Mohammed Shami is missing because of injury, but he will be back very soon since India is going to Australia. It's still a very good

attack," Ganguly said. "In India, you will see a lot more spin. In Chennai, you will see a lot more bounce. Ashwin, Jadeja, Axar, and Kuldeep are the four best spinners in the world at the moment -- it won't be easy. When you play in India, spinners have a lot more say in the game. But India are a very good team." "I am looking forward to their tour to Australia; that, for me, will be the real test for the squad. Then, when they tour England in July, these are the two most important tours, to be honest. I think the pace bowling department, with Bumrah and Siraj, and once Shami comes back, will be strong." He also hailed Bengal pacer Akash Deep and said he's one to watch out for. "Akash Deep is an outstanding young fast bowler.

हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा उत्तराखण्ड विधिकता शिक्षा विश्वविद्यालय
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