

Celebs march for justice

KOLKATA HORROR



Ramkrishna Mission alumni wearing black dresses blow conches during a protest rally demanding justice for the victim of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital incident, in Kolkata, on Sunday

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $D_{\text{power}}^{\text{on't}}$ underestimate the common man. That was the message from a renowned Bengali television actress as she participated in a massive procession of cine personalities and other celebrities, demanding justice for the RG Kar Medical College doctor who was raped and murdered on duty more than three weeks ago. Indeed, the City of Joy once

growing in length but also in breadth, saw the apolitical "demand for justice" spreading like wildfire, drawing in people from all walks of life, from celebrities to students, veterans to shopkeepers. This movement continued even as reports of more rapes and molestations surfaced from various parts of the State, including hospitals. Over five

thousand cine personalities, accompanied by women and again transformed into the

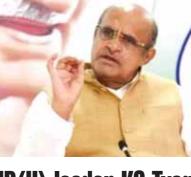
City of Rallies — a title Kolkata men from all walks of life, earned in the 1970s. The long braved the hot and sultry marches, now not only weather to march more than three kilometres from College Square to Esplanade. They demanded justice "not only for Abhaya — the name by which the victim doctor is now known — but for the entire society that has fallen victim to this broken system. Expressing the

"grit and determination" of the Swastika, a noted award winning Bengali actress said, "Those who are trying to shield the guilty and preserve

the system that is rotting all the medical colleges and the educational institutions thought things would die down automatically after people lose interest with time have just started realising that this time the public is not going to give up... because this is not a political movement... this is the movement of the people who have descended street... enough is on enough... we want justice not only for the victim but for the whole society... the whole women folk."

Director and actress Aparna Sen, who had hit the street regularly during the Singur and Nandigram movements too participated in the march. "How long the woman will continue to be treated as a commodity... why always the powers that be try to brush the crime against women under the carpet all the time... this cannot go on... we need not only justice but also an answer," she said.

Ten kilometres from South a rally of three thousand alumni of Ramakrishna Mission group of schools marched carrying the portraits of Ramakrishna marched Paramahansa Mother Sharada Devi and Swami Vivekanada demanding justice from Gol Cine Park to Nandan complex. Continued on Page 2



JD(U) leader KC Tyagi resigns as party's national spokesperson

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Senior Janata Dal (United) leader and former Member of Parliament (MP) KC Tyagi whose stand on various issues often highlighted his party's differences with ally BJP, resigned from the party's national spokesperson on Sunday, saying there is "little to defend the party from". In his letter to Nitish Kumar, he cited "personal reasons" for his resignation.

However, sources suggested that the resignation was due to the leadership's displeasure with his recent statements on various issues. What also worked against Tyagi was a recent joint statement he issued with Opposition leaders on the Israel-Hamas war. Rajiv Ranjan Prasad will be replacing Tyagi as the new national spokesperson of the party, which is in power in Bihar under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

This is the second time in two years he resigned or was dropped as national spokesperson of the party. He was previously dropped from the position in March 2023, although this decision was reversed within two months following Kumar's intervention. Continued on Page 2

Mammootty breaks silence over MeToo in Mollywood

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PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOCHI

 $A^{s}\ the$ Malayalam film industry continues to reel under the sexual harassment allegations, famous actor Mammootty on Sunday denied the presence of any 'power group' in the film industry and called upon everyone working in the field to be vigilant so that nothing untoward happens there. The veteran actor, in a Facebook post, praised the State Government's

initiative to constitute the Justice Hema Committee and requested it to implement the recommendations of the panel by enacting necessary legislation if there were any legal hurdles.

Breaking his silence on the report and the subsequent allegations that rocked the cinema world, Mammootty said he wholeheartedly welcomes and supports the recommendations and solutions in the committee's report and urged all associations in the film industry to join hands in implementing them. He said the police was vigorously investigating the complaints of sexual harassment and abuse raised by several women, so let the agency carry on with its probe honestly. The actor also said as the full report of the committee is before the court,

it can decide the punishment. Mammootty, in his post, said his response was delayed as he was waiting for the organisation representing actors and its leadership to first respond to the committee report.

He said cinema was the "epitome" of society and the good and the bad present among the general public are there in the films too.



He also said as society pays close attention to the film industry, anything that happens there becomes a major topic of discussion.

Therefore, those working in the film industry need to be careful and vigilant so that nothing untoward happens in this sector," the actor said, adding that "cinema must survive."

His response comes a day after his colleague in the film industry, actor Mohanlal, broke his silence over the shocking revelations in the committee's report.

Mohanlal too denied the existence of a power group in the industry and had said cinema was a part of society and what happens everywhere else is happening in the film world also. He too had welcomed the panel's report and said wrongdoers should be punished if there was evidence against them.

Continued on Page 2





BJP denies AAP's charge of abducting its Councillor

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

49 minority teachers forced to resign in Bangladesh since Sheikh Hasina ouster

iobs.

leading

last week

guarded

Parishad

members

Government.

Nobel

Muhammad Yunus, 84, who is

the

Government as its Chief

Advisor, met the country's

Hindu community leaders at a

reception he hosted for them

Yunus vowed to promote

interfaith harmony and said he

wanted to build a Bangladesh

where everyone can practice

their faith without any fear and

where no temple needs to be

of

communities in the country

faced at least 205 incidents of attacks in 52 districts since the

fall of the Hasina-led

laureate

interim

PTI 📕 DHAKA

least 49 teachers Abelonging to minority communities were forced to resign in Bangladesh after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Government on August 5, according to a minority organisation in the violencehit nation.

The Bangladesh Chhatra Oikya Parishad, the student wing of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, said this at a Press conference on Saturday, The Daily Star newspaper reported. The organisation's coordinator, Sajib Sarkar, said in the students' violence that ensued for days following the ouster and fleeing of 76-year-old Prime Minister Hasina, minority teachers across the country faced physical assault, and at least 49 of them were

forced to resign. However, 19 of them were reinstated later, the report quoted him as saying. Sarkar added that religious and

ethnic minorities have also faced attacks, looting, assault on women, vandalism of temples, arson attacks on homes and businesses, and killings during this period.

Bangladesh saw several incidents of violence against members of Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities following the fall of the Hasina-led Awami League government last month. Hasina resigned and fled to India on August 5 following unprecedented antistudent-led Government protests over a controversial quota system in Government The AAP on Sunday accused the BJP of "kidnapping" its Bawana Councillor Ram Chander, with the BJP vehemently denying the allegation even

as the "abducted" member returned to his residence. These kidnapping charges came just some days before the crucial zonal ward committee elections of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), slated to be held on Wednesday. Upon his return, Chander, return, councillor from Ward no. 28, claimed that he was threatened on the pretext of being framed in ED-CBI cases by the opposition

outfit. He along with four other AAP Councillors joined the BJP last Sunday albeit returning to AAP a few days later after he claimed seeing Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his dream.

According to the data compiled by the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Later, in a video message, he said that he was taken by some people to BJP Unity Council and the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan organisations, headquarters. minority

Continued on Page 2

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu with others during a visit to a flood-hit area in Vijayawada

PTI AMARAVATI (ANDHRA PRADESH)

Unprecedented rainfall in the past two days paralysed life at several places in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Vijayawada and vicinity while 17,000 rain-affected people were evacuated across the State. Budameru, a rivulet on the outskirts of Vijayawada suffered a breach and overflowed at several points on Sunday, leading to flooding at many city localities such as Ajit Singh Nagar, Swathi Theatre area, Police Nagar area and west and central constituencies.

According to footage from vernacular news channels, several cars and vehicles were submerged in these areas and others also in Vijayawada due to the flooding.

city, people were seen wading through chest-deep water on a flooded street. Addressing a Press conference at the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) in Tadepalli, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said massive amounts of rainfall rocked the State. "Due to the heavy rain, Vijayawada and Guntur cities been completely ned. Vijayawadahave marooned. Guntur national highway at Kaza and Vijayawada-Hyderabad national highway

at Jaggaiahpeta were totally marooned," said Naidu. According to the CM, Jaggaiahpeta received 26 cm rainfall in 24 hours while 14 mandals registered over 20 cm rainfall.

Continued on Page 2

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹5 lakh on Shankar IAS Academy for issuing misleading advertisements related to the UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022.

The CCPA probe found out that Shankar IAS Academy advertised various types of courses but the information with respect to the course opted by the advertised

successful candidates in above

Artistes give final touches to an idol of Lord Ganesh ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festival at a roadside stall in New Delhi on Ranian Dimri/Pioneer Sunday

IAS coaching centre fined ₹5L for misleading ads

RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

mentioned UPSC Civil Service exams results was deliberately concealed in the advertisement.

This has the effect of consumers falsely believing that all the successful candidates so claimed by the institute had opted for the paid courses advertised by the institute on its website.

In other words, this practice consequently attract consumers into buying paid courses advertised by the coaching institutes. During investigation, it was

hoped that the attacks would

decrease after the capture of

the fourth, and most aggressive, wolf on Thursday. Chief Wildlife Warden and

Srivastava said wolves aim for

"In the night they move out of

their dens and place

themselves close to the victim.

They eye the neck of the child

and in one attack they broke

the spine of a boy. At times

mothers remained unaware

when the child was lifted by

Singh said although over fifty

villages were impacted by

the animal", he added.

children and small animals.

Wildlife Sanjay

PCCF

Continued on Page 2

also found that in 18 instances

where candidates bought

Preliminary course from

Shankar IAS Academy, the commencement date of the

course on the receipt is mentioned as 09.10.2022 but

the prelims of UPSC CSE,

2022 exam had already been

conducted on 05.06.2022 and

result declared on 22.06.2022

which could only mean that

these candidates bought

Preliminary course for next

UPSC CSE prelims exam i.e.,

2023.

Wolves continue to terrorise villagers in UP

Over 230 people were killed in PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Bangladesh in the incidents of LUCKNOW

wolf.

violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina Government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh police on Sunday ordered citizens to return by September 3 all arms and ammunition looted from police stations during the recent violence which led to Hasina's ouster, according to media reports. The violence that hit the

country during the massive quota reform protests saw widespread attacks and looting of police stations across the country, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

stable and have been discharged from the hospital. "We received information about the attack on the boy at 2 am on Sunday morning.

Wolves that have terrorised Bahraich The child's mother informed district for the past month us that they were sleeping struck again early Sunday outside when the animal morning, injuring two people in separate incidents, attempted to carry off the child. The family managed to including a nine-year-old boy. save him after a struggle with the animal. The villagers were The first incident occurred on unable to recognise the wolf Saturday night in Nakahi village, where a wolf attacked and were unaware of its presence," Singh said.

Paras (9) as he slept outside his home. The second He confirmed the first attack was by a wolf after personally incident happened around 4 inspecting the area and finding pug marks. However, am in Darhiya Gram Sabha, where Punnilal (55), also sleeping outside, was presumably attacked by a was he mentioned that he would visit the second site to verify if it was indeed a wolf attack. DFO Bahraich, Ajit Singh, "The villagers reported that an

while he was sleeping outside, but this needs verification," he said.

Singh said the wolves have

incidents have been occurring and about 30 injuries. It was within the area under drone surveillance. He admitted that locating and capturing the is becoming increasingly difficult due to the challenging terrain, which includes waterlogged patches and sugarcane fields. "We often have to wade through water to reach the right spots," Singh explained.

the drone monitoring, Singh said they form three grids near the Ghagra river and conduct daily drone surveillance. Of a pack of six wolves, four have already been captured by the forest team.

The attacks began increasing these wolves yet the worst affected were Makkapurwa, Nakwa, Kulela, Purwibasti generally not repeated attacks on July 17 during the rainy in the same area, except for season, resulting in seven reported that both victims are animal attacked the man one case. However, the deaths, including six children, Gadariya and Diwanpurwa.



Emergency delayed PNS NEW DELHI

As per reports put out by various media houses, the release of BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's film Emergency has been delayed beyond its scheduled date. This news came in late Sunday night. The Pioneer cannot verify the reasons thereof.





PM Modi's apology over Shivaji statue collapse unacceptable: MVA

T N RAGHUNATHA 📕 MUMBAI

he Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) singled out the ruling BJP in the state and at the Centre for a vicious attack over the collapse of the 35-tall statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on Sunday, as it took out morcha from Hutatma Chowk to Gateway of India for "insulting" great Maratha king and indulging in "corruption" over his name.

A large number of workers from the three constituents of the MVA - Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena – had turned out for the "Jode Maro" morcha organised to protest against the manner in which the imposing statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji crashed at Malvan's Rajkot fort in

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Sindhudurg district on August 26.The morcha was led by NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, State Congress president Nana Patole and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray. It may be recalled that the

iconic Shivaji statue at 12.30 pm on August 26 at Rajkot fort at Malvan in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra, within nine months after it was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 4, 2023 as part of the Navy day celebrations.

After paying tributes to the martyrs at Hutatma Chowk (known earlier as Flora Fountain) in downtown south Mumbai, the protesters marched to the Gateway of India, where the they paid

Speaking on the occasion, Sharad Pawar took a serious exception to chief minister Eknath Shinde's claim that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue at the Rajkot fort fell due to strong winds. "If what Shinde is saying is true, how come that Shivaji statue installed in front of Gateway of India had stood firm for years on end. So was the case with numerous statues of Shivaji

installed across the country". The collapse of Shivaji statue at Rajkot in Sindhudurg district statue falling on the Rajkot fort reeks of corruption. The incident is a huge insult to revered Maratha king. It has shocked hundreds and thousands of devotees of Shivaji across the country," Pawar homage to the statue of said. Coming down heavily on



the BJP-led MahaYuti government and Narendra Modi governments, Patole said: "The ruling BJP has committed the sin of insulting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by indulging in corruption and taking commissions even for a project in his name. Keeping in mind the State Assembly polls to be held later this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar have tendered an apology over the incident. For the sin committed is unforgivable. There cannot be any forgiveness for this kind of an incident".

Patole charged that the BJP had displayed Peshwa mentality which "is to seek votes in Shivaji Maharaj's name and then insult him once in power".

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said that the collapse of Chhatrapati's statue had enraged Shivaji's devotees nationwide. "Though Prime Minister apologized, there was arrogance on his face even while offering the apology, which is unacceptable? "Was the apology for the col-

lapse of the statue or for the corruption involved, or to cover up the corruption? The public will not forgive those who insulted Maharaj," Uddhav said, as he exhorted the people across the state not to rest 'until these traitors to Shivaji are expelled from India," Uddhav asked.

Congress MP from Kolhapur Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj – who is the 12th direct descendent of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj -

said: "The collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue infuriated the people across the state. This is an insult to both Maharaj and Maharashtra, and those responsible should not be forgiven. Action must be taken against those found guilty, and steps must be taken to ensure the honor of Shivaji Maharaj is upheld.

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Apart from Pawar, Patole, Uddhav and Shrimant Shahu Maharaj, Mumbai Congress President Varsha Gaikwad, CWC member Chandrakant Handore, CWC member and state working president Naseem Khan, MP Sanjay Raut, MP Supriya Sule, Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe, Anil Deshmukh, Aditya Thackeray were present in the morcha.

Geelani, Malik join PDP; NC leader Babu joins Cong Kolkata horror case: Night party in RG Kar on CBI radar

MOHIT KANDHARI 🗖 JAMMU

 $F_{\text{promoting soft separatism}}^{\text{lirting with the idea of}}$ in the upcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti Sunday welcomed Syed Salim Geelani, former Hurrivat member into the party fold. Before taking the plunge into mainstream politics Geelani served jailed separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah. He also remained a general council member of the Hurriyat Conference, led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Soon after joining the party Geelani told reporters, "PDP is a party which talks about democratic rights, human rights and political rights of people. It talks about a political solution to the Kashmir problem ... So I felt it was the right party to join".

Geelani also maintained the Kashmir issue can only be resolved politically. "Gun can-



not be a solution. This is the PDP ticket but he has only way to save lives that are expressed inability to do so. being lost to violence.' He said someone else should Welcoming Syed Salim get a chance to contest," she added. Former Congress Geelani Mehbooba, Mufti said it was good that the forleader Altaf Ahmad Malik mer separatist Leader wants a was among several other leadpeaceful resolution of the ers to join the PDP. Kashmir problem. "We requested Geelani to

On the other hand, National Conference leader Babu contest the elections on a Jagjiwan Lal and former PDP chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari on Sunday joined Congress.

JKPCC chief Tariq Hameed Karra welcomed both the Leaders into the party's fold. On Saturday, two former MLAs and a rights activist -Mumtaz Khan (Gulabgarh), Abdul Rahim Rather (Kokernag), and Irfan Hafeez Lone — joined the Congress. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janta Party was still struggling to put its own house in order after some of the ticket aspirants threatened to contest the Assembly polls as independent candidates after they were denied the mandate by offering tickets to turncoats from the other political par-

J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina, who is being chased by the media on this issue, tried to play down the protests and resignations by his party Leaders and workers over the selection of candidates, saying he is confident the BJP will

form the Government on its own. Giving momentum to its poll

campaign the BJP on Sunday flagged off six (6) vans to make people aware of the BJP Government's achievements, various welfare schemes, and development works, both completed and ongoing besides future programmes of the party.

The 6 vans were flagged by Union Minister and J&K election Incharge, G Krishna Reddy in the presence of many senior Leaders of the party. These vans will cover each nook and corner of each Assembly segment going to polls in the first phase.

They vans are equipped with high-tech audio and video systems, BJP's campaigning material i.e. pamphlets mentioning achievements, various welfare schemes, and development works carried out in the ten years besides BJP government's future pro-

 $\begin{array}{l} A \text{ night party arranged inside} \\ \text{ boys hostel } - \text{ just} \\ \text{ opposite the seminar hall in the} \end{array}$ RG Kar Medical College & Hospital where a postgraduate lady doctor was raped and murdered in the early morning of August 9, - is on the radar of the Central Bureau of Investigation, sources say.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

According to sources, liquor flowed liberally in the party partaken by some interns close to Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RGKMCH, sources said. The interns have political connections and are allegedly engaged in running rackets of all kinds, extortion to trade in bio-medical, tell the protesting junior doctors of the Medical College."We have been telling from the beginning that the role of these students should be looked into ... though we cannot say that they slipped out of

the part and went to the seminar hall, we cannot rule out connection between that event and the incident of rape and murder ... this must be looked into," one of the doctors said. On whether the Kolkata Police had taken note of the night party when it was investigating the police insiders replied in the negative adding the police investigation from the begin-ning was shoddy and looked more like an effort to hide something than to reveal some-

thing. Doubting the procedures followed by the police about the arrest of prime accused Sanjoy Roy, RGKMCH medical officer Dr Tapas Pramanik said "how can the police arrest him from inside the hospital premises ... it is difficult to comprehend because by the time he was arrested the whole world had known and it was a big news in the media ... and the criminal

who has committed the crime is still sitting inside the hospital without fleeing away ... it is hard to believe ... it needs a thorough investigation."

Meanwhile, reports of threats coming in from various medical colleges where the junior doctors were being asked to join duty or face consequence. Politically powerful union Leaders in Midnapore Medical Colleges, Burdwan Medical College and similar other institutions were reported to be threatening the junior doctors with dire consequences should

they not resume work. "They are telling us that they would not only stop issuance of registration but also get us physically assaulted if we do not resume work ... said students of these two medical colleges even as they staged a sit-in demonstration at the office of the respective principals.

issues, Naidu said Budameru

flooding stalled power generation at VTPS power

station near Vijayawada. Further, he said a water

channel dug up to divert

Railway **Board gets** new chairman and CEO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{S}_{of} chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board on Sunday, a Press statement from the Railway Ministry said. imar replaced Java Sinha who superannuated on August 31, 2024. Appointments "The Committee of the Cabinet had earlier approved the appointment of Satish Kumar as Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board," the Railway Board said.

have arrested two criminals, including the mastermind, of a gang involved in a major counterfeit racket. The prime accused, hailing from Mirganj police station area in Siwan district of Bihar, and his accomplice were

PNS LUCKNOW

UP ATS arrests two for supplying fake Indian stamp papers, tickets phones and a four-wheeler (Creta) were seized from the sus-Tn a significant breakthrough, pect. He was wanted by the

the sleuths of the Anti-Cantonment police of Terrorists Squad of Uttar Pradesh Gorakhpur and carried a reward of ₹25,000 on his arrest. The operation highlights the ongoing efforts by law enforcement agencies to curb the illegal circulation of counterfeit stamp papers and tickets and maintain the integrity of legal processes. ATS was receiving inte in The UP ATS ligence that a syndicate was operating in the state and it was printing counterfeit Indian stamp papers and counterfeit Indian stamp tickets from Bihar and smuggling them to various districts of the country and the State through the associates of their gang.

Similar rallies were taken out 'vou.'

"A time has come when you

have to explain your conduct ... the civil society demands explanation for ev yours ... you have let loose the goons control the education campuses who are running syndicate raj everywhere ... and whenever there is a protest you simply eliminate them ... this cannot continue for eternity," said Mrinal Biswas a doctor who took part in a rally

Celebs march for...

From Page 1

by the former students of 10 South Kolkata schools from Minto Park to Hazra Crossing. Jadavpur University area too witnesses long rallies and street corner theaters with thousands of people thronging around.

of joint forum of doctors. He

would however not dwell much on who he referred to as

A nine-year-old girl was molested by a neighbour at Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas leading to the locals attacking the house of a local panchayat member. The police had to resort to a lath-charge and burst tear gas shell to

and was molested by this man .. when she started crying loudly we rushed to that room and caught hold of him," said the mother.

Hospital Superintendant said, "we have issued a showcause notice to the accused person and would take appropriate action."

Similar incident took place at Ilambazar in Birbhum district disperse the crowd. The where a relative of a patient molested an

Rain ravages Andhra...

From Page 1

He said 94 more places in 14 districts received rainfall between 7 and 12 cm and added that nine rain-related deaths and one missing case were reported.

water from Budameru to Tammileru for onward diversion to Kolleru lake Focusing on Budameru's woes, Naidu observed that suffered a breach and it was rain water from the upper reaches in Khammam, allegedly not repaired in the Nalgonda and other places was rushing into the rivulet, resulting in the flooding of ices in Vija Noting that up to 2 lakh cusecs of rainwater entered Budameru this way, he said the state is unable to estimate as to how much more water is expected to flow in. Because of weak bunds in some places and other

past five years. "Due to this, VTPS is at risk of being submerged and la is also a

grammes.

Gorakhpur on Sunday morning. Fake Indian stamp papers of the value of approximately ₹10,00,000 were recovered from him. The recovered items include counterfeit Indian stamp papers of ₹6,94,000 and fake stamp tickets valued at ₹72,000. Additionally, three mobile

ncident too Saturday night. One person had been arrested, police said. Another incident took place at Howrah General Hospital where a hospital staff was reportedly hauled up for molesting a minor patient who had come for treatment. "My daughter was bitten on her lips

leading to the doctors and paramedical staff going for a temporary cease work. "He was molesting me while I was taking care of the patient ... when I raised hue and cry he started to threaten me ... the police later told that he has been arrested," the nurse said.

that had been properly done, today this situation would not have come," he asserted. According to the CM, flood water supposed to be diverted to Kolleru lake was turning towards Vijayawada and it resulted in the city being flooded.

BJP denies AAP's...

as

he said.

From Page 1

"There they threatened me saying I would be framed by ED and CBI. My son Akash called the police $\dot{\rm h}{\rm elpline}$ while our senior party leaders called the police commissioner. When they (BJP) got to know about it, they sent me back home," Chander said in the video message."I want to tell BJP, I am not scared of ED and CBI. I have done nothing wrong. I am a soldier of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal," he said in the video shared by AAP. The party demanded answers from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, and the Police Commissioner.

On Sunday, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh shared a video of Ram Chander's son Akash on X alleging that his father had been kidnapped. In the post, Akash said, "My father received a call from an ex-councillor of BJP saying, 'We are standing downstairs near your house to meet you'. My father went downstairs to his office. What we have learnt is that there were four to five people, who threatened my father that he would be implicated by ED-CBI and they have taken him. We are searching for him.

Ram "A A P councilor Chander's son, Akash, called on 100 and informed the Delhi Police about the entire incident and many senior leaders of AAP talked to the Police

Manish

and demanded to release "The National President of councilor Ram Chander from Janata Dal (United), Nitish the clutches of the BJP as soon Kumar (Chief Minister, possible. After heavy Bihar) has appointed Rajiv pressure from all sides, the BJP Ranjan Prasad as the people left Ram Chander at his National Spokesperson. Shri home through someone," AAP K.C. Tyagi, who is in the said in a statement. Reacting to party on the post of Singh's post, senior party leader Manish Sisodia spokesperson, has resigned from the post of party spokesperson due to personal reason," the JDU reiterated the charges levelled by Akash. AAP MLA and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak accused the BJP of has said in a statement. Tyagi, party leaders said, will continue in his another role

"making a mockery of law and order" in Delhi. as "political advisor". "BJP, in collusion with Delhi It is believed that frequent Police, got AAP councilor comments of Tyagi, who is Ramchandra kidnapped. The based in Delhi and enjoys an former BJP councilor went to unlikely high profile in the Ramchandra's house to meet national media for a regional him and said that he wanted to party leader due to his meet him. When Ramchandra experience and articulation, went to meet him, the BJP on central government's leader and five to six people policies were seen by many accompanying him intimidated him, forced him within his party as unhelpful to the BJP-JD(U) ties.Be it on the Uniform Civil Code, into a car and kidnapped him," the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Hitting back, Delhi BJP the lateral or even the Palestine issue among a President Virendra Sachdeva dismissed the allegation and number of other matters, his articulation of the ID(U)'s

National

called it 'baseless and false'. "AAP leaders are merely making unsuccessful attempts to create confusion among the public," he said, demanding an investigation by the Delhi Police in the matter.

In the lead-up to the zonal ward committee elections, both AAP and BJP have claimed that councillors from the other side are ready to switch allegiance and defect from one party to another.

JD(U) leader KC Tyagi...

From Page 1 Commissioner over the phone

resigned because the party leadership felt that his statements, including the recent one on the Israel-Palestine issue and the lateral entry controversy, deviated from the party line. He had urged the Centre to stop arms supplies to Israel and had stated that India supports peace and a ceasefire in Gaza. Last month, when the PM

broached the subject of UCC once again, Tyagi said the party supported UCC but wanted a wider consultation. He said this was a position made clear by Kumar himself in his letter to the Law Commission back in 2017. Tyagi was among the parliamentarians and former MPs who put out a statement targeting Israel. "We, the undersigned Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, unequivocally condemn the ongoing Zionist aggression and the heinous genocide of the Palestinian people by Israel. This brutal assault is not stand different from the BIP only an affront to humanity but also a gross violation of created ripples and left the saffron party less than international law and the amused. He was the only principles of justice and member of the ruling peace. the statement said.Party sources alleged Democratic Alliance in a recent meeting, that Tyagi made statements which included several without consulting the opposition parties members, leaders and that there were with Mohammad Makram talks of alleged differences National Balawi, Secretary General of within the League of Parliamentarians. Democratic Alliance (NDA) According to sources, Tyagi due to his remarks.

From Page 1

Shankar IAS claimed these candidates in their total selections list of UPSC CSE 2022.

IAS coaching centre...

The CCPA is headed by Chief Commissioner, Nidhi Khare, and Commissioner, Anupam Mishra said the decision was taken to protect and promote the rights of consumers, ensuring that no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

CCPA Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said that according to reports, more than 10 lakh candidates apply for UPSC civil services examination every year. 'Shankar IAS Academy's advertisement was targeted towards a class of consumers - UPSC aspirants. That's why such advertisements shall contain truthful and honest representation of facts by disclosing important information in such a manner that they are clear, prominent and extremely hard to miss for consumers," she mentioned. Section 18 of the Act empowers CCPA that it shall ensure that no false or misleading advertisement is made in respect of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder.

In its advertisement related to the UPSC Civil Service exam 2022, Shankar IAS Academy

claimed 336 selections out of 933 at All India Level; 40 candidates in Top 100; 42 candidates cleared from Tamil Nadu, of which 37 studied at Shankar IAS Academy and Best IAS Academy in India. The CCPA probe found that Shankar IAS Academy advertised various types of courses but the information with respect to the course opted by the advertised successful candidates in the UPSC Civil Service exams results was "deliberately concealed in advertisement".

This had the effect of consumers falsely believing that all the successful candidates so claimed by the Institute had opted for the paid courses advertised by the Institute on its website.

"In other words, this practice consequently attract consumers into buying paid courses advertised by the coaching institutes," said the regulator that comes under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. In its response, Shankar IAS Academy submitted the details of only 333 successful candidates against its claim of 336 plus selections in UPSC CSE 2022.

Out of 336 claimed students, 221 took Free Interview Guidance Programme, 71 took Mains Test Series, 35 took Prelims Test Series, 12 took General Studies Prelims cum Mains, 4 took Prelims Test Series with Some other mains course (optional and/or GS).

Mammootty breaks...

From Page 1

The Justice K Hema Committee was constituted by the Kerala government after the 2017 actress assault case, and its report revealed instances of harassment and exploitation of women in the Malayalam cinema industry. Meanwhile, B Unnikrishnan, general secretary of the Film Employees Federation of Kerala (FEFKA), on Sunday said there were "strong alliances" in the cinema industry, but he was not aware of any "power group" as mentioned in the Justice K Hema Committee report. Unnikrishnan, speaking to a TV channel, said that it was an "undeniable fact" that there were "strong alliances" of some production houses with certain directors, writers and actors to make big films. "They often work together on several projects back-to-back and naturally, everyone would try to align themselves them with to get opportunities. However, such alliances are based on commercial interests," he

He also said that such alliances were not confined to Malavalam cinema alone and were present in film industries everywhere. At the same time, he said that there cannot be a secret lobby of different cinema-related organisations which meet periodically to decide who should be isolated from films. "The industry will not be able

said.

to work like that," he said in response to queries about whether there was a "power group" in the film sector.

On whether the response of the Association of Malavalam Movie Artists (AMMA) to the committee report was delaved. Unnikrishnan said that it was not late, but what they said was criticised by the general public. "They (AMMA) should be ready to "They accept that criticism and

learn from it," he said. He also said that the present crisis in AMMA was due to the fact that it was not a trade union like organisation and has a loose structure. They lack the "experience and flexibility" to deal with the issues that were mentioned in the Hema Committee report, he further said. "If they had a trade union like structure or system, all this would not have happened," he added. Regarding director Vinayan's

complaint to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to remove him (Unnikrishnan) from the cinema policy making committee, the FEFKA general secretary said there was no need to keep him

away from the panel. "I am in the panel as the general secretary of FEFKA representing people of 21 crafts or trade unions and not as an individual. What I say there will be the opinion of those 21 trade unions. So, I see no requirement to remove me from the committee," he said



RAIPUR | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

chhattisgarh 03

Chakradhar Samaroh from Sep 7

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

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m T}_{
m Samaroh}^{
m he~39th~Chakradhar}$ samaroh will be held between September 7 and 16 at the Ramleela ground in Raigarh in Chhattisgarh.

The inaugural ceremony will feature a dance-drama titled 'Radha Rasbihari' by Hema Malini. The concluding ceremony will include a poetry recitation by Dr. Kumar Vishwas, an official statement said.

Cultural evenings will be held daily from 6 PM, featuring performances in various art forms by distinguished artists.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister said that "Chakradhar Samaroh" is a significant part of Raigarh's cultural identity.

He said that performances by internationally and nationally acclaimed artists further elevate the prestige of

Chakradhar Samaroh. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, a former MP from Raigarh, said he has closely

observed the growth of Raigarh district over the years. He said the popularity of Chakradhar Samaroh was

evident from the enthusiasm among artists and art enthusiasts regarding the event.

Singh Deo seeks probe into deaths of children after vaccination

STAFF REPORTER BILASPUR

Former Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister and Congress leader TS Singh Deo on Sunday sought a probe into the deaths of two children after they were vaccinated in a village in Bilaspur district.

Ĥealth officials have denied the infants died due to vaccination.

Singh Deo on Sunday met the affected families at the district hospital in Bilaspur. Terming the deaths a very

serious issue, Singh Deo sought the sealing of the entire batch of vaccines with immediate effect besides a probe into the matter. Kota MLA Atal Srivastava

too expressed concern over the deteriorating health services.



Meanwhile, the Bilaspur District Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Prabhat Shrivastava said that eight children were vaccinated at a camp on Friday (August 30) at an Anganwadi centre in Pateta village

A two-days-old child, who was administered BCG vaccination, died while a twomonth-old child was administered Pentavalent-I the next day was brought dead to hospital, the CMHO said. Six other children of the

same village have been brought to the District Hospital, Bilaspur, for medical examination and all are healthy, Dr. Shrivastav said. The CMHO said the two

children did not die due to vaccination.

Congress to protest for women's safety tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Congress chief Deepak Baij said on Sunday that the party will hold state-wide demonstrations on Tuesday against rising crime against women.

Speaking to the media in Raipur, he said women were not safe under BJP rule.

A total of 3,098 crimes against women and over 600 rapes have taken place in the state since the BJP came into power late last year, he said.

He spoke about the government's alleged failure to take proper action in cases of rape of a woman in Raipur, a tribal woman in Raigarh and a four-year-old girl in Bhilai. It is very unfortunate that

BIP leaders who are



the Bengal incident are silent for the protection of our sisters on the brutality against a fourand daughters. We will force the government to protect year-old innocent girl in Chhattisgarh, he said. women", he said.



SARANGARH

Devansh, a two-year-old boy suffering from hearing impairment, got a fresh lease of life after receiving a cochlear implant through the Chirayu Scheme, an official communiqué said on Sunday.

Centre Sarangarh found Devansh at Hiccha Anganwadi Centre not responding well to sounds. He received speech therapy for three months, which brought significant improvements.

implant surgery.

The surgery was a success, and he is now which undergoing speech therapy to improve his

hearing and speech.

The surgery usually costs around Rs 6-7 lakh,

Devansh's economically weak family couldn't bear.

Thanks to the Chirayu Scheme of the National Child Health Programme, it

was performed for free.

Two teens engrossed in phone games killed by train



STAFF REPORTER DURG

 ${
m T}$ wo teenage boys were killed after a train hit them while they were squatting on a railway track and playing games on mobile phones in Durg district of Chhattisgarh,

police said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday night when the boys,

Risali area, Station House Officer Amber Singh Bhardwaj said. The victims, Puran Sahu and Veer Singh, were residents

both aged 14, were in the

of Risali Sector in Bhilai city. They were so engrossed in

their mobile phones that they did not hear the horn from the Dalli Rajhara-Durg train. Both died on the spot.



Couple, two sons commit suicide

STAFF REPORTER IANIGIR

 $A^{\rm couple\,and\,their\,two\,sons}_{\rm committed\ suicide\ by}$ consuming poison at their house in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district, police said on Sunday.

The family was found in a



STAFF REPORTER

The Chirayu team of Community Health

Knowing that the child would only speak when he heard, he was referred to the AIIMS Raipur for cochlear

Ahead of the International Literacy Day, school children took out a rally and called on others to join the mainstream of education in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur strict on Sunday.

critical condition on Friday and died while undergoing treatment at different hospitals on Saturday night, Janjgir-Champa Additional Superintendent of Police Rajendra Jaiswal said.

Panchram Yadav (66), a former office-bearer of the Congress district unit, his wife Dinesh Nandini (55) and sons Suraj (27) and Neeraj (32) lived in Bodha Talab area

here. The family members consumed poison and were admitted to the district hospital, from where the elder son was shifted to the for the extreme step was yet to

Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) in be ascertained. Bilaspur. The other three were taken to a private hospital. No suicide note has been recovered and the exact reason

Yadav family was debt-ridden. Panchram was a civil contractor while his sons had started a fabrication business but faced huge losses.

According to locals, the

'Digitalisation can boost treatment outcomes for heart failure patients'

AGENCIES

 $D_{\rm boost}^{\rm igitalisation~can~help}$ outcomes of patients with heart failure, a condition that affects over 60 million people worldwide, a new study shows.

Researchers from five Dutch hospitals discovered that digital consultations enhanced care while preserving patient satisfaction.

Almost all patients became digital consults during the Covid-19 pandemic, which while functioning well also raised some difficulties.

The team split 150 after 12 weeks. In the end, patients into two groups. One only 7 per cent of participants in the traditional care package used the digital consultation approach, while the other obtained the ideal mix,



took a more conventional

The number of patients

who had achieved the ideal

drug combination was then

determined by the researchers

approach to care.

those undergoing digital consults

Mark Schuuring, a cardiologist at Medical Twente, Spectrum Netherlands said the study assessed the quality of care by contrasting the physician's method during the online consultation with the most recent recommendations.

They looked into how patients and physicians exchange digital data and gave them both more information. Such programmes, which medical encourage

professionals to treat patients under the most recent worldwide criteria, are widely utilised in the corporate sector, but are not yet typical in the care industry, Schurring

compared to 28 per cent of said. In addition, the researchers also examined a number of the frequently

voiced issues with the usage of digital consultations and discovered no variations in the amount of time spent, the satisfaction levels, or most importantly, the patient's quality of life.

This study demonstrates that digital consultations are beneficial to both parties, the patient's care was enhanced and their experience was not negatively impacted in any manner. It may also have applications well beyond heart failure. The findings were

concurrently presented at the European Society of Cardiology's annual conference and published in Nature Medicine.

Why water should replace sugar filled beverages

AGENCIES

The increased consump-tion of sugar-filled beverages is surging health problems such as Type 2 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and tooth decay worldwide. Switching sugary drinks with water can be a way to prevent these problems, suggests a study.Researchers from Virginia Tech, US, examined the comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of healthy beverage guidelines for nations that implemented tax laws on sugar-filled beverages between 2000 and 2023. They examined the textual and visual suggestions found in national dietary guidelines from different nations to determine how they promote the substitution of water for sugary drinks like soda.

By choosing healthy drinks like water over sugary ones, one can lower their risk



issues. Governments can use this information that the researchers gleaned to rate meticulously recommendations for good hydration and discourage the consumption of sugary drinks by improving the message's

specificity, and visual content. About 58 of the 93 nations that aimed to impose tariffs on sugar-filled beverages in 2023 have dietary standards based on food. Subsequent analysis of the data revealed that 48 of the nations had

complementing messaging that promoted water consumption and discouraged sugar-filled beverages.

Using a score ranging from 0 to 12, the researchers ranked the nations based on recommendations for healthy hydration. The evaluation took into account the guidelines' visual content, activities, reasoning, accessibility, specificity, and clarity of message.

The US received a medium score of 7, while Bolivia, Peru, and Brunei received the highest scores.

In order to promote policy coherence and socially normalise water as the default healthy beverage, it is important for us to understand how tax legislation on sugary drinks is aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines that promote milk and other healthy beverages, like 100 per cent juice, noted Nicole Leary, the lead researcher.

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Only 6.7 per cent court infrastructure at district level female-friendly, says CJI

PTI NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Sunday said the fact that only 6.7 per cent court infrastructure at the district level is female-friendly needs to be changed.

Speaking at the 'National Conference of the District Judiciary', Chandrachud said it should be ensured that courts provide safe and accommodating environment for all members of society.

"We must without any question, change the fact that only 6.7 per cent of our court infrastructure at the district level is female-friendly. Is this acceptable today in a nation where at the basic level of recruitment in some States over 60 or 70 per cent of the recruits are women?

Our focus areas are on increasing accessibility measures which can be under-

Air Marshal

Tejinder Singh

takes over as

new DCAS

NEW DELHI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE



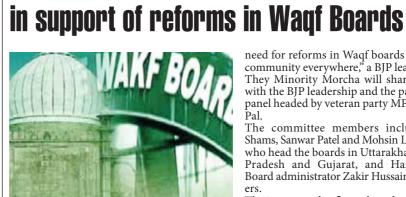
stood by carrying out infraensure that our courts provide structural audits. a safe and accommodating 'Opening in-court medical environment for all members facilities, creches and technoof our society, particularly for groups such as women and logical projects like e-seva Kendras and video conferother vulnerable groups such encing devices. These endeavas persons with disability, members of the Scheduled ours aim to increase access to Castes and Scheduled Tribes, justice.

"Axiomatically, we must also and people across the socioeconomic landscape," the CJI

said. Chandrachud said with the increasing number of women coming into the judiciary, the biases which we may unwittingly have towards our colleagues at the bar and the bench must be confronted. He also disclosed that at the recently concluded the firstever National Lok Adalat, almost 1,000 cases were disposed of amicably within five working days. The two-day function was organised by the Supreme Court.

President Droupadi Murmu delivered the valedictory address and also unveiled the flag and insignia of the Supreme Court, a statement issued by the apex Court said on Friday.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Justice Surya Kant also addressed the gathering.



PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

A mid strident criticism of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by some major Muslim bodies, the BJP's 'Minority Morcha' will rally counterviews in support of reforms in Waqf boards and seek suggestions on the law to present it to the parliamentary committee examining the Bill.

Sources said a team of seven BJP members, including State Waqf Board chairpersons, will elicit views of the minority community across the country and assuage their concerns on a host of issues.

We will convey to the committee every point of view. If there is any concern on any aspect of the Bill, we will express it as well. But the need for reforms in Waqf boards is felt by the community everywhere," a BJP leader claimed. They Minority Morcha will share the report with the BJP leadership and the parliamentary panel headed by veteran party MP Jagdambika

The committee members include Shadab Shams, Sanwar Patel and Mohsin Lokhandwala, who head the boards in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, and Haryana Waqf Board administrator Zakir Hussain among others

The issue was also flagged in a last week meet-ing of the Minority Morcha at the BJP headquarters here.

The party leadership, sources said, told the Morcha head Jamal Siddiqui to reach out to Muslims across the country to make a case for reforms in the Waqf Act so that Waqf boards functioning could be made more accountable and transparent. The Morcha was also asked to seek suggestions and assurance the community's concerns.

Major Muslim bodies like Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind and All India Muslim Personal Law Board have been galvanising opinion against the proposed Bill, alleging that it is against their religious practices and violates the Constitution.

BJP leaders said the government had started working on the bill during its second term and has spoken to a number of stakeholders.



MHA forms Central team to assess damage caused by floods in Gujarat

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted an inter-ministerial team to assess the damage caused by rainfall and floods in Gujarat. The team will shortly visit the flood-affected districts of Gujarat, which was hit by heavy to extremely heavy rainfall between August 25 and 30 caused by a deep depression formed over Rajasthan and Gujarat, according to an official statement. At least 25 people have died in rain-related incidents across the State on August 26 and 27.

The statement said the MHA has constituted an inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) led by the executive director, the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), to assess the dam-age caused by rainfall and floods in Gujarat, the state-

ment said. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were also affected by heavy to very heavy rainfall. Multiple spells of heavy rains, cloudbursts and landslides have caused extensive damage in Himachal Pradesh this year.

The MHA is in touch with senior officers of these states, and will depute IMCT there as well, if the severe damages are reported by them, the statement said.

During this monsoon, some other states have been affected by heavy rainfall, floods, cloudbursts and landslides. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government is fully committed to providing all pos-sible help to affected states,

As per the decision taken by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in August 2019, the MHA, this year, constituted IMCTs which have visited flood and landslidesaffected States of Assam, Kerala, Mizoram, and Tripura n advance for on-spot ass ment of the damage without waiting for their memorandum. The IMCT for Nagaland has also been constituted, which will visit the affected areas of the state shortly.

Expect good Wayanad relief package from Centre, says CM

PTI NEW DELHI

The Kerala Government has sought a Rs 2,000 crore relief package from the Centre for the unprecedented devastation that occurred in Wayanad recently and is hopeful of getting "good assistance", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here.

He also dismissed as "not pragmatic" the recommendations made by the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan committees on ecologically sensitive areas of the Western Ghats, saying the panels did not consider the societal expectations and ground realities in his state.

ir Marshal Tejinder Singh Speaking to PTI this weekend Atook over as Deputy Chief during an interview on the of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Wayanad landslides, the chief Indian Air Force, at Air minister said the State Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan), Government has decided to construct new townships for here on Sunday. After assumption of his new appointment, the Air Marshal paid homage the families of the victims and the survivors of the unpreceto the brave hearts who gave the supreme sacrifice, by lay-ing wreath at the National War Memorial, New Delhi. dented devastation "within a vear" and these dwellings would be "climate-resilient and sustainable" Vijayan said the State sought a An alumnus of the National disaster relief package of about Defence Academy(NDA), Air Marshal Teiinder was com-Rs 2,000 crore from the Centre missioned in the fighter stream when he recently met with of the IAF on 13 June 1987. He Prime Minister Narendra Modi



released after a central team submitted a report to the Union Government. Vijayan added that categorising the Wayanad landslides as a "national or severe calamity" would enable all parliamentarians to donate

Rs 1 crore each to the Kerala relief fund, otherwise only the local MPs will be able to do so. "If this disaster is included in that (national or severe calamity) category, we will get good assistance. It will create a good atmosphere for reconstruction," he told the news agency. The 79-year-old veteran Marxist politician said the July 30 disaster that wiped off large tracts of three villages --Punchirimattam, Chooralmala and Mundakkai -- apart from some areas of Attamala in Wayanad has "shaken the lives

Government's primary objective is to provide a comprehensive rehabilitation package

to the survivors. We are committed to providing the best possible rehabilitation package to the survivors, in line with the Kerala model of development with its peoplecentric approach," he said.

Vijayan recently said during an all-party meeting that the Wayanad survivors would be housed in one or two townships which will have singlestorey houses of about 1,000 square feet in size with the option to expand to two storeys in the future.

"Our priority is to ensure that families who lost their homes in the landslides have a safe and secure place to reside. The construction of the townships

Vijayan said these reports were "not fully accepted by the entities that commissioned them? This highlights the fact, he said that "much of the recommendations in these reports were not pragmatic and did not consider societal aspirations and ground realities".

"At least some parts of the reports did not consider humans dwelling in ecologically fragile zones for centuries as part of the ecosystem, the chief minister added.

He also underlined that "small and marginal" farmers cannot be equated with rich realtors, planters or miners occupying similar terrains. "There was no such differentiation in these reports, which is why many States were forced to completely disregard them," Vijayan said.

He added that it was also "not desirable" for his Government to take a position in a "hasty manner" without "adequately studying the draft Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) notification issued by the Centre recently.

The notification issued on July 31 seeks to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six States, including 13 villages in Kerala's Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA). It invited suggestions and objections within 60 days. 'We have to wait to hear from the local self-Governments and eventually take an informed decision on it.

Govt mulling to extend security for gig workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

BJP's Minority Morcha to put counterviews

Months after the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the Centre regarding allegations of "anti-labour practices" at an Amazon India warehouse in Manesar, Haryana, Union Labour and Employment Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that the Government is exploring ways to extend social security coverage for those serving in the sector.

Gig workers, who take on short-term or project-based jobs often for multiple clients rather than being employed by a single company, will be registered on the eShram Portal to facilitate the implementation of these social security measures, said the Minister at a review meeting here.

Dr Mandaviya emphasised the development of a comprehensive strategy to ensure these workers receive the social security benefits they are entitled to. The Minister also highlighted that companies employing gig and platform workers will be encouraged to lead this registration effort. An online window will be provided for aggregators to streamline the regisscored the significance of the Code on Social Security, which marks the first formal recognition of gig and platform workers in India. This step aims to acknowledge and formalise their roles within the economy.



The Union Labour and

Employment move comes close

Human Rights Commission (NHRC) suo moto cognizance taken in June when it launched an investigation into human rights violations of the gig workers at an Amazon warehouse in Haryana, where even basic amenities like restrooms were reportedly missing. The NHRC also demanded answers from the Central Labour

Ministry. Labour associations have accused five warehouses in and around Manesar of violating regulations under the Factories Act, 1948. These cases highlight the broader issue of gig workers' exploita-tion by the companies that

employ them. According to NITI Aayog, the number of gig workers could expand to 23.5 million by 2029-30 from the 7.7 million robust legislation addressing new forms of labor, particularly gig and platform work, affects workers, especially women, who often struggle to maintain a living wage and stay in the workforce.

Bishnoi community welcomes

on the heels of the National

the statement said.

Flying Instructor with over 4,500 hours of flying, an alumnus of Defence Service Staff College and National Defence College.

He has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Radar Station, a premier Fighter Base and was Air Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir. His varied staff appointments include Operational Staff at a Command HQ, Air Commodore (Personnel Officers-1) at Air HQ, Deputy Assistant Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Financial (Planning) at HQ IDS, Air Commodore (Aerospace Safety), Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Offensive) and ACAS Ops (Strategy) at Air HQ. Prior to his present appointment, he was the Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarter Eastern Air Command of IAF at Shillong, Meghalaya.

In recognition of his meritorious services, he was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2007 and Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 2022.

In another appointment, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command on Sunday.

the issue and the state was hopeful of getting "good assistance" from the Union Government, he added. The Chief Minister said the

their future".

unprecedented devastation. I funds were expected to be would like to assure that our

people, leaving thu The PM was "very positive" on affected with unimaginable within a year," he told PTI. trauma and concerns about On the recommendations 'The recent landslide in Chooralmala village has caused

made by the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan committees on handling the fragile and ecologically sensitive areas along the Western Ghats,

India sets ambitious goal of hosting 10 cr foreign tourists by 2047: Tourism Ministry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

India currently hosts around 10 million foreign tourists annually, the ambitious goal is to increase this number to 100 million during the 'Amrit Kaal' period, said Mugdha Sinha, Director General of the Tourism Ministry here. In this regard she enlisted various measures being implemented to attract more international visitors and boost the inbound tourism sector. Amrit Kaal is the Prime Minister's vision

2047 for 'New India' . Majorly, the focus is on how the tourism industry, private and the Government sector can collaborate effectively. Efforts are also being made to



encourage repeat visits by foreign tourists, said the new DG of the Tourism Ministry while talking to reporters here at the conclusion of the three-day BLTM 2024 event.

the occasion, On Uttarakhand's Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj stated that tourism in India is expanding rapidly. "The world is opening its doors to Indian travelers and that increased tourism will generate more employment opportunities for locals." He emphasised the connection between local crafts and travel-tourism.

Sanjeev Agarwal, founder and CEO of Fairfest Media Limited, the organizers of the expo, pointed out that to further strengthen the tourism sector, the country's railway network needs to be improved. He pointed out that India has a vast railway network that requires enhancement.

According to estimates, India's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 6 per cent between 2024 and 2029, reflecting the increasing sig-nificance of MICE in the

tourism industry. The Indian Exhibition Industry Association noted that the value of this industry was USD709 million in 2019 and is projected to reach USD1.283 billion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 10.25 per cent.

On the occasion, Jyoti Mayal, President of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), emphasised the pivotal role of India's travel and tourism industry in the Nation's economy."The industry contributes 10 per cent to the GDP and generates approximately USD 78 billion annually. By 2029, it is expected to create 53 million jobs and attract 30.5 million travelers, highlighting its substantial growth potential.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Bishnoi community has thanked the Election Commission for deferring the Haryana Assembly poll date to October 5 from October 1 in view of the centuries-old festival of the community. The ruling BJP has also welcomed the Election Commission's decision.

The EC on Saturday deferred the Haryana Assembly poll date, saying the decision was taken keeping in mind the Bishnoi community's festival. Som Prakash Bishnoi, Akhil Bhartiya Bishnoi Mahasabha's Vice President, said the entire community thanks the Election Commission for its decision to defer the poll date.

Lakhs of members of the Bishnoi community take part in

the festival and it takes 15-20

days to organise it, he said.

"Earlier, we were worried what if people (Bishnoi community)

cannot vote as they would be

travelling or if they are not able

to take part in the event too.

Now, with the new poll date,

our problem has been solved

and we thank the EC for this,"

Before the revision of the date,

the Haryana polls were to be

held along with the third and

last phase of the Jammu and

EC's decision to defer Haryana polls

sion to postpone the Haryana elections has been taken to honour both the voting rights and traditions of the Bishnoi community which has upheld a 300-400-year-old practice in remembrance of their Guru Jambheshwar, the EC said on Saturday.

Kashmir elections. The deci-

It said it had received a representation from the National President of the All India Bishnoi Mahasabha, Bikaner, Rajasthan for rescheduling the Haryana Assembly polls.

Generations of families from Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana visit their native village Mukam in Rajasthan on 'amavas' in the month of 'Asoj' for the annual festival in Bikaner in memory of Guru Jambheshwar, according to the EC.

Ex-ISRO scientist's wind technology poised to support India's targets for Carbon Net Zero by 2070

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

team led by a former ISRO sci-Atentist Rakesh Aggarwal has developed cost-effective green efficient GARV (Guided Airflow Rotational Vortex) technology in wind sector, offering a promising solution to support India's ambi-tious targets for Carbon Net Zero by 2070.

Validated by BITS, Goa, this groundbreaking technology based on 'drag cum lift wind turbine' concept is patented in several major jurisdictions, including India, the US, Australia, Russia, New Zealand,

and European countries.

"It achieves this by optimising air-

flow and reducing the wear and tear

on turbine components, leading to

lower maintenance costs and a

longer lifespan," said the senior sci-

entist, an expert in electric and con-

Talking about its key features, Aggarwal explained the technolo-Aggarwal noted that it took him 3-4 years to develop the technology, which he feels can be a game gy utilises a unique design that creates a rotational vortex effect, which changer in the green sector as it can adapt to various wind speeds significantly increases the amount These GARV turbines are capable of wind energy captured by the tur-bine blades. This results in a highof operating efficiently across a wide er conversion rate of wind energy range of wind speeds, from low to into electrical power when comvery high. pared to the conventional turbines.

trol designs

This adaptability ensures consistent energy generation even in areas with fluctuating wind conditions." Similar to other innovations in green technology, GARV wind turbines developed under the umbrella of TDR Foundation, a non-prof-



it organisation can be fabricated and installed locally, reducing trans-portation costs and supporting local manufacturing industries. "A unique feature of this wind tur-

he said.

bine technology is its adaptability— it can be fabricated and installed directly at the site and can handle a range of capacities from a few kilowatts to several megawatts.

The system optimis es drag force into torque, enabling it to generate electricity from very low wind speeds to speeds exceeding 200 km/h," said Aggarwal.

He said the turbines can generate electricity from wind speeds of a

few kilometres per hour to above 200 kilometres per hour and has the capacity to meet the energy needs of India and other countries with cheap green energy making fossil fuels irrelevant.

Its innovative approach and cost advantages make it a potential game-changer in the wind energy sector, offering economically viable alternative to conventional energy sources, said Agarwal, reflecting on his childhood dream of developing an indigenous concept, which also aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Made in India' and 'Go local Go Vocal.'

nation 05



Violence against health warrior on Aug 9 barbarity expressed in extremity: Dhankhar

PTI DEHRADUN

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday termed the violence committed against a "health warrior" at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital on August 9 as "barbarity expressed in extremity

Addressing students and faculty members at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Rishikesh, the vice president said such barbaric incidents put the entire civilisation to shame and shreds what Bharat stands for. Lamenting the use of the term 'symptomatic malaise' by some stray voices, Dhankhar said such statements "aggravate our excruciating pain and add salt to our injured conscience".

"When humanity has been shamed, there are some stray voices, voices that cause concern. They only aggravate our excruciating pain. To put it mildly, they are adding salt to our injured conscience and what do they say 'it is a malaise, a symptomatic frequent incident'.

"When it comes from someone who is a Member of Parliament, a senior advocate, then the culpability is of an



he added.

'Nishkam

form.

protected.

limit.

extreme degree. There can be no alibi for such kind of demonising thoughts. I call upon such misguided souls to revisit their thoughts and publicly tender apology. This is not an occasion where you should be looking through political prism. This political prism is a dangerous one, it kills your objectivity," he added

Recognising his accountability to the medical fraternity and the country's women by virtue of his constitutional post, Dhankhar said, "I am before you. As a matter of fact holding a constitutional position, I have to show my accountability, I have to justify the position I hold as vice president and

chairman Rajya Sabha." emotive feelings and "... Our heart is injured, our uncontrolled feelings, doctors chairman Rajya Sabha."

compounders, warriors must be impregnably protected," he added. Criticising the "selective silence" of NGOs, Dhankhar said, "Certain NGOs on road for... Drop of a hat are in silence mode. We have to question them. Their silence

doctors,

is much worse than the culpable act of perpetrators of conscience is crying and our this heinous crime on August soul is seeking accountability," 9, 2024. Those who seek to play politics and earn brownie Referring to the work of points, are not responding to medical professionals as the call of their conscience". Underlining the responsibility Seva' as of society to prevent such incidents and develop a pronounced by Lord Krishna without any expectation just mechanism where women doing their duty, the VP condemned acts of violence feel safe, the vice president said, "Whoever has done it will be held accountable, but against the doctors in any the society is also to be held accountable. The society Expressing his concern for the safety of doctors at workplace, he emphasised upon the need cannot escape its responsibility. I don't want to to bring out a mechanism

where "health warriors" are make it a matter of the government or a matter of A doctor can help only to a political parties. It is a matter A doctor cannot of the society "It has shaken the very convert himself to god. He is next to god, so when somebody dies, out of foundation of our existence. I

has questioned what India stands for and stood for thousands of years".

are not given the treatment

Crime, rising debt likely to dominate 3-day Punjab **Assembly Session**

PTI CHANDIGARH

they deserve... Security of the The three-day session of the Punjab Assembly slated to begin from Monday is going nurses, health to be anything but calm with the opposition parties set to seek accountability from the AAP-led government on law and order and rising state

debt. The session of the Vidhan Sabha will start with obituary references and wind up on

September 4. Congress leader and MLA Aruna Chaudhary said her party will raise the issue of deteriorating law and order in the state.

"Deteriorating law and order is one of the biggest issues. Everyday incidents related to snatching, theft and extortion are taking place in the state," alleged the Dinanagar MLA. Chaudhary also accused the government of failing to fulfil its promise of giving Rs 1,000 per month to every woman. The AAP government deceived women in Punjab." Congress MLA Sukhwinder Singh Kotli said, "The AAP government had promised to set up 18 colleges in the state.

Two and half years of the AAP regime have passed but they could not procure land



for setting up even a single

college." BJP MLA Jangi Lal Mahajan said he will raise the issue of alleged illegal sand mining going on in the state. Kotli said the duration of the session should be increased as the three-day session is too short.

The AAP, when it was not in power, used to demand longer sessions to discuss peoples issues in the House, he said. Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira accused the AAP government of ruining the importance of the assembly by limiting it to only three

"The @BhagwantMann govt has ruined the importance of Vidhan Sabha the most crucial pillar of democracy by curtailing its sittings to almost negligible leaving no scope for any meaningful debate!" said Khaira in a post on X.

Assam TMC president Ripun Bora quits party

PTI GUWAHATI

Assam Trinamool Congress president Ripun Trinamool Bora on Sunday resigned from the party, claiming that the people of the northeastern state consider it as a "regional party" of West Bengal and are not willing to accept it as their own.



attempts over the past year and a half to secure an

appointment with you and our chief Mamata Didi to

address these concerns, I have

been unsuccessful," said Bora

the former Assam minister

and state Congress president.

Bora said he has served as the

state president of Assam TMC

for over two years and during this period, he interacted

extensively with people across

"Unfortunately, the issues

mentioned above have led

many people in Assam to

continue viewing TMC as a regional party of West Bengal.

The people of Assam are not

willing to accept a party that they perceive as being from

"In light of these challenges and the lack of an adequate resolution, I feel compelled to

make a difficult decision and

have decided to disassociate myself from TMC," Bora said.

the state.

In a letter to All India Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Bora, the former Rajya Sabha member, said he had offered many suggestions to party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to make TMC acceptable in Assam, but those were "not implemented".

"Assam TMC has great potential. but several recurring issues have hindered our progress, including the perception of TMC as a regional party of West Bengal. To counter this perception, we made several suggestions," Bora said in his resignation letter.

He claimed that he had suggested the need for an Assamese leader at the national level of TMC, declaring the residence of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika at Tollygunge in Kolkata as a heritage site and converting the Madhupur

Ex-Bihar Minister Shyam Rajak returns to JD(U)

PTI PATNA

Former Bihar minister Shyam Rajak on Sunday joined Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), less than two weeks after quitting the RJD headed by the CM's arch-rival Lalu Prasad.

the party here by national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, in presence of a

number of top leaders. Jha said the entry of Rajak, "a leader with grassroots-level support" will strengthen the party, "especially among the state's 'Mahadalits' who were recognised as a separate category by Nitish Kumar". "Sub-categorisation of Dalits may have become a buzzword in the backdrop of the recent Supreme Court judgement. was the veritable pioneer. The presence of Rajak in our party will send across this message more forcefully," he said.

No financial crisis in Himachal, State Wages of Assam tea workers meagre, shortcomings Govt carrying multiple reforms: Sukhu in welfare scheme implementation: CAG report

PTI SHIMLA

There is no financial crisis in Himachal Pradesh rather, the State Government has been carrying out reforms from day one, and the positive outcome is now visible, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday

While talking to the media on the sidelines, Sukhu said that the state government is clearing the arrears of 27,000 pensioners above the age of 70 this year and seven per cent Dearness Allowance has been granted to all government employees.

"Additionally, the government is working for the welfare of all sections, including farmers, labourers, orchardists, women, and small shopkeepers. The state government aims to make Himachal Pradesh self-reliant by 2027 and the richest state in the country by 2032" he said.

He said that there is no crisis it the state



Universe" exhibition at the historic Gaiety Theatre in Shimla, marking the 150th birth anniversary of the esteemed Russian artist. thinker, and peacemaker Nicholas Roerich. The exhibition, organized by the International Centre of the Roerichs (ICR), Moscow, in with collaboration the Roerich International Memorial Trust Naggar, District Kullu, and the Department of Language Art and Culture, Himachal Culture,

Pradesh, will be open to the public until September 25. the c minister praised Nicholas Roerich for his diverse contributions as an artist,

cultural heritage and his PTI GUWAHATI

commitment to promoting the Wages of tea garden workers in Assam are "meagre", with "several shortcomings and areas of rich traditions of the Kullu Valley were particularly noteworthy. Spending nearly 20 years in Himachal Pradesh, he deeply immersed himself in the study of Himalayan culture concern" in implementation of labour laws and worker earliest advocates for safeguarding the cultural legacy of the Kullu Valley" Sukhu said. and emerged as one of the welfare provisions, a recent Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report has said.

It also found the state The chief minister further stated that Roerich's global government's intervention in fixing wages as per the Minimum Wage Act (MW influence was profound, particularly through the 'Roerich Pact,' an international Act) "insufficient", noting that efforts to improve the lives of the workers have "fallen short" of making any treaty signed on April 15, 1935, by 21 countries to safeguard substantial change. He said that Roerich was a

The performance audit on 'Implementation of Schemes staunch advocate for peace and for Welfare of Tea Tribe' for believed in resolving global the period 2015-16 to 2020conflicts by promoting cultural 21 maintained that low values that foster respect and understanding among younger income and lack of education have been major barriers to with the overall development of the workers in th



zones, of which 40 estates (10 per cent) were selected based on the size of the plantations and number of workers employed.

Apart from scrutiny of records, the exercise included interviews of 590 workers in the selected estates. The report said the Tea Tribes

Department Welfare (TTWD) tried to address the issues of the workers, but without basic socio-economic and their initia implemented "haphazardly". The wages the workers received in the tea estates were meagre," the report said, pointing out that the Assam

government did not fix the minimum pay as per the MW Act 1948

It also said that workers were not a part of scheduled employments notified by the state government, as a result of which they do not get benefits of minimum wage standard and variable dearness allowance.

The secretary, Labour and Welfare Department, informed the CAG that when out with initiatives to increase pay as per the MW Act, it got challenged in the court and hence, the wages could not be increased as desired.

The report also underlined the disparity of wages among workers of Barak and Brahmaputra Valley, and said

the Labour Department "could not provide any justification" for it. It said workers in the Barak Valley have been receiving "at least 10 per cent lower" wage rates than the Brahmaputra Valley workers, with the government

issue.

Rajak, who had been expelled from the state cabinet as well as the JD(U) in 2020, got re-inducted into never intervening to address the The report said that as per the 2019 wage rates, tea workers

government has been carrying out reforms from day one and the positive outcome is now visible.

He inaugurated the "Master's

and Russia have centuries-old relations because our cultures and thinking are similar and writer, and thinker. Russia has always supported "Roerich's efforts to preserve India during difficult times.

interacting

at India

cultural heritage.

generations.

While

iourna

The audit was performed in four zones Cachar, Dibrugarh, Nagaon and Sonitpur. There are 390 tea estates in the four sampled

also not aware about the year of commencement of payment of wages in kind and the purpose for the state," the report said.

of Assam were being paid the

least wages compared to other tea-producing states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal. It noted that though wages to

tea workers are paid partly in

cash and partly in kind in

Assam, the authorisation granted by the government

for such an arrangement is

not available on record.

The Labour

Sonam Wangchuk led 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra' starts from Leh in support of 4-point agenda

PTI 📕 LEH

More than 100 volunteers led by renowned renowned innovator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk started a foot march from here to the national capital on Sunday to urge the Centre to resume the stalled dialogue with the leadership of Ladakh on their four-point agenda. The 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra'

was organised by the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which along with Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), are jointly spearheading an agitation over the past four years in support of statehood, of extension the Constitution's sixth schedule,

early recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

The talks between Ladakh representatives and the Central government ended in March without any concrete outcome.

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai and "we want sixth schedule", LAB chairman Thupstan Chhewang flagged off the march from NDS Memorial park with Wangchuk expressing hope that the Government will greet them with a good news on reaching Delhi on Gandhi Jayanti, marking the birth anniversary of father of the



nation Mahatma Gandhi, on October 2. 'It is a matter of satisfaction that people from all sections of the society, including

elders, women and youngsters, have joined this march in support of our

area, he said.

connection

Ashfaq

Sakina had been reported

missing, and her brother

Hamida were detained in

and sister-in-law

with

her

demands...Sixth schedule of the Constitution and UT with legislature is our democratic right as we want development and management of the region in accordance with our wishes and aspirations," said Wangchuk, who earlier in March held a 21-day long hunger strike in support of which is evident that even a the demands.

He said this is a people's movement and the Government should fulfill the demands of the Ladakhis without a second thought.

"We are sharing borders with Pakistan and China who may be boasting of their technology but I want to tell my country that Indians should be proud of the people of Ladakh who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the nation," he said.

Expressing confidence that more people will join the march enroute to Delhi via Himachal Pradesh, he said the people are enthusiastic

90-year-old Ladakh citizen, who lives in Switzerland, is ready to join them in Delhi. 'This is another phase of our struggle and the KDA is not joining this march at the initial stage but will definitely

give a positive response as the march moves to Delhi,"

Chhewang said. Tsering Dorjey, an elderly participant, said though his health will not allow him to cover the full distance of around 1,000 km by foot but 'I will try to be part of the

march as long as I can". "By this march, we want to convey a message that we are very serious with regard to our four demands," he said.

Tripura BJP to launch membership drive on Sept 3

PTI AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha will kick start the one-and-a-half monthlong membership drive of BJP in the northeastern state on September 3, a senior party leader on Sunday.

The BJP Tripura unit has set a target of 12 lakh members this time, state BJP general secretary Amit Rakshit told PTI.

"We will kick start the oneand-a-half month-long membership drive of BJP in Tripura from September 3. Chief Minister Manik Saha



will inaugurate the process in the presence of party's state president, Rajib Bhattacharjee", he said. In the membership the focus will be on online members Rakshit said.

Couple held for killing, decapitating woman, dumping body in Pune river

PTI PUNE

A couple has been arrested in connection with the death of a woman, whose headless body was found on the banks of a river in Pune city earlier this week, police said on Sunday.

The police on Saturday arrested Ashfaq Khan and his wife Hamida for allegedly killing his 48-year-old sister in a dispute over ownership of a room in a slum, an official said.

The police found the body of a woman, who had been decapitated with her hands and legs severed, on the banks of the Mutha River in the Kharadi area on August 26.



Following a probe, the woman was identified as Sakina Khan (48), the official said.

Joint Commissioner of Police said Ranjankumar Sharma said, "The Pune city police recovered a woman's torso and dismembered the body to from the banks of the Mutha destroy the evidence, he said. River. There were no clothes The couple has been arrested on the body, and the accused had dismembered it to destroy evidence before throwing it in the river." Investigations revealed that (BNS), the official said.

FIR lodged against three persons for threatening BJP MLA Rajesh Chaudhary

the victim, Sakina, had a dispute with her brother over PTI MATHURA the ownership of a room in a slum in the Shivaji Nagar

An FIR has been lodged against three persons at the city police station here for allegedly threatening BJP MLA Rajesh Chaudhary, police said on Sunday.

disappearance, the official The FIR was lodged against three people, including Ravindra Jatav, Azad Ansari The duo allegedly strangled and one unidentified person the victim, decapitated her on Saturday under BNS sections 351 (4) (criminal intimidation by an under sections 103 (murder) anonymous communication), and 238 (causing the 352 (intentional insult with disappearance of evidence) of intention to provoke a breach the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita of peace) and section 67 of the IT act, they said.

Chaudhary, who is the MLA from Mant seat of Mathura, alleged that someone called

him up on August 25 night and threatened to kill him and his son. The MLA said that someone

also called him up on August 30 and threatened him using abusive and casteist slurs and said "you give a lot of statements on TV. We will see you. Our leader has ordered us to kill you". Chaudhary also said in his

complaint that some people have announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh on the social media platform 'X' for the person who brings his tongue.

K-RIDE needs technical strength to execute Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project: Ashwini Vaishnaw

PTI BENGALURU

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said the Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited requires more technical strength to Bengaluru the execute Suburban Railway Project. The Minister said he would visit Bengaluru after a few weeks and review the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

The major issue last time when I reviewed it was the requirement of the technical strength in the organisation (K-RIDE) because it's (BSRP) a very complex project. So Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (K-



RIDE) as an organisation requires more technical strength. That is what we reviewed last time," Vaishnaw told PTI.

On the deadline, Vaishnaw said the state government has 51 per cent equity in the project and hence the Centre has to work with the state government to make sure that

everything is in place. "It's not just unilateral. It is a joint venture of the state and the Centre, and the state has the control of 51 per cent," he explained

The Minister said last time when was in Bengaluru he had requested to the State government to increase the technical strength.

Regarding the bullet train project from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, Vaishnaw said

the progress was good. "Already 327 kilometres of viaduct has been completed and it is progressing practically very rapidly. The undersea tunnel work has also started. The first section should start in 2026, Vaishnaw said.



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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

On a sound footing

PM Modi emphasises India's 90% economic growth in the past decade, outpacing the global average of 35%

ndia's resilience shines through in its remarkable economic growth, a testament to its enduring strength in the face of global challenges. It was recently reiterated In a recent statement by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He highlighted the impressive growth of the Indian economy, stating that while the global economy expanded by 35% over the past decade, India's economy surged by 90%. This bold claim not only underscores India's economic resilience and rapid development but also invites a closer examination of the factors driving this growth and what it means for the future. PM Modi's claim reflects a period of substantial economic transformation in India, marked by key reforms, increased foreign investment, and a burgeoning middle class. India has implemented significant structural reforms in the past decade, including the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and digital financial inclusion initiatives. These reforms have streamlined busi-



ness processes, improved tax compliance, and enhanced the overall ease of doing business in India, making the economy more attractive to investors. India's young and growing population has been a crucial driver of its economic expansion. This demographic advantage, has fuelled domestic demand and boosted economic growth.

The digital revolution in India has transformed various sectors, including finance, retail, and services. The rise of digital payments, e-commerce, and fintech has created new economic opportunities and driven growth in the formal economy. Juxtaposed to it the global economy's 35% growth over the same peri-

od reflects a more subdued pace, influenced by various challenges, including geopolitical tensions, trade wars, and the impact of the pandemic. The disparity between India's growth and the global average highlights the country's relative resilience and potential as an emerging economic powerhouse. However, it's important to note that global economic growth has been uneven, with advanced economies experiencing slower growth rates, while emerging markets, including India, have driven much of the expansion. Despite the optimistic growth figures, India faces several challenges that could impact its future economic trajectory. High unemployment rates, income inequality, and a struggling agricultural sector remain pressing issues. Additionally, the global economic environment is becoming increasingly uncertain, with rising protectionism and geopolitical instability posing risks to sustained growth. The Indian government will need to continue implementing reforms and addressing structural challenges to maintain its growth momentum. Ensuring inclusive growth, enhancing job creation, and investing in infrastructure and education will be critical to sustaining long-term economic development. India's impressive growth over the past decade suggests a bright future, but the path forward is not without obstacles which must be addressed in the right earnest.



The decline of Parliamentary decorum



Recent debates in the Lok Sabha, marked by factual blunders and misguided accusations, underscore the pressing need for well-prepared and knowledgeable representatives

he saying parliament is the temple of democracy has become a cliché phrase. Still, it is heard across the world where democracy is in vogue. In India, even the Communists, Dravidians and even Maoists use this term despite their nationalist views. The functioning of a nation's parliament symbolizes its civility. No doubt, the names of Benjamin Disraeli, who served twice as Prime Minister of Britain and William Gladstone, who had a 12-year term as Prime Minister (spread over four non-consecutive terms) are two names stu-dents of political science would never forget.

Disraeli was premier during 1868 and 1874-1880 and served as leader of the opposition. Gladstone was his contemporary and both were known for their tongue-in-the-cheek retorts. Though the verbal duels at times crossed all levels of parliamentary decorum, both the parties they headed (Conservatives and Labor Party) never had any issues with their style of exchange of words. "If Gladstone fell into the Thames, that would be a misfortune. But if anyone pulled him out, that I suppose would be a calamity," Disraeli reportedly told the Parliament once.

Similarly, Gladstone was named as GOM (Grand Old Man) of British politics and Disraeli said that GOM stood for God's Only Mistake.

India, described as the world's biggest democracy has its colourful past. The likes of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Mahavir Tyagi and Piloo Modi are some of the names that come to mind while thinking of the Indian parliament. The debates and discussions featuring them remain eternal classics in the annals of the country's parliamentary democracy. Those were the days when Television and live telecasting of proceedings of the House were unheard of. Not any more. The proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are being aired live by the LSTV and

After watching the Lok Sabha

debate on the motion of thanks

to the President's address to the

struck my mind was the scarcity of good leaders or speakers in the Opposition benches. K C Venugopal, as of date, the strongest leader in the Congress after the Gandhi clan, made a "bloomer" when he charged that the last ten years of Modi rule saw 2.5 lakh persons getting killed in train accidents across the country. Though Jagadambika Pal, a Congress turncoat occupying the chair asked him to check the facts, the Kerala Chanakya (as KC is addressed by his followers) stood his ground and reiterated that more than 2.5 lakh had perished in train mishaps during the last ten years. A senior railway official had a hearty laugh when asked about the charge made by the Congress leader.

Many members of the Lok Sabha are not competent to occupy the treasury or oppobenches. sition Thol Thirumavalavan, of the VCK, a Dalit outfit, blamed the Center for the recent hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi which claimed 63 innocent lives.

Had Thirumavalavan spent



THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF IN THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO SHIV KHERA, A MANAGEMENT THOSE WHO MAKE THINGS

THOSE WHO WATCH THINGS AND THOSE manufacture, distribution and sale of liquor is the exclusive prerogative of the State governments under the seventh schedule of the Constitution. When one comes to the House to deliver an important speech like thanking the president for

nity. the address to the joint session of both Houses, one has to do some homework. Gumma Tanuja Rani, a tribal leader representing Araku

constituency in Andhra PEOPLE Pradesh was a major relief. She spoke from the bottom of her heart about the inadequacies in the education system for tribals in her constituency. The absence of good teachers costs the tribal students quality education. India, which has dozens GURUof communication satellites of its own could dedicate one or two transponders for educating the tribal teachers making use of the quality teachers available in the country. HAPPEN, The words of representatives

like Tanuja Rani should not be confined in the records of the House. The ministers of science and technology and HAPPEN human resources development should sit with the ISRO chairman and work out an action program to launch tribal schools through our satellites. Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, a Congress MP from Punjab,

spoke about the eternal pain of farmers in his State as well as the rest of the country.

This is proof of how our ministers in charge of agriculture failed to resolve the hardship faced by the farming commu-

Wherever one goes in India, the farmers wail over their difficulties in getting water for irrigation, bank loans and of course the lack of marketing facilities.

A research scholar may be able to get a PhD for his thesis on how the politicians succeed in keeping the farmers in perpetual poverty and how they are forced to resort to extreme steps. Period.

Discussing an inconsequential comment made by the Leader of the Opposition about Sanatan Dharma is a waste of time. The ruling party should understand that he has to make some statements to stay relevant. There are three kinds of people in the world, according to Shiv Khera, a management guru. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened. Our LOP does not belong to the first two categories! (The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; *views are personal)*

People walk down a road during rain, in Shimla,

Paswan family power struggle may split the LJP



The recent meetings of the BJP leader with former LJP MPs Pashupati Paras and Prince Paswan, have intensified tensions within the Paswan family and the LJP

The recent meeting between former LJP MPs Pashupati Paras and Prince Paswan with Amit Shah has significantly elevated Chirag Paswan's political profile. Despite this boost, Chirag Paswan's statements during the last parliamentary session have left many observers puzzled, as he voiced positions that often contradicted those of the BJP. Issues such as the creamy layer in reservations, lateral appointments, and the Waqf Board Amendment Act 2024 saw Chirag taking stances that directly opposed the BJP's views. In response, Pashupati Paras

and Prince Paswan met with BJP leader Amit Shah. During these discussions, Chirag Paswan reportedly expressed concerns about his party's struggles to his uncle, Pashupati Paras. Political insiders suggest that this interaction was part of a broader BJP strategy, with Amit Shah subtly indicating that neither Pashupati Paras nor Prince Paswan are beyond his influence. Additionally, MPs affiliated with the LJP family have begun issuing clarifications, while RJD MLA ly alleviating BJP's concerns.

Party (RLP) poses a threat to the NDA, particularly as it fields candidates against NDA allies like Chirag Paswan's party. This increases the likelihood

of vote splitting, whether it

results in a reduction or redis-

tribution of votes. Within the

RJD, Ram Vilas Paswan's

son-in-law, Anil Kumar

Sadhu, has been vocally crit-

ical of Chirag Paswan. Should

Pashupati Paras align with the

India Alliance, internal con-

flicts could escalate, with fig-

ures like Sunny Paswan from

Congress already preparing to

Former Samastipur MP

Prince Paswan could also

emerge as a significant polit-

ical challenger to Chirag Paswan. Despite these ten-

sions, Pashupati Paras has

publicly expressed a willing-

ness to mend relations with

his nephew, stating that famil-

ial bonds could overcome

political differences. In media

statements, he emphasized

that "blood is blood," indicat-

ing his desire to reconcile with

Pashupati has communicated

Chirag Paswan.

oppose Chirag.

Mukesh Roshan has alleged that the BJP is targeting LJP R MPs. Furthermore, three MPs from Chirag Paswan's party are reportedly in communication with senior BJP leaders The BJP is known for its

strategic patience, gradually consolidating its position. This approach saw Pashupati Paras receiving assurances during the Lok Sabha elections, and the Rajya Sabha seat was subsequently occupied by Upendra Kushwaha. Pashupati Paras is now banking on the upcoming 2025 assembly elections, understanding that neither the BJP nor the JDU are likely to allocate him separate seat shares. Consequently, both Pashupati Paras and Chirag Paswan may need to share assembly seats within the NDA's seatsharing framework, potentialhis intentions to the NDA

However, the emergence of leadership, aiming to thaw the the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti strained relationship. relationship. Nevertheless, Chirag Paswan has accused Pashupati Paras of previously undermining the LJP by breaking away MPs and seizing party offices

KS1 V.

established by their father, Ram Vilas Paswan, thereby betraying the family. Despite these accusations, Pashupati Paras now appears to be seeking reconciliation.

This scenario may reflect the BJP's damage control efforts or a strategic policy shift aimed at balancing the factions within the LJP. The BJP aims to prevent the LJP from splitting into the Rashtriva Lok Janshakti and LJP (R) factions. During the Lok Sabha elections, Pashupati Paras was a target of BJP's strategies. The Paras faction suffered losses during the Lok Sabha elections, losing both MPs and Union Minister positions. When they sought a seat allocation for Sunil Pandey in a by-election, the BJP appropriated their candidate. LJP remains caught in a predicament of political uncertainty. (The writer is a senior jour-

nalist; views are personal)

at least 15 minutes of his time reading the Constitution of India presented to him by Rahul Gandhi, he would not joint session of the Houses, what have made this blunder. The

WHO WONDER WHAT HAPPENED

Ξ EDITOR LETT

THE ROT RUNS DEEP

Madam — It was Prajwal Revanna (EX PM Deve Gowda's grand son) a few months's back in the news for exploiting women in his home town in Karnataka for satisfying his sexual needs and it is now the Senior artistes and technicians of Malayalam Film industry exploiting the weaker sex.Several such news involving netas from other parts of India are frequent.When such leaders take law in to their hands and involve in crimes the law administration agencies are also silenced by the power acquired through position, money and family influence.

The victims are forced into silence to protect themselves. In rare cases the matter reaches the court also despite all their influence very rarely the perpetrator gets conviction as the witnesses as required by the law turn hostile for fear of their lives.As the saying reads"Yatha raja thatha praja"(Artha sastra-267)(Subjects follow their King)individuals consider women as soft targets and involves in acts of crime and in cases only where the victim acts boldly and complains the perpetrator gets the punishment and in rest of the cases victims remain so.

It is incumbent upon on the leaders of the political party or the head of the institution to ensure strict moral conduct is maintained by their members. The wrong doers must be kicked out immediately and ostracized. Other considerations should not blunt their decision in matters such as these.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

IMPORTANCE OF BALANCED DIET

Madam— A healthy mind cannot exist without a healthy body, and the reverse, too, holds true. People from different walks of life are oblivious to the thin line of differentiation between overeating and healthy eating. Intake of essential nutrients in adequate proportion is an art. Everyone should know that both undernutrition and overnutrition can be an individual's death knell. Fruits, veg-



he game of shooting had been a piece of cake for the Indian Continents no matter the game is Olympics or Paralympics. Just a few days back, star Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarvjot Singh managed to lift medals in the Olympic event, and now it's just the beginning

etables, grains, meat, fish and skimmed milk are invariable components of a healthy food intake for supply of energy, protein, vitamin and minerals among others. Right from childhood, the significance of balanced nutrition has been unequivocally underscored by doctors and nutritionists.

Plenty of crippling diseases and lifestyle disorders may be prevented by a balanced, nutritious diet. Smart eating from the start can act as immunity booster. It is more important to know what not to eat than what to eat. It is said that junk food can satisfy for an hour but good food can do so for life. However, poor economic status can turn all nutrition plans topsy turvy. The governments should encompass all sections to foster a healthy society. The "National Nutrition Week" is observed annually from September 1 to 7 since 1982. Ganapathi Bhat |Akola

THE COLLAPSE OF SHIVAJI'S STATUE

Madam — The apology expressed by the PM Narendra Modi over the collapse

The golden girl

of Paralympics that Avani Lekhara clinched the gold medal alongwith Mona Agarwal in the 10 m air rifle. This victory of Paralympics players in the initial events, is a clear indication of the fact that our para players are equally eager to made podium finish done once again this time at Paris. Avani's gold is a cherishful moment for all the Indian back home.

She improved her own records, become first Indian women to win two Paralympics gold in the 10 m category and initiate the medal tally at Paris for India. Nation wishes her and all the players, heartiest congratulations on their hard efforts and success.

We hope that more and more medals and more podium finishes will be ensured this time. With Indian flag and India's national anthem keep on mesmerising maximum time in the podium zone of Paris Paralympics 2024.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Maharashtra suggests the lapses by the authorities in ensuring the quality of the construction. The 35-foot statue, unveiled with fanfare by Modi himself less than a year ago, lies in ruins, a victim of rusted nuts and bolts. This monumental blunder is not merely a case of shoddy workmanship; it is emblematic of the rot that has set in at the core of the government's projects.

The contractor, conveniently linked to those in power, stands accused of collusion, fraud and endangering public safety, while the government scrambles to shift the blame onto anything but its own negligence. The steel used in the statue had already begun to rust; yet, despite repeated warnings, no action was taken. The bigger issue beneath the surface lies a pattern of cutting corners, favouritism and a blatant disregard for quality and accountability.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

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It often begins with cultivating a calm, unclouded mind



RAVI VALLURI

eons ago a neophyte Zen student was an apprentice at a temple of knowledge. Regrettably, his mind was not robust enough And kept vacillating; so much so his mind and soul were not satisfied with "mere" breathing practices and meditation techniques imparted at the monastery. Petals of knowledge revealed In a state of haughtiness, the Zen student arrived at another temple of knowledge where he remarked, rather dramatically that, "The human mind, Sakya Muni Buddha and other sentient beings, in reality do not exist." The pontiff of the monastery was silently listening to the outburst but uttered nothing for a while.

And then abruptly and guite unexpectedly he whacked the tutee with his prized bamboo pipe which angered the student. The Zen Master compassionately inquired of the tutee that if nothing existed, from where did his bout of anger and arrogance emerge? The mentee was momentarily nonplussed and then fell at the feet of the Zen Master, begging for forgiveness.

A hollow and empty mind

The percipient Master agreed to admit the whippersnapper but with a few stipulations. It was incumbent upon the greenhorn to remember the cardinal principle of trying to keep the mind hollow and empty. Lord Krishna's fluteThere is an interesting parable about Lord Krishna and his flute. It is believed that he used to visit a garden and whisper, "I love you" to all the flora and fauna. In unison, the flora and fauna reciprocated their unalloyed and unadulterated affection



towards Lord Krishna. It so transpired that one day, an animated Lord Krishna approached a bamboo tree in the garden. The Lord broke the cataclysmic news that he would have to snuff out the life of the bamboo plant. The entire garden was aghast as the news spread; several plants and trees were however secretly joyous that they were spared of the torture. The bamboo mulled upon the news for a while and then languidly responded, "Lord, you and I have no choice

At the altar of the Master of the Universe, I am willing to sacrifice my life." Hearing this, Lord Krishna beamed. With surgical precision, he struck the bamboo plant. Soon the bamboo was fashioned into a flute for Lord Krishna himself. The flora and fauna, all the gopis and gopikas were now covetous of the bamboo, that in its new avatar it would always be inseparable, constantly in the hands of Lord Krishna. The exultant bamboo flute was to become a triumphant possession of Lord Krishna. "What was so noteworthy about you, that you were the chosen one?" was an incessant refrain faced by the flute. "Nothing but my singular capitulation to will of the Master; willing to be an instrument of the Lord," was the refrain of the flute. The classical epic Mahabharata is populated with numerous valorous characters. But the ace archer Arjuna stands out prominently. Why is that so? Arjuna is the Sakha, the Nara through whom Narayana revealed the divine celestial song - The Bhagavad Gita. It was Arjuna's unflinching devotion to the Lord that made the character so robust and aerobicized. He faithfully carried out all the commandments of the Lord.Only inner strength and a mature mind transfigure an individual to establish contact with the source of our inner energy. This is possible through the process of authentic surrender. Breathing techniques like Sudarshan Kriya help to make the mind hollow and empty. "A mature mind is one who understands the impossibility of knowing the ultimate, and with this understanding there is a new dimension, the dimension of the being," said the philosopher, Osho. (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living: views are personal)

Diplomacy: India's neighborhood quandary



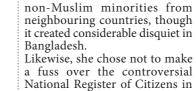
analys \$ 07

Despite its vigorous 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has struggled to maintain stable and lasting relationships with neighboring countries



ronical as it might seem, despite a vigorous pursuit of a 'Neighbourhood First' policy in tune with its strategic imperatives, India has floundered to build lasting and steady bilateral relations with countries in its backyard. The pendulum of India's fortunes continues to swing up and down with regime changes in the neighbourhood.

Despite intense diplomatic engagements and regular outreach at the highest political levels in its neighbourhood, India often finds itself out in the cold each time a party or leadership not so inclined towards it sweeps to power. Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and even Afghanistan are cases in point. And now, with the ignominious exit of the Awami League's Sheikh Hasina as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, India has lost the only loyal and steadfast friend it had in the neighbourhood for over a decade. Indeed, so heavily was New Delhi invest ed in Sheikh Hasina's prime ministership that it was even accused of interfering in the country's elections to favour her when she won a fourth consecutive term this January If her ouster took Sheikh Hasina by surprise, it also caught New Delhi completely unawares. India was blindsided, even though the Sheikh Hasina government was being accused of increasing authoritarianism and a ruthless decimation of the Opposition with backsliding of democracy. New Delhi saw no reason to complain with Sheikh Hasina delivering on what it wanted - connectivity, crackdown on north-east insurgents sheltering in Bangladesh, not making too much noise about the unfulfilled Teesta waters agreement and keeping India's interests in mind while building ties with China. Under Sheikh Hasina, the cordial bilateral ties were not impacted even when the Indian government brought in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which fast-tracks citizenship for persecuted



Assam, which was seen as targeting illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. For sure, India's ruling party's hyper-nationalism does not help the country's cause in its neighbourhood either, especially in Muslim-majority Bangladesh and the Maldives.

Moreover, India's propensity to openly back a particular regime THE OPPOSITION often works to its detriment. It leaves not only the government of the day open to charges of being India's lackey but equally helps the Opposition there fuel anti-INITIATED AN India sentiments. In Bangladesh

Subcontinent and the Indian Ocean Region, and it does do a lot for all this, but there is a marked shift in how it is now perceived.

For one, neither the polity nor the people of these nations want to be seen as mere appendages of a big neighbour even though their countries seem inevitably tied with India owing to their geographical location.

Second, small as they may be, there is a growing assertion of national identity and sovereign-ty among them. Third, they know that India isn't the only big power they can turn to for financial and other assistance.

Delhi even though Kathmandu had been pressing that its findings China, with far greater financial muscle, after all, is only too happy to step in. Indeed, with be made public. In Sri Lanka too, India's fortunes change with China's expanding footprint in the change of guard. The going the Subcontinent and beyond, India has considerably stepped up its financial assistance for infrastructure projects and sought to forge strong economic linkages and trading ties with its neighbours, among other things. It has also sought to be the 'first responder' when they require humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Even so, those days when India was seen as the sole provider for its smaller neighbours are long gone. In Nepal, the Kalapani border dispute was drummed up as a sovereignty issue by then Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to rally public sup-port for his government. Oli even altered Nepal's map to show the disputed area as part of Nepal.

by Kathmandu to discuss the territorial dispute. But India looked the other way instead of addressing Nepal's concerns. Consequently, Kalapani remains a major irritant in the relation-ship. India did something similar with the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report prepared jointly by a team of experts from the two countries, with one of its mandates being to review the Nepal-India Friendship Treaty of 1950 that Kathmandu wants revised in keeping with present times. It's been ready since 2018 but has

'INDIA OUT' where the Opposition had briefly initiated an 'India Out' cam-paign, India will face an uphill task in building tiggerith th CAMPAIGN, INDIA WILL task in building ties with the new FACE AN government once elections are held. Likewise in the Maldives, **UPHILL TASK** the Opposition had launched an 'India Out' campaign, which helped propel current President IN BUILDING TIES WITH Mohamed Muizzu and his party to power. THE NEW Along with its required develop-GOVERNMENT

IN BANGLADESH

HAD BRIEFLY

WHERE

ment initiatives, India threw its entire weight behind Muizzu's **ONCE ELECTIONS** predecessor, Ibu Solih and his Maldivian Democratic Party, but ARE HELD failed to see him win a second term. Given these experiences, It's time India extended support to its neighbours in a more discreet and calibrated manner instead of being seen as an emperor doling out largesse to subjects. India may like to be seen as a close friend, benefactor and net security provider in the

was difficult with the Rajapaksas in power, though India now appears to have regained some lost ground after it provided the island nation with loans after its economy was badly hit during the pandemic.

been given a quiet burial by New

However, this does not mean that India will enjoy the goodwill of all political parties there for all times to come, given that relationships in the neighbourhood appear to have acquired a trans-actional character. Going forward, India will do well to not put all its eggs in one basket and seek to engage more vigorously with parties across the political spectrum in its neighbourhood, while continuing to help the countries with financial and other assistance. It should come across as a benevolent friend, not be perceived as an overbearing bully.

New Delhi could have simply pre-vented matters from escalating by holding a meeting at the foreign secretary level as was demanded

(The writer is a senior journal*ist; views are personal)*

Transforming the India Islamic Cultural Centre: A vision for progress and reform

With a new leadership poised to take charge, the Centre faces the challenge of dispelling stereotypes and promoting a progressive vision of Islam

hile showcasing the rich heritage of Islamic literature, culture, art, and traditions, the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) must also foster a culture of debate, discussion, and dialogue. This can be achieved by organizing conferences and seminars on crucial issues such as democracy, human rights, justice, peace, and global affairs.

The Centre should present a gentle and progressive face of Islam to our fellow citizens, countering media-generated stereotypes through engagement and cross-cultural interactions. This can be facilitated by hosting lectures and seminars led by renowned Islamic scholars.



TARIQ ASHRAF

In this context, I offer a few suggestions for the considera tion of the new IICC leadership. While maintaining an apolitical stance, the IICC could engage in research and documentation on contemporary issues through fellowships. Additionally, it should enhance its modest library into a comprehensive resource center for reference, research, and docu-

mentation. The IICC must also regularly publish reports and monographs on current issues affecting the community. There is an urgent need to add a small academic block to the building, providing a co-working space for authors and writers to

interact A significant issue within the Muslim community has been the breakdown of communication with other communities. The Centre should actively engage with civil society groups and the media to cultivate healthy relationships and dispel misconceptions. Special emphasis should be placed on involving women from the community in the Centre's



an open, liberal, and progressive environment.

The Centre can also advocate for much-needed reforms in Muslim society through dialogue and discussion, involving the Muslim clergy. By doing so, the IICC can become a serious hub for advocacy,

activities, exposing them to reform, and the promotion of moderation and cultural exchange. It should broaden its scope by involving a larger section of the community, not relying solely on financially resourceful mem-

The IICC is not intended to

be a center for coaching and career counseling, but

rather a space for intellectual discussions, cultural and artistic events, akin to its neighboring institutions like the India International Centre (IIC) and the India Habitat Centre (IHC).

There is no better person than Mr. Salman Khursheed to lay the foundation for this transformation during his tenure. With his visionary leadership and persuasive skills, he is expected to leave a lasting impact by establishing a strong visionary and regulatory institutional framework for future generations

There will undoubtedly be resistance from influential members who have treated the IICC as a social club for networking. However, Mr.

Khursheed, a charismatic and widely respected figure, has the capacity to lead effectively and develop the Centre into a progressive, representative, and responsible space that showcases the rich and ever-evolving Islamic culture—especially in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, both locally and globally. We will see how things unfold for the Centre in the coming days. In conclusion, the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) stands at a pivotal juncture, poised to redefine its role as a beacon of intel-

lectual discourse, cultural exchange, and societal reform. Under the leader-ship of Mr. Salman Khursheed, the Centre has

the potential to transform into a progressive and inclusive institution that not only preserves the rich heritage of Islamic culture but also fosters a spirit of dialogue and engagement. As the IICC embraces this visionary path, it could become a model for moderation, diversity, and meaningful community interaction, impacting both the Muslim community and the broader society positively.

(The author is an alumnus

of Hindu College, Delhi University and has been associated with the Centre for Policy Research, IIM

Lucknow, University of Delhi South Campus, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; views are personal)



Israel recovers bodies of 6 hostages in Gaza

AP JERUSALEM

Israel on Sunday said it had recovered the bodies of six hostages in Gaza, including a young Israeli-American man who became one of the most wellknown captives held by Hamas as his parents met with world leaders and pressed for his release. The military said all six had been killed shortly before the arrival of Israeli forces trying to rescue them. Their recovery sparked calls for mass protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu, whom many families of hostages and much of the wider Israeli public blame for failing to bring them back alive in a deal with Hamas to end the 10-month-old war. Negotiations over such a deal dragged on for have months.Netanyahu expressed sorrow over the deaths and said Israel would hold Hamas accountable for killing them in "cold blood". He said the killings prove that the militant group does not want a a cease-fire agreement."Whoever murders hostages doesn't want a deal," he said.Militants seized Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, and four of the other hostages at a music festival in southern Israel during Hamas' October 7 attack, which triggered the war. The native of Berkeley, California, lost part of his left arm to a grenade in the attack. In April, a Hamasissued video showed him, his left hand missing and clearly speaking under duress, sparking new protests in Israel urging the government to do more to secure his

'Anyone who murders hostages doesn't want ceasefire deal'

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed sorrow over the deaths of six hostages, saying the killings prove that Hamas does not want a cease-fire deal.

Netanyahu said Sunday that he was heartbroken to hear the news of the hostages' deaths. He accused Hamas of killing them in "cold blood" and said Israel would hold the group accountable. He also accused the group of scuttling ongoing cease-fire efforts. "Whoever murders hostages

and others' freedom. The army identified the other dead hostages as Ori Danino, 25; Eden Yerushalmi, 24; Almog Sarusi, 27; and Alexander Lobanov, 33; who were also taken from the music festival. The sixth, Carmel Gat, 40, was abducted from the nearby farming community of Beeri.It said the bodies were recovered from a tunnel in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, around a kilometer (half a mile) from where another hostage, Qaid Farhan Alkadi, 52, was rescued alive last week."According to preliminary information, they were cruelly murdered by Hamas terrorists shortly before we reached them," Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesperson, told reporters. Hamas has offered to



Netanyahu of dragging his feet in cease-fire talks charge he denies.

release the hostages in return for an end to the war, the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants.Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas official, blamed the hostages' deaths on Israel and the United States, saying they would still be alive if Israel had accepted a cease-fire proposal that Hamas said it had agreed to back in July. He did not mention the hostages by name. Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed and says military pressure is needed to bring home the hostages. Israel's Channel 12 reported that he got into a shouting match at a security Cabinet meeting late Thursday with his defense min-

ister, Yoav Gallant, who accused him of prioritising control of a strategic corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border — a major sticking point in the talks — over the lives of the hostages. The Cabinet reportedly voted in favour of remaining in the corridor over the objections of Gallant, who said it would prevent a hostage deal.An Israeli official confirmed the report and said three of the hostages — Goldberg-Polin, Yerushalmi and Gat — had been slated to be released in the first phase of a cease-fire proposal dis-cussed back in July. The official was not authorized to brief media about the negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"In the name of the state of Israel, I hold their families close to my heart and ask forgiveness," Gallant said Sunday after the remains were recovered. He later called for the Cabinet to reverse its decision. A forum of hostage families called for a massive protest on Sunday, demanding a "complete halt of the country" to push for the implementation of a cease-fire and hostage release.

"A deal for the return of the hostages has been on the table for over two months. Were it not for the delays, sabotage, and excuses those whose deaths we learned about this morning would likely still be alive," it said in a statement.US President Joe Biden, who has met with Goldberg-Polin's parents, said he was "devastated and outraged".

"It is as tragic as it is reprehensi-ble," he said. "Make no mistake,

Hamas leaders will pay for these crimes. And we will keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages."Vice President Kamala Harris said her prayers were with the Goldberg-Polin family and condemned Hamas. Goldberg-Polin's parents, US-born immigrants to Israel, became perhaps the most high-profile relatives of hostages on the international stage. They met with Biden, Pope Francis and others and addressed the United Nations, urging the release of all hostages. On August 21, his parents addressed a hushed hall at the Democratic National Convention after sustained applause and chants of "bring him home"." This is a political convention. But needing our only son — and all of the cherished hostages home is not a political issue. It is a humanitarian issue," said his father, Jon Polin. His mother, Rachel, who bowed her head during the ovation and touched her chest, said "Hersh, if you can hear us, we love you, stay strong, survive."She and her husband sought to keep their son and the others held from being reduced to numbers, describing Hersh as a music and soccer lover and traveller with plans to attend university since his military service had ended. At

events she often addressed her son directly in the hope he could hear her, urging him to live another day. Some 250 hostages were taken on October 7. Before the military's announcement of the latest dis-covery of bodies, Israel said it

believed 108 hostages were still held in Gaza, of which about onethird were dead. In late August, the Israeli military recovered the bodies of six hostages in southern Gaza.Eight hostages have been rescued by Israeli forces, the most recent found on Tuesday. More than 100 were freed during a weeklong cease-fire in November in exchange for the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Two previous Israeli operations to free hostages killed scores of Palestinians. Hamas says several hostages have been killed in Israeli airstrikes and failed rescue attempts. Israeli troops mistakenly killed three Israelis who escaped captivity in December.Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, when they stormed into southern Israel on October 7, attacking army bases and several farming communities.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not say how many were fighters and how many civilians. It has displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people, often multiple times, and plunged the besieged territory into a humanitarian catastrophe. In a separate development Sunday, Palestinian militants killed three Israeli police officers when they opened fire on their vehicle in the West Bank, according to Israeli officials. Israel has been carrying out large-scale military raids across the occupied territory in recent days

Large-scale polio vaccinations begin in Gaza

AP DEIR-AL-BALAH

Palestinian health authorities and United Nations agencies

on Sunday began a large-scale

campaign of vaccinations

against polio in the Gaza Strip,

hoping to prevent an outbreak

in the territory that has been

ravaged by the ongoing Israel-

Hamas war. Authorities plan to

vaccinate children in central

Gaza until Wednesday before

moving on to the more devas-

tated northern and southern

parts of the strip. The campaign

began with a small number of

vaccinations on Saturday and

aims to reach about 640,000

The World Health Organisation

said Thursday that Israel has

agreed to limited pauses in the

fighting to facilitate the cam-

There were initial reports of

Israeli strikes in central Gaza early Sunday, but it was not

immediately known if anyone

was killed or wounded. Hospitals in Deir al-Balah and

Nuseirat confirmed that the

campaign had begun early

Sunday. Israel said Saturday

that the vaccination pro-

gramme would continue

through September 9 and last

eight hours a day. Gaza recent-ly reported its first polio case in

25 years — a 10-month-old boy, now paralysed in the leg. The

World Health Organisation

children.

paign.

ture has sent putrid water flowing through the streets. Widespread hunger has left people even more vulnerable to illness. "We escaped death with our children, and fled from place to

world 08

place for the sake of our children, and now we have these diseases," said Wafaa Obaid, who brought her three children to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah to get the vaccinations.

Ammar Ammar, a spokesper-son for the UN children's agency, said it hopes both parties adhere to a temporary truce in designated areas to enable families to reach health facilities. "This is a first step," he told The Associated Press. "But there is no alternative to a cease-fire because it's not only polio that threatens children in Gaza, but also other factors, including malnutrition and the inhuman conditions they are

living in." The vaccinations will be administered at roughly 160 sites across the territory, including medical centres and schools. Children under 10 will receive two drops of oral polio vaccine in two rounds, the second to be administered four weeks after the first. Israel allowed around 1.3 million doses to be brought into the territory last month, which are now being held in refrigerated storage in a warehouse in Deir al-Balah. Another shipment of 400,000 doses is set to be delivered to Gaza soon The polio virus that triggered this latest outbreak is a mutat ed virus from an oral polio vaccine. The oral polio vaccine contains weakened live virus and in very rare cases, that virus is shed by those who are vaccinated and can evolve into a new form capable of starting new epidemics.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on October 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civil-ians, and abducting around

250 hostages Around 100 remain in captivity, about a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say whether those killed were fight ers or civilians.

'3 dead after small plane crashes in Oregon'

Portland (US) (AP): Three people were dead after a small plane crashed into a row of townhouses Saturday morning in a neighbourhood east of Portland, setting the homes ablaze, authorities told KATU-TV.Officials earlier in the day had said the plane was carry-ing two people and that at least one resident had been unaccounted for.

Photos and videos published by KGW-TV in Portland showed one of the townhomes engulfed in flames while black smoke poured out of the adjoining houses. Gresham Fire Chief Scott Lewis said the fire had spread to at least four of the homes, displacing up to six families. He said two people were treated at the scene, but he didn't describe the type or severity of injuries. The Administration identified the aircraft as a twin-engine Cessna 421C, which it says went down around 10:30 am near Troutdale Airport, about a 30minute drive east of Portland. As the plane went down, it knocked over a pole and power lines, causing a separate brush fire in a nearby field, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. The plane was split into multiple parts as it crashed in the residential area in the city of Fairview, which is home to about 10,000 people. Lewis said the first call about the fire came from staff at the Troutdale Airport's control tower, who saw a thick plume of smoke rising in the air. But Lewis said that initial reports indicated "there was no mayday, no call for emergency from the aircraft itself before it crashed. The National Transportation Safety Board is leading the investigation into the crash.

Harris calls Trump's appearance a 'political stunt'

US Vice President Kamala Harris said former President Donald Trump "dis-respected sacred ground" in his recent appearance at Arlington National Cemetery, where the Republican nomi-nee took and distributed images despite a federal prohibition on campaign activi-

ty on the grounds. Harris, in a statement posted Saturday on the social media platform X, cited

not a place for politics."The original incident stemmed Republicans' continued criti-cism of President Joe Biden and now Harris for the chaot-ic US withdrawal and now Harris for the chaot-ic US withdrawal from Afghanistan. At the invitation of some family members of service members killed during the withdrawal, Trump laid wreaths last Monday in hon-our of Sgt Nicole Gee, Staff Sgt Darin Hoover and Staff Sgt Rvan Knauss. Ryan Knauss. They were among 13 US ser-

vice members and more than 100 Afghans who died in an Aug 26, 2021, bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport. Trump's campaign was warned about not taking photographs before an altercation at the cemetery, according to defense officials. Officials have said since that

an Arlington employee whom two Trump campaign staff members allegedly "verbally abused and pushed" aside has declined to press charges. The Trump campaign has since lashed out at Pentagon officials, with a top campaign adviser, Chris LaCivita, referring to military spokespersons "hacks". Trump campaign as officials say it had permission to bring someone to take video.

Since Biden ended his reelection bid, Trump has been zeroing in on Harris and her roles in foreign policy deci-sions. He has specifically highlighted the vice president's statements that she was the last person in the room before Biden made the decision on Afghanistan.

says the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be mitment and timeline that hundreds more who have been the Trump administration had infected but aren't showing negotiated with the Taliban in symptoms. Most people who have polio do not experience 2020. A 2022 review by a gov-ernment-appointed special investigator concluded deci-sions made by both Trump symptoms, and those who do usually recover in a week or so. But there is no cure, and when and Biden were the key factors polio causes paralysis, it is usually permanent. If the paralysis leading to the rapid collapse of affects breathing muscles, the Afghanistan's military and the Taliban takeover.Harris on Saturday alluded to Trump's disease can be fatal. The vaccination campaign faces a host of challenges, from ongoing fighthistory of picking fights with veterans and repeated allega-tions that he has "called our ing to devastated roads and hospitals shut down by the war. Around 90 per cent of fallen service members suck-Gaza's population of 2.3 million ers' and losers' and disparaged Medal of Honour recipients". people have been displaced This is a man who is unable within the besieged territory, to comprehend anything other with hundreds of thousands than service to himself," crammed into squalid tent Harris said. "I will always camps. Health officials have honour the service and sacri expressed alarm about disease fice of all of America's fallen heroes...And I will never politicise them." outbreaks as uncollected garbage has piled up and the bombing of critical infrastruc-

AP WASHINGTON

reports that Trump's campaign aides created an altercation with a cemetery staffer and proceeded to take photographs and film the former president, including at the graves of Afghanistan war veterans, after being warned about rules at the site. "Let me



disrespected sacred ground, all for the sake of a political stunt," Harris said, calling Arlington a "solemn place where we come together to honour American heroes ...

financial scams, human traf-

after the Indonesian Embassy

in Manila requested the rescue

of eight Indonesians who were

the online gaming hub, according to the Presidential Anti-

Organized Crime Commission.

At least 162 foreign nationals

the compound," the commis-

sion said without elaborating.

Such crimes include fraudulent

However, it remains an impor-

Brazilians engage in political

debates and is highly influen-

tial among politicians, journal-

Philippine authorities detain more

Far-right party looking for

German leaders pay tribute

than 160 cybercrime suspects

and murder.

AP MANILA

Philippine authorities raided a suspected illegal online gaming and cyberscam complex in a central province and took into custody more than 160 people — mostly Chinese and Indonesians — who were committing internet-based crimes, officials said Sunday.The raid on Saturday by more than 100 government agents, backed by military intelligence, on a resort compound in Lapu-Lapu city was part of an ongoing crackdown after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr ordered a ban in July on widespread - and mostly Chineserun — online gaming operations that cater mostly to clients in China, where illegal gambling is banned.

Marcos said then that the massive illegal gambling opera-

tions have ignored Philippine defrauded victims of large laws with largescale violations amounts of money, according amounts of money, according to Philippine officials. of regulations and also committed other crimes, including

Chinese, The 83 70 Indonesians, 6 Myanmar ficking, torture, kidnappings nationals, 2 Taiwanese and a Malaysian will be flown to The raid at the Tourist Garden Manila to face an investigation Resort, which has 10 buildings by the Bureau of Immigration with swimming pools, karaoke and possible deportation, it added. The owner of the hotel bars and restaurants, came compound was arrested and could face criminal complaints, including for harboring illegal-ly staying foreigners, the comreportedly forced to work in mission and immigration offi-cials said. "We will suggest to the authorities to file cases against resort owners who allow their properties to be used by illegal aliens in their were found working in three separate scam farms within covert operations," Tansingco said. "This will serve as a warning to those who might love, gaming and investment attempt to start illegal online schemes online that have gambling operations."

wins in two state elections

Berlin (AP): Two state elections in eastern Germany Sunday offer the far-right Alternative for Germany the chance to become the strongest party for the first time and could produce painful results for the unpopular national government. A new party founded by a prominent leftist also hopes to make an imme-diate impact. About 3.3 million people are eligible to vote in Saxony and nearly 1.7 million in Thuringia.

Sunday's elections are being watched nervously in Berlin: While the three parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition were weak there already, they risk drop-ping under the 5 per cent support threshold needed to stay in the state legislatures at all.

to knife attack victims

and avoided deportation.

In recent days, Chancellor

Olaf Scholz's government has

announced new restrictions

on knives and new measures

to ease deportations. On

Harald Rønneberg described

the colorful ceremony to pub-lic broadcaster NRK. "It was

gospel and love. We laughed,

we clapped, and we were touched. It was absolutely beau-tiful." The couple has sold the

wedding photo rights to British

AP 📕 BERLIN

German leaders paid trib-dute on Sunday to the three people killed in the August 23 knife attack by a suspected Islamic extremist, which has pushed immigration back to the top of the country's political agenda. Eight people also were wounded in the attack at a "Festival of Diversity" marking the 650th anniversary of the city of Solingen in western Germany. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said at a memorial event in a city

theatre that he was "relieved and thankful" that none of them is now in serious danger. The 26-year-old Syrian suspect, who was arrested a day after the attack, was sup-posed to be deported to Bulgaria last year but report-edly disappeared for a time for the first time since the

Taliban returned to power in 2021, following up on a pledge made in June after a previous attack.

"It is a horrifying crime that brings us together today, carried out by a man who, according to everything we know, sought and and found protection here, and abused this protection so terribly," Steinmeier said at the memorial, also attended by Scholz and other top officials. "That is also intolerable."Steinmeier said that "we are for good reason a country that takes in people who seek protection from political persecution and war'

He added that "we want to remain that country, but ultimately we can only do so if the number of those who are not entitled to this special protection does not overbur-

On the first day without X, Brazilians feel disconnected from world

AP SAO PAULO

The blocking of social media platform X in Brazil divided users and politicians over the legitimacy of the ban, and many Brazilians had difficulty and doubts over navigating other social media in its absence. The shutdown of Elon Musk's platform started early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through mobile apps after the billionaire refused to name a legal representative to the country, missing a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. The blockade marks an escalation in a monthslong feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Brazil is one of the biggest

lions of users.

markets for X, with tens of mil-

"I've got the feeling that I have minute". Brazilian users are no idea what's happening in also setting records for activithe world right now. Bizarre," ties such as follows and likes, entertainment writer and Bluesky said. Previous users of heavy X user Chico Barney other platforms welcomed Brazilians to their ranks. "Hello wrote on Threads on Saturday. literally everyone in Brazil," a user wrote on Threads. "We're Threads is a text-based app developed by Instagram that Barney was using as an alter-native. "This Threads algoa lot nicer than Twitter here,' said another. Platform migrarithm is like an all-you-can-eat tion isn't new for Brazilians. They were huge adopters of restaurant where the waiter Orkut and, when Orkut went keeps serving things I would kaput, they very gladly moved to other platforms. X is not as popular in Brazil as Facebook, never order. Bluesky, a social media plat-form that was launched last Instagram, YouTube or TikTok.

year as an alternative to X and other more established sites, has seen a large influx of Brazilians in the past couple of days. The company said Friday it has seen about 200,000 new users from Brazil sign up during that time, and the number It's also where they share their sense of humour. Many of the continues to grow by the country's most famous memes originate from posts on X before spreading to other social networks.

Last week, for instance, Brazilians collaboratively crafted an absurd storyline for a fictional telenovela, complete with a theme song created using artificial intelligence tools.Pop stars and their fanbases were also hit by Brazilians being left off the platform

"Wait a lot of my fan pages are Brazilian!!! Come back hold up!!," Cardi B said Friday on X. À fan page dedicated to Timothée Chalamet, known by tant platform on which the handle TimotheeUpdates, said it would temporarily cease updating as all of its adminisists and other opinion makers. trators are Brazilian.

Norwegian princess Martha marries American self-styled shaman

AP HELSINKI

Social media influencers, reality stars and TV personalities were among the guests as the Norwegian king's eldest child, Princess Märtha Louise, married an American self-professed shaman on Saturday in a wedding ceremony following three days of festivities. The 52 year-old Märtha Louise and Durek Verrett, who claims to be a sixth-generation shaman from California, tied the knot in the picturesque small town of Geiranger, one of Norway's major tourist attractions located on a fjord with stunning views. Following festivities that started on Thursday, the actual wedding ceremony took place in a large white tent set up on a lush lawn. Guests told



media outlets that Norwegian and US artists performed at the event along with a gospel choir and a singer representing Norway's indigenous Sámi people. "It was fantastic! It was Hollywood meets Geiranger," Norwegian TV personality celebrity magazine Hello! and the film rights to Netflix. The deals prompted protests from Norwegian media, which say the arrangement goes against local practices. The couple have often lashed out against the press while promoting themselves on social media themselves on social media. The 87-year-old King Harald, who has been in fragile health the past few years, attended his daughter's wedding together with Queen Sonja and other member of the Norwegian roval house.

Crown Princess Victoria and her husband Prince Daniel represented the Swedish royal house together with her broth-er, Prince Carl Philip, and his wife Princess Sofia. No other European royals attended the wedding.

Friday, it deported Afghan den us".



Families in B'desh fight for justice against forced disappearances

PTI DHAKA

n a dimly lit room in Dhaka Baby Akhtar clutches a faded photograph of her husband, Tarikul Islam Tara, who vanished twelve years ago after allegedly being taken by Bangladesh's security agencies, a personal tragedy reflecting the broader nightmare of enforced disappearances that has haunted Bangladesh for over the last 15 years.

"I have been waiting for my husband for the last 12 years. My life and family have been ruined for no fault of mine. We want justice. We hope that the interim government will give us justice. I want my husband back," she said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

The fate of hundreds like Tara remains shrouded in uncertainty following the recent ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose administration was accused of presiding over systematic

enforced disappearances. With Hasina's departure, the interim government has taken a significant step by forming a commission to investigate these cases. However, for the families still waiting, the commission's formation is both a beacon of hope and a reminder of the years lost in their pursuit of justice, given nearly 700 registered cases of forced disappearances in the last one and a half decades of the Awami

League regime. "Forced disappearances were the order of the day during the Sheikh Hasina regime. For the families of the missing, the commission's formation is a momentous occasion. We hope viduals. to get justice after fighting this battle for the last 15 years, Sanjida Islam Tulee, coordinator of Mayer Daak-an NGO

working with the families of the disappeared—told PTI. "This terror of enforced disappearances was used to suppress political opposition, silence

dissent, and create a climate of fear in the country. In the past 1.5 decades, families of those who had been subjected to enforced disappearance were systematically denied legal redress. Although the registered cases are around 700, the actual figures are much higher," she said. The recent formation of a

commission of inquiry by the interim government of Bangladesh, led by a retired high court judge and including legal and human rights experts, offers a glimmer of hope to beleaguered families by investigating the disappearances and tracing the missing indi-

This development came shortly after the new government signed the United Nations Convention against Enforced Disappearances, signalling a commitment to addressing these grave human rights violations. In commemoration of the International Day of the

ments, and institutions should

ment, PTI leader Asad Qaiser

questioned the sincerity of

the offer and said the govern-

ment was uncertain about the

dialogue and making contra-

He said the statement of PML-

N chief Nawaz Sharif was fol-

lowed by a statement from

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif

Asked if Sharif's statement was

Khan had already nominated

with the government and that

touch with the PkMAP chief

rather than giving suggestions.

The PTI Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, Omar

Ayub, also said his party was ready to hold talks provided

that the Shehbaz administration

freed PTI prisoners, including

talk

dictory statements.

talk to the PTL

join hands in decision-mak-

of Victims Enforced Disappearances in 2024, a joint statement by human rights organisations including Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, the Capital Punishment Justice Project, International Federation for Human Rights, Mayer Daak, Odhikar and Robert F Kennedy Human Rights denounced the systematic enforced disappearances committed by Bangladeshi law enforcement and security forces under the ousted Sheikh Hasina administration.

According to a statement issued by Odhikar, an NGO working for justice for the victims of enforced disappearances, data they collected shows that between January 2009 and June 2024, 709 people were subjected to enforced disappearances by Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies and security forces. "Among them, 471 were surfaced alive or

were produced in court. Meanwhile, 83 victims were found dead, with some of them allegedly caught in 'crossfire' with security forces. To date, 155 people remain missing," it said.

Human rights defenders and families have highlighted that victims of enforced disappearances were held in secret detention centres known as "Aina ghar" or "mirror rooms," including one reportedly in Dhaka Cantonment and others across the country, operated by various security agencies. Human rights activists point-

ed out that the recent release of a few victims who had been held in secret detention for years confirms the long-denied allegations of enforced disappearances committed under the ousted Hasina administration. Rights activist Michael Chakma, who was detained in secret cells for the last six years and was released only after Hasina's ouster, recalled

Police order return of looted ammunition by September 3

paper reported. In a directive, the Police

Headquarters said looted arms

and ammunition of police must be returned by Tuesday.

By Saturday, law enforcement

authorities had recovered a

total of 3,872 weapons of var-

ious types, looted from police

stations and offices during

the recent unrest, the report

said. In addition, as many as

286,216 rounds of bullets,

22,201 teargas shells, and 2,139

stun grenades were also recov-

only. For the last six years, I hardly remember when I last

saw the sunlight. There were

many more like me in those

Political parties such as the

cells," he told reporters.

ered, it said.

PTI 📕 DHAKA

Bangladesh police on Sunday ordered citizens to return by September 3 all arms and ammunition looted from police stations during the recent violence which led to prime minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster, according to media reports. The violence that hit the country during the massive quota reform protests saw widespread attacks and looting of police stations across the country, The Daily Star news-

the horror he went through in extra-judicial custody. "I was beaten every day and tortured beyond imagination.

I never dreamed of coming out and thought I would die there

The directive follows the interim government's earlier decision to suspend the firearms licences issued to all civilians during the more than 15 years of the Hasina-led Awami League government.

world 09

On August 26, civilians holding such licenced firearms were ordered to surrender these to their respective police stations by Tuesday, after which an all-out drive will be launched on September 5 to recover any remaining firearms.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami also complained about several instances of their activists and supporters being victims of forced disappearances.

Pak's ruling party PML-N Russia says it downed over 150 drones opposes talks with PTI AP MOSCOW Kremlin's assault.

PTI ISLAMABAD

mid reports of an "indirect Adialogue" with the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has strongly opposed talks with their political neme-

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday conditioned the holding of any dialogue with the PTI with an apology by party founder and former prime minister Imran Khan for allegedly staging May 9 violence last year.

The protests saw attacks on public properties including military installations following 71-year-old Khan's arrest in a corruption case, Dawn News reported.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif also opposed the talks with the former ruling party, saying he is not in favour of any such dialogue. Previously, the ruling parties extended an olive branch to the Khanfounded party several times but to no avail as the latter said he will only hold talks with those wielding real power in the country.

The ruling party leaders' statements came amid reports that the PML-N had purportedly approached Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai for holding talks also heads the opposition alliance Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Ain-e-Pakistan, was nominated by jailed Khan to hold talks

with the ruling parties. Responding to the report, Asif

told journalists that he was not ing. [They] need to sit togethpart of the "team assigned to er to steer the country out of talk to the PkMAP chairman". crises," a statement issued by When asked whether talks the PML-N after a meeting on should be held with the former Saturday quoted the elder Sharif as saying. However, in response to a question about ruling party, the PML-N stalwart said: "I'm not in favour of negotiations. negotiations with the govern-

Iqbal also opposed dialogue with PTI until Khan "apologises for the violence carried out on May 9' Criticising the PTI, the min-

ister accused the party of causing more damage than terrorists and questioned the possibility of dialogue with such individuals. Earlier on August 3, Khan said

he was open to talks but only within the "ambit provisioned by the Constitution". The cricketer-turned-politi-

cian had clarified that he asked Achakzai to negotiate with political parties. Achakzai will only [hold] talks with political parties," he said

Meanwhile, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif proposed an across-the-board dialogue involving all political parties, including the PTI as well as the state institutions, to steer Pakistan out of crises.

The proposal to take everyone Khan. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar on board was floated amid attempts by President Asif Ali Khan also said that his party Zardari and Prime Minister had not offered any talks to the Shehbaz Sharif to court their incumbent ruling party. "The Maul Fazlur PTI neither off

Russian air defences inter-cepted and destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones overnight, including two over Moscow and nine over the surrounding region, the Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

Forty-six of the drones were over the Kursk region, where Ukraine has sent its forces in recent weeks in the largest incursion on Russian soil since World War II. A further 34 were shot over the Bryansk region, 28 over the Voronezh region, and 14 over the Belgorod region — all of which border Ukraine.

Drones were also shot down deeper into Russia, including one each in the Tver region, northwest of Moscow, and the that the government would not Ivanovo region, northeast of the Russian capital. Russia's Defence Ministry said drones more important, the former National Assembly speaker said were intercepted over 15 regions, while one other governor said a drone was shot Achakzai to hold negotiations down over his region, too. Moscow Mayor Sergei if the ruling party is serious about the offer, it should get in

Sobyanin said that falling debris from one of the two drones shot down over the city Wreckage of missing helicopter located, 17 bodies discovered

AP MOSCOW

Rescuers have located a heli-Russia's far east with 22 people on board, officials said on Sunday. Russia's emergencies ministry said the bodies of 17 people have been found and that rescuers were continuing to search for the remaining occupants.

All those on board are presumed to have died, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said, citing the Emergencies Ministry, adding that the helicopter had likely crashed due to poor visibility in bad weather conditions.

The wreckage of the previously missing helicopter was discovered from the air. It is located at an altitude of 900

caused a fire at an oil refinery. Ukrainian drone strikes have

metres near the place where it was last contacted," the emergencies ministry wrote on Telegram. The Mi-8 helicopter off close to the took Vachkazhets volcano in the

front line into the heart of Russia. Since the beginning of brought the fight far from the the year, Ukraine has stepped

Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry said Sunday it had taken control of the towns of Pivnichne and Vyimka, in Ukraine's Donetsk region. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim. Russian forces have been dri-

ving deeper into the partly occupied eastern region, the total capture of which is one of the Kremlin's primary ambitions. Russia's army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defense

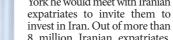
Oleh Syniehubov said five people were wounded in shelling

ed when Russia shelled the regional capital on Sunday, tries and many other nations. also called Kharkiv. Syniehubov up aerial assaults on Russian said a shopping centre, a sports facility and residential buildsoil, targeting refineries and oil terminals to slow down the ings were damaged.

Iran needs more than \$100 bn | **Storm creeps through** in foreign investment: Prez

AP TEHRAN

Tran's president said on



York he would meet with Iranian

Japan, bringing heavy rainfall to some spots

Kamchatka region on Saturday but did not arrive at its destination as scheduled, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency

earlier said in a statement. It said it believed that 19 passengers and three crew members were on board. The Mi-8 is a two-engine helicopter designed in the 1960s. It is widely used in Russia, where in his region. crashes have been frequent, as Six more people were woundwell as in neighboring coun-

In Ukraine overnight, eight drones were shot down out of 11 launched by Russia, according to the Ukrainian air force. One person was killed and four

in the area.

wounded in shelling overnight in the Sumy region, local officials said, while Kharkiv Gov.

Rehman, who had announced a solo flight against the government earlier this month. "All political parties, govern-

nor sought any favours,' Barrister Gohar said while speaking to Geo News on Sunday

Azerbaijan holds parl election, expected to retain the presidential party's dominance

Baku (AP): Azerbaijan on Sunday is holding a snap parliamentary election that is the first for the country since it regained full control of a former breakaway territory in a lightning offensive last year. Previous elections since independence from the Soviet Union have not been regarded as fully free or fair, and the vote for the Milli Meilis parliament is not expected to bring significant changes to the body that is dominated by the

New Azerbaijan party of President Ilham Aliyev. Under the constitution, the election would have been held in November, but Alivev decreed it to take place two months early because the capital of Baku will host United Nations climate talks known as COP29 that same month. Aliyev and his late father, Heydar

Alivey, have led Azerbaijan with their heavy-handed rule since 1993, suppressing dissent as the

country of almost 10 million people on the shores of the Caspian Sea basked in growing wealth from its huge oil and natural gas reserves.

New Azerbaijan holds 69 of the 125 seats in the parliament, and most of the rest belong to small pro-government parties or independents. The Musavat party the major opposition formation, put forth 34 candidates for Sunday's election but only 25 of them were registered

some \$100 billion in foreign investment to achieve an annual target of 8% economic growth up from the current rate of 4%. The remarks by Masoud Pezeshkian, who was elected in July, came in his first live televised interview by state TV. Pezeshkian said Iran needs up to \$250 billion to reach its goal but more than half is available from domestic resources. Experts say growth in GDP of 8% would reduce double-digit inflation and unemployment rates. Hundreds of entities and people in Iran — from the central bank and government officials to drone producers and money exchangers — are already under international sanctions, many of them accused of materially sup-



roups such as Hamas. Hezbollah and the Houthis Pezeshkian in his interview

complained about the sanctions and said his administration plans to reduce inflation, which is running at more than 40% annually, "if we solve our problems with neighbours and the world." He did not elaborate. Pezeshkian confirmed that his first visit abroad will be to neighboring Iraq and he would then fly to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly meeting on Sept 22-23. He said while he was in New

some 1.5 million Iranian live in the United States

Pezeshkian, who is viewed as a reformist, was sworn in last month and parliament approved his cabinet earlier in August, promising a softer tone both inside and outside the country. His predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi, a hard-line protege of Iran's supreme leader who led the country as it enriched uranium near weapons-grade levels, died in a helicopter crash in May, along with seven other people. Iran's economy has struggled since 2018 after then-President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the deal to constrain Tehran's nuclear programme and imposed more sanctions. Pezeshkian said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal.

AP TOKYO

 $T_{\mathrm{brought}}^{\mathrm{ropical Storm Shanshan}}$ Sunday to Japan's Shizuoka area, 180 km (110 miles) southwest of Tokyo, as weather officials warned the storm would linger for several more days. Shanshan, packing winds of 65 kph (40 mph), made landfall Thursday, leaving landslides, flooded rivers, torn branches and scattered debris in its path. In southwestern Japan, people were busy cleaning up muddied homes and throwing out broken appliances.

The storm is so far connected with at least six deaths, including three people who were trapped in a mudslide. It left one person missing and 127 people injured, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK, which compiles reports from local governments. Shanshan was travelling extremely slowly and

Sunday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. It triggered rainfall in an extensive area, even in places not in its path, such as the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, according to the agency. Some homes became lopsided as roofs caved in, while vehicles passed through brown water. Shanshan initially crept across the southwestern Japanese

barely moving at all as of

islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, then reached the main island of Honshu, meandering into coastal waters at one point but later moving back onto land. Landslide warnings were issued in parts of Hamamatsu and Izu cities in Shizuoka Prefecture and Yokohama in Kanagawa, a port city near Tokyo, as well as at-risk spots in Tokyo. Tokyo in recent days saw mostly cloudy skies, speckled with moments of sudden and intense showers.

Chocolate future could hinge on success of growing cocoa neurs are betting on demand

AP WEST SACRAMENTO

limate change is stressing Crainforests where the highly sensitive cocoa bean grows, but chocolate lovers need not despair, say companies that are researching other ways to grow cocoa or develop cocoa substitutes.

Scientists and entrepreneurs are working on ways to make more cocoa that stretch well beyond the tropics, from Northern California to Israel. California Cultured, a plant cell culture company, is growing cocoa from cell cultures at a facility in West Sacramento, California, with plans to start selling its products next year. It puts cocoa bean cells in a vat with sugar water so they reproduce quickly and reach maturity in a week rather than the six to eight months a traditional harvest takes, said Alan Perlstein, the company's chief executive. The process also no longer requires as much water or arduous labour.

"We see just the demand of chocolate monstrously out-

stripping what is going to be available," Perlstein said.

'There's really no other way that we see that the world could significantly increase the supply of cocoa or still keep it at affordable levels without extensive either environmental degradation or some significant other cost." Cocoa trees grow about 20

degrees north and south of the equator in regions with warm weather and abundant rain, including West Africa and South America.

Climate change is expected to dry out the land under the additional heat. So scientists, entrepreneurs and chocolatelovers are coming up with ways to grow cocoa and make the crop more resilient and more resistant to pests — as well as craft chocolatey-tasting cocoa alternatives to meet demand.

The market for chocolate is massive with sales in the United States surpassing USD 25 billion in 2023, according to the National Confectioners

growing faster than the supply of cocoa. Companies are look-ing at either bolstering the supply with cell-based cocoa or offering alternatives made from products ranging from oats to carob that are roasted and flavoured to produce a chocolatey taste for chips or filling. The price of cocoa soared earlier this year because of demand and troubles with the crop in West Africa due to plant disease and changes in weather. The region produces the bulk of the world's cocoa. "All of this contributes to a potential instability in supply, so it is attractive to these labgrown or cocoa substitute companies to think of ways to replace that ingredient that we know of as chocolatey-flavored," said Carla D. Martin, executive director of the Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute and a lecturer in African and

African American Studies at Harvard University. The innovation is largely driven by demand for chocolate in the US and Europe, Martin said. Association. Many entrepre-

While three-quarters of the world's cocoa is grown in West and Central Africa, only 4 per cent is consumed there, she said

porting Iran's Revolutionary

Guard and foreign militant

The push to produce cocoa indoors in the US comes after other products, such as chicken meat, have already been grown in labs. It also comes as supermarket shelves fill with evolving snack options something that developers of cocoa alternatives say shows people are ready to try what looks and tastes like a chocolate chip cookie even if the chip contains a cocoa substitute. They said they also are hoping to tap into rising consciousness among consumers about where their food comes from and

what it takes to grow it, particularly the use of child labour in the cocoa industry. Planet A Foods in Planegg,

Germany, contends the taste of mass market chocolate is derived largely from the fermentation and roasting in making it, not the cocoa bean itself. The company's founders tested out ingredients ranging from olives to seaweed and settled on a mix of oats and sunflower seeds as the best tasting chocolate alternative, said Jessica Karch, a company spokesperson. They called it "ChoViva" and it can be subbed into baked goods, she said. The idea is not to replace the high quality, 80 per cent dark chocolate, but really to have a lot of different products in the

Yet while some are seeking to create alternative cocoa sources and substitutes, others are trying to bolster the supply of cocoa where it naturally grows. Mars, which makes M&Ms and Snickers, has a research facility at University of California, Davis aimed at making cocoa plants more resilient, said Joanna Hwu, the company's senior director of cocoa plant science. The facility hosts a living collection of cocoa trees so scientists can study what makes them disease-resistant to help farmers in producing countries and ensure a stable supply of beans. "We see it as an opportunity,

and our responsibility," Hwu said.

In Israel, efforts to expand the supply of cocoa are also under way. Celleste Bio is taking cocoa bean cells and growing them indoors to produce cocoa powder and cocoa butter, said co-founder Hanne Volpin. In a few years, the company expects to be able to produce cocoa regardless of the impact of climate change and disease — an effort that has drawn interest from Mondelez, the maker of Cadbury chocolate.

"We only have a small field, but eventually, we will have a farm of bioreactors," Volpin said. That's similar to the effort under way at California Cultured, which plans to seek permission from the US Food and Drug Administration to call its product chocolate, because, according to Perlstein, that's what it is.

It might wind up being called brewery chocolate, or local chocolate, but chocolate no less, he said, because it's genetically identical though not harvested from a tree.

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NOTICE

THE 15[™] ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS/DELEGATES OF SAHARA CREDIT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 20[™] SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT 11:30 A.M. AT 3[™] FLOOR, SAHARA INDIA TOWER, 7, KAPOORTHALA COMPLEX, ALIGANJ, LUCKNOW – 226024.

BUSINESS ITEMS ON AGENDA :

- To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
- To consider and approve the amendments in the registered bye-laws of the Society, due to the MSCS (Amendment) Act, 2023.
- To brief the members about the status of payment made through "CRCS Sahara Refund Portal" in compliance to the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 29.03.2023. To brief the members about the election of Delegates and Directors of the Society for the next term i.e. 2025 - 2030. To consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statement of accounts for the F.Y.2023-24. 5.
- To consider and approve the Audit Report and Annual Report for the F.Y. 2023-24.

- To consider and approve the Audit Compliance Report. To consider and approve the Audit Compliance Report. To consider and approve the disposal of net profit. To consider and approve the creation of specific reserve and other funds and their actual utilization.

- To consider and approve the Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26. To consider and approve the Annual Action Plan for the Financial Year 2025-26. To apprise members about the list of employees who are relatives of members of the Board or of the Managing Director.
- 13. To apprise members about the formulation of code of conduct for the members of the
- To consider and approve the appointment/re-appointment of Statutory Auditor for the F.Y. 2024-25.
- 15. Any other item, if any, with the permission of Chairperson

to. Yary oner norm, in any, whith the permission of oneinperson.
Place : Lucknow By order of the Board Date : 30 th August, 2024 For Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited
Note : Managing Director
Please note that if there is no quorum within half an hour of the time fixed for the scheduled

riesse note that it there is no quorum within half an hour of the time fixed for the scheduled meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned and the adjourned meeting shall be held at 12:30 p.m. on the same day i.e. 20th September, 2024 to transact the agenda items as aforesaid and that no quorum shall be necessary for transacting the business in the adjourned meeting so held.

mass market," Karch said.



money 10

Global factors, macroeconomic data, and FPI activity to shape market sentiments MCap of top firms surges PTI 📕 NEW DELHI by Rs 1.53 lakh crore market has been on an upward march for the last 12 trading sessions," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research),

PTI NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,53,019.32 crore last week, with Bharti Airtel and IT majors Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, in line with a record

rally in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,279.56 points or 1.57 per cent. Rallying for the ninth straight

session on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77. During the day, it jumped 502.42 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 82,637.03.

The market valuation of Bharti Airtel soared Rs 47,194.86 crore to Rs 9.04.587.12 crore.

Infosys added Rs 33,611.37 crore taking its valuation to Rs 8,06,880.50 crore. Tata

The valuation of Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped Rs 31,784.9 crore to



Rs 16,46,899.17 crore and that of ICICI Bank surged Rs 18,734.3 crore to Rs 8,66,374.41 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries climbed Rs 13,396.42 crore to Rs 20,43,107.10 crore and that of HDFC Bank rallied Rs 5,600.24 crore to Rs

12,44,206.43 crore

valuation of The Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) went up by Rs 2,340.25 crore to Rs 6,73,390.88 crore and that of State Bank of India advanced Rs 356.98 crore to Rs 7,27,935.97 crore. However, the mcap of

Hindustan Unilever slumped Rs 8,411.54 crore to Rs

Life 6.52,739.95 crore and that of ITC declined by Rs 4,776.48 crore to

> Rs 6,27,587.76 crore. Reliance Industries continued to retain the title of the most valued firm followed by TCS HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel,

ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC. Commercial LPG gets

Movement in the stock market this week will largely be driven by global trends, macroeconomic data announcements and trading activity of foreign investors, analysts said.

Equity benchmark indices, which are on a dream run for the past several days, will also track trading in global oil benchmark Brent crude and movement of rupee against the US dollar.

"The next FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting is scheduled for mid-September, but before that, the market will be closely watching upcoming US economic data. Key indicators like manufacturing PMI, nonfarm payrolls, and unemployment rate will be released this week, all of which could significantly influence market sentiment. "Institutional flows will play a

critical role," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. The primary driver behind

the bullish momentum in the domestic market is the growing anticipation of a rate cut in the United States and said. buying support from Last

domestic investors. Auto stocks would remain in the limelight amid sales data

hike, ATF price down



or 1.66 per cent.

In nine days of rally, the BSE benchmark surged 1,941.09 points or 2.41 per cent. The Nifty zoomed 1,096.9 points "We expect the market to continue its northbound journey with stock-specific action. Global macro data which will be released during or 4.54 per cent in 12 sessions. "Benchmark indices scaled the week will continue to new highs in a positive trading session on the back of provide cues to domestic Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, broad-based buying support, as hopes of a rate cut by the Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, US Fed next month after last week's Jackson Hole meeting week, the BSE has made investors more benchmark jumped 1,279.56 confident. However, caution points or 1.57 per cent, and the Nifty soared 412.75 points may prevail and profit-taking could make a comeback as the

Mehta Equities Ltd, said. On Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77.

During the day, it jumped 502.42 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 82,637.03.

In its best winning streak since its launch in 1996, the Nifty soared 83.95 points or 0.33 per cent to hit a new lifetime closing high of 25,235.90, taking its victorious run to the 12th day in a row.

During the day, it surged 116.4 points or 0.46 per cent to hit a new record intra-day peak of 25,268.35.

Nifty ended higher on Friday for the twelfth consecutive session, its best winning streak since its launch in 1996 Global shares mostly rose Friday as markets continued

to be moderately optimistic about the prospects of technology companies helped by the prospect of lower interest rates amid signs of moderating inflation across the developed world," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

V Satish Kumar takes over as IOC chairman

PTI NEW DELHI

V Satish Kumar on Sunday took over as the chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm.

Kumar, who is director (marketing) at IOC, was given additional charge of chairman following delays in finding a full-time chairman.

"He will concurrently serve as chairman while continuing in his role as Director (Marketing), a position he has held since October 2021," the company said in a statement. He also held the additional charge of Director (Finance) for one year from October 2022, a period characterised by geopolitical tensions due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict. With a career spanning 35 years, Kumar has served in various regions across the country and held key leading positions.

Govt to amend CPSE capital restructuring guidelines

PTI NEW DELHI

The government is working to amend its 2016 guidelines with regard to dividend payment, bonus issues and share buyback by CPSEs, officials said. The finance ministry had in 2016, issued a May comprehensive guidelines on

Central

have plans to deploy their capital optimally for business purposes should have a guidelines is that CPSEs professional look at the surplus funds available to them.

As per the guidelines issued investors interested in the by the Department of Investment and Public Asset stock. The Capital Restructuring of Management (DIPAM) in Central Public Sector May 2016, every CPSE is Management (DIPAM) in capitalisation of CPSEs, banks and insurance companies has Enterprises (CPSEs)' in 2016 required to pay a minimum for efficient management of annual dividend of 30 per grown over 500 per cent in the past three years from Rs government investment in cent of PAT or 5 per cent of 15 lakh crore to over Rs 58 the net worth Also, every CPSE having net worth of at least Rs 2,000 Also, the government's equity holding has risen four times crore and cash and bank to Rs 38 lakh crore from Rs 9.5 lakh crore in January balance of over Rs 1,000 crore were required to opt for share 2021. So far in 2024-25, Rs 10,604.74 crore has been buyback. Also, bonus shares are to be issued if the defined reserves obtained through dividend and surplus of CPSEs is equal from the CPSEs to or more than 10 times of its In the current fiscal year, the paid up equity share capital. government has budgeted to A CPSE where market price collect Rs 56,260 crore as or book value of its share

restructuring guidelines exceeds 50 times of its face issued, CPSEs that do not value will split-off its shares

appropriately. The intention behind the sitting on cash piles are required to pay dividends, which will, in turn, help keep

combined market

Jet fuel, or ATF, price was on Sunday reduced by 4.6 per cent while the rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was hiked by Rs 39 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 4,495.5

PTI NEW DELHI

price was cut by its 5,725.5 per kilolitre, or 4.58 per cent, to Rs 93,480.22 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The price reduction will help ease the burden on airlines for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the

operating cost. The reduction follows two rounds of monthly price increases. Iet fuel pri



announcement

equities,

"With the CPSEs now more

strong in terms of balance sheet and having improved on their market capitalisation, it is now time for a relook of the restructuring capital guidelines," an official told PTI.

The amended guidelines are expected to be issued by the finance ministry this month, another official said. capital per the As

on August 1 raised by 2 per cent or Rs 1,827.34 per kl and by 1.2 per cent (Rs 1,179.37 per kl). These hikes followed a steep 6.5 per cent (Rs 6,673.87 per kl) reduction effected on Iune 1.

The ATF rate in Mumbai was reduced to Rs 87,432.78 per kl on Sunday from Rs 91,650.34 previously.

Prices differ from state to dividend from public sector . | state depending on the

Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG by Rs 39 to Rs 1,691.50 per 19-kg cylinder. This is the second straight

monthly increase. Prices were hiked by Rs 6.5 per cylinder on August 1. The two rounds of increase

follow four monthly price reductions. In four price reductions, rates were cut by Rs 148 per 19-kg cylinder.

Indian realty giants sell properties worth Rs 35,000 Crore

Rs 1,644 per 19-kg cylinder in Mumbai, Rs 1,802.50 in Kolkata and Rs 1,855 in Chennai.

Rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-

kg cylinder. Indian Oil State-owned Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan

(HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate.

Prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates had been cut Rs 2 per litre in mid-March. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 a litre in Delhi while diesel is priced at Rs 87.62.

efforts to maintain its leadership in the marketing of petroleum products.

He has also gained extensive experience in engaging with multinational oil companies, serving as non-executive chairman of Indian Oil Petronas Pvt Ltd, a joint venture between IOC and Petronas (Malaysia), and as non-executive chairman of Indian Oil Mauritius Ltd, a subsidiary of IOC.

'In his capacity as Director (Marketing), he ensured uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products across the various geographies even during the times of natural calamities or other disruptions, exemplifying the spirit of 'Nation First' and 'On Duty Always'," the statement

said.

IOC's marketing division under his leadership ensured the highest ever physical performance year upon year in the last three years. During his tenure, the company embarked upon large scale modernisation of its retail outlets with new retail visual identity and setting up of new bottling plants, terminals and large retail outlets with wayside amenities on highways.

During this period, IOC emerged as a leader in sales of high octane and energy efficient fuels, green combo lubricants, composite LPG cylinders and 25 kg bitumen packs in the market for making products affordable and customer conveniences. He led the marketing division in making aggressive forays and took leadership positions in marketing alternate and clean energy solutions like emobility, bio-fuel blends. IOC is the only oil company to

market ethanol 100, AVGas 100 LL, and methanol blend diesel.

Prior to his appointment as Director (Marketing), Kumar held the position of State Head for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

INBRIEF

AMRIT STATIONS WORKS PROGRESSING AT RAPID PACE OVER N.F. RAILWAY

MALIGAON: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is carrying out redevelopment works across 91 stations within its network under the prestigious Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). This initiative as part of the Indian Bailways' broader vision to transform the passenger experience.

SATPAL SINGH SOKHI APPOINTED AS CO-ORDINATOR

AMRITSAR: Satpal Singh Sokhi has been appointed as the Co-ordinator for North India by the Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh. This appointment was announced in an official letter signed by Dr. Baban Taywade, the President of the organization

CANCELLATION, DIVERSIONS & AMP; RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS

MALIGAON: To increase the efficiency of train operations and reduce traffic congestions in New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Kamakhya section, N.F. Railway has undertaken various capacity augmentation works apart from doubling of that section. In this connection, Pre Non–Interlocking works from 31st August till 1st September. 2024 and Non - Interlocking works from 2nd September till 3rd September. 2024 for commissioning of double line between Barpeta Road & Sorbhog railway stations under Rangiya division will be executed

HMSI HOSTS ROAD SAFETY CONVENTION IN DELHI



NEW DELHI: In a significant move towards advocating traffic safety awareness, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) today held a pivotal Road Safety Convention in Delhi. This event of HMSI's project - Mindset Development for Our Future Generation, underscores the dedication to cultivate road safety consciousness

RECPDCL HANDS OVER 2 SPVS VIZ. KHAVDA IV



GURUGRAM: RECPDCL, handed over 2 project specific SPVs viz, Khavda IV A Power Transmission Limited to M/s Adani Energy Solutions Limited and Khavda IV C Power Transmission Limited to M/s Sterlite Grid 38 Limited.

PTI NEW DELHI

India's 21 major listed real Lestate developers have together sold properties worth nearly Rs 35,000 crore during the latest June quarter with Godrej Properties highest sale reporting bookings.

Except few, all major listed real estate developers have shown annual growth in sale bookings in the April-June quarter driven by strong consumer demand for properties, residential especially of luxury homes. According to the data compiled from regulatory filings, India's 21 major listed

realty firms have reported combined sale bookings of Rs 34,927.5 crore in the first guarter of 2024-25 fiscal.

Out of these combined sale bookings, bulk of pre-sales came from residential

segment. In terms of sale bookings, Godrej Properties emerged as the largest listed player in the June quarter with pre-sales of Rs 8,637 crore.

DLF Ltd, the country's largest realty firm in terms of market capitalisation, reported more than three-fold jump in its sale bookings at Rs 6,404 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal. Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers, which sells properties under 'Lodha'



4,030 crore. Gurugram-based Signature Global, which recently got listed, achieved sale bookings of Rs 3,120 crore in June quarter, more than three times from the year-ago period.

Prestige Bengaluru-based Estates Projects clocked sale bookings of Rs 3,029.5 crore in June quarter, down from the corresponding period of the previous year.

Bengaluru-based firms Sobha Ltd and Brigade Enterprises sold properties worth Rs 1,874 crore and Rs 1,086 crore, respectively, during the April-June period of this fiscal.

Bengaluru - based Puravankara Ltd achieved sale bookings of Rs 1,128 crore, almost flat compared brand, clocked pre-sales of Rs to the year-ago period.

Mumbai-based Oberoi Realty, which is into luxury housing segment, sold properties worth Rs 1,067 crore last fiscal. builders Mumbai-based

Lifespace Mahindra Developers Ltd and Keystone Realtors (Rustomjee) clocked sale bookings of Rs 1,019 crore and Rs 611 crore, respectively. Pune-based Kolte-Patil sold

properties worth Rs 711 crore while Mumbai-based Sunteck Realty sold properties worth Rs 502 crore.

Bengaluru-based Shriram Properties achieved sale bookings of Rs 376 crore. Delhi-based TARC Ltd and Ashiana Housing achieved sale bookings of Rs 310 crore and crore,

Rs 235 respectively.

Smartspaces Ltd sold properties worth Rs 201 crore, while Mumbai-based Aimera Realty & Infrastructure Ltd reported pre-sales of Rs 306 crore. Lucknow-based Eldeco Housing & Industries Ltd sold properties worth Rs 59 crore while Mumbai-based Equinox India Developments Ltd (earlier Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd) achieved pre-sales of Rs 82 crore. Mumbai-based Suraj Estate

Ahmedabad-based Arvind

Developers Ltd has reported a sale bookings of Rs 140 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal year. Sale bookings data of many

listed players was not available.

Industry experts attribute this increase in sale bookings of major listed players to strong housing demand after

the COVID pandemic. Housing market is also witnessing a shift in consumer demand towards those realty companies and brands which have better track record of executing real estate projects.

Real estate developers, which are not listed on stock exchanges, generally do not report their quarterly and annual sale bookings.

Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd, Adani Realty, Piramal Realty, Hiranandani Group, Embassy Group and K Raheja Group are major players in tribunals and courts.

unlisted space. Post-COVID pandemic,

Indian real estate market, especially housing segment, has bounced back sharply on pent up demand and growing desire to have home ownership.

Branded and reputed players including listed and unlisted ones, have benefited most in this revival cycle as homebuyers do not want to take risk of getting stuck in real estate projects after making payments.

Thousands of buyers are still stuck in housing projects of builders like Unitech and Jaypee Infratech Ltd which defaulted in delivering projects.

Homebuyers of Amrapali Group are getting possession their flats after of intervention from the Supreme Court.

Suraksha Group has won a bid to acquire Jaypee Infratech Ltd (JIL) through insolvency process. The Group has infused capital and is awarding construction contracts to complete around 20,000 unfinished flats in Delhi-NCR.

Thousands of buyers of many NCR-based builders such as Unitech, Ansal API. Supertech Ajanara, The 3C Group, and Today Homes are stuck and fighting legal cases

in real estate regulatory

authorities at state level

sport 11



Badoni: Never thought of htting record 19 sixes; focus on timing the ball

PTI NEW DELHI

South Delhi Superstarz skipper Ayush Badoni, who hit a record 19 sixes, believes his ability to time the ball is the reason behind a record-smashing 55-ball 165 runs effort in the Delhi Premier League match against North Delhi Strikers. The 24-year-old righthander's superb effort guiding his team to a 112run win on Saturday. Ayush, who also shared a

286-run partnership with Videos.

opener Privansh Arya for the second wicket, bettered the record for most sixes by a batter in an innings which stood in the name of West Indian great Chris Gayle and Estonia's Sahil Chauhan. They had both hit 18 maximums in T20 games. "I was just looking to time the ball well, I never thought I would end up hitting 19 sixes in an innings. I just focus on timing the ball and not trying to hit the ball hard," Badoni told PTI



PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

side.

Wherever

Badoni, who plays for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, has had a decent run with the bat in the lucrative league in his short cricketing career. After his heroics in the ongoing DPL, the batter would be on the radar of several franchises.

I am not thinking about the (IPL) mega auction yet; my focus is on winning the Delhi Premier League right now as a skipper," he said. "Playing in the IPL has made

Gambhir makes an impact wherever he goes: Rhodes

life a lot easier for me as a batter here (DPL). We face

world-class bowlers there, and then coming here and playing becomes relatively

easy." LSG assistant coach Jonty Rhodes compared Badoni to former Proteas hard-hitting batter Herschelle Gibbs. "Jonty and I have a great relationship. I want to thank him for his kind words and just want to say that 'see you soon, Jonty".

Badoni has led South Delhi Superstarz from the front. He along with Priyansh Arya have amassed 1,091 runs in said.

the inaugural edition of the DPL. The skipper conceded that good partnerships take the pressure off batters coming down the order.

"I know that Priyansh and I have done well and our batting does help take the pressure off the team. But they come and tell me after the game that they too are eager to contribute with the bat. There are a few youngsters who have impressed and now it is our turn to groom them well," he

Mandhana and five other Indian cricketers picked up WBBL teams

PTI MELBOURNE. (PTI)

Six Indian cricketers, Sincluding vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, will be Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), starting October 27, after being picked by different teams.

While Mandana was preby Adelaide signed Strikers. Dayalan Hemalatha will play the league for the first time after the top-order batter was drafted by the Perth Scorchers, where she will add firepower to their

line-up. Wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia will also make her WBBL debut after being picked up by the Melbourne Stars, where she'll join national

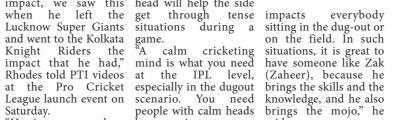


teammate Deepti Sharma. India all-rounder Shikha Pandey has been picked up by Brisbane Heat, where she is expected to inject much-needed pace into the squad and add plenty as a powerful middle-tolower-order batter. Pandey will be available

for the entire season as she is not part of India's T20 World Cup squad. She joins Jemimah Rodrigues

in Brisbane Heat's squad. The WBBL will start on October 27 in Adelaide with a match between Adelaide Strikers and

Brisbane Heat



wants and speaks his 'Gambhir own mind. South Africa cricket leaves no stone believes the Indian he has taken over the team will only become reigns of the Indian stronger under new team, they will go from head coach Gautam strength to strength," he Gambhir, and said the added

Rhodes, who is the former opener has the ability to make an fielding coach of Lucknow Super Giants, also lauded Zaheer instant impact in any GG Khan's appointment as mentor of the IPL side. (Gautam Gambhir) goes he makes an He said Zaheer's calm impact, we saw this head will help the side when he left the get through tense impacts

at the IPL level, (Zaheer), because he specially in the dugout brings the skills and the scenario. You need knowledge, and he also with Rohit Sharma at Ayush Badoni with people with calm heads brings the mojo," he the Mumbai Indians former Proteas batting and I am just so grateful great Herschelle Gibbs "He is very much a because it gets very said."



everybody technically very sound indeed." Rumours are rounds that Rohit Sharma is set to replace

changes, if there are. will not be my decision and I am not worried about them right now," Rhodes said.

and I am just so grateful great Herschelle Gibbs because he can play have worked that had I had an after the latter broke the both conventional and

(19) by a batter in a single innings of a T20 game in the ongoing Delhi Premier League. "He is a precocious talent that is for sure, he is short so he has got a low centre of gravity. He gets under the good length deliveries he can hit it anywhere around the ground, he has such fast hands. Justin Langer was so impressed with the sheer talent that he has," he said.

"He reminds me a bit of Herschelle Gibbs. He has tremendous hitting ability and when he matches that with calmness, presence of mind, good game plan, he will become a really tough guy to bowl to

Bopanna-Sutjiadi pair enters mixed doubles quarterfinals of US Open

PTI NEW YORK

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi moved into the mixed doubles quarterfinals of the US Open here.

Bopanna and Sutjiadi, seeded eighth, beat the Australian duo of John Pears and Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic 0-6 7-6(5) 10-7 in a second-round match that lasted one hour and 13 minutes. Bopanna and Sutjiadi will next play fourth seeds Matthew Ebden and Barbora

Krejcikova.

PTI NEW DELHI

Manisha advances to semifinals; Palak, Mandeep bow out of Paris Paralympics

PTI PARIS

Shuttler Manisha Ramdass kept India's medal hopes Eniola, having lost to the alive by progressing to the Nigerian in the Group stage as women's single semifinals in well. SL3 category is for players

23 minutes. It was the second consecutive

Odisha FC secure AFC Women's Champions League group stage berth

Odisha FC have secured AFC Women's Champions League Group Stage berth, by topping their preliminary round in Zarqa, Jordan.

Making their international debut, the Indian Women's League champions first defeated Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) 4-1 before notching a hard-fought 2-1 win over hosts Etihad Club on Saturday to qualify for the Group Stage of Asia's elite women's club

competition. ce from Lynda Kom Serto and two own goals paved the way for Odisha FC's 4-1 win over the Singapore outfit. With Etihad Club winning 5-0 against Lion City Sailors in the next match, Odisha FC required nothing less than three points against the Jordanian champions to qualify from the group. Expectedly, it started as a close contest but the Juggernauts managed to take a 1-0 lead at half-time thanks to Jennifer Kankam Yeboah's 27th-minute goal after she was released in space by Neha. However, Etihad Club found the equaliser in the 57th minute via Jordan's all-time top-scorer Maysa Jbarah, who scored with a leftfooted strike into the bottom corner.



But Odisha FC were not to Women's FC (Vietnam). be denied. They found their The Group Stage comprises 70th three groups c our team

Odisha FC secure AFC Women's Champions League group stage berth

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

doing

Odisha FC have secured AFC Women's Champions League Group Stage berth, by topping their preliminary round in Zarqa, Jordan.

Making their international debut, the Indian Women's League champions first defeated Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) 4-1 before notching a hard-fought 2-1 win over hosts Etihad Club on Saturday to qualify for the and cap off a historic night in Group Stage of Asia's elite Indian women's football. women's club competition.

minute, with Lynda picking out Yeboah, who took advantage of an error in judgement by the Etihad goalkeeper, before slotting it into the back of an empty net. The Juggernauts defended in numbers for the remaining 20 minutes. India custodian Shreya Hooda also made a couple of

second goal in the 70th

remarkable saves in the dying minutes to ensure the win In the Group Stage of the AFC Women's ampions League Odisha FC will travel to

Football Team (Chinese

Taipei), and hosts Ho Chi

Minh City Women's FC

The Group Stage comprises

quarters to be played on March 22 and 23, 2025.

conducted prior to the quarterfinals to determine the

four pairings, which will be

contested in a single-leg

format, with the higher-ranked

(Vietnam).

October 6-12.





Bopanna and his partner had won 7-6(7) 7-6(5) against Germany's Tim Puetz and Dutch player Demi Schuurs in the opening round. Bopanna had also moved into

the third round of men's doubles along with Ebden with a 6-2 6-4 win over Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena and from Federico Coria Argentina.

SU5 category but Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli were eliminated from the Paris Paralympics following contrasting defeats in their respective quarterfinals here

on Sunday. The 19-year-old Manisha, who was born with Erb's palsy which affected her right arm, had no trouble in dispatching Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21- 13 21-16 in the quarterfinal. The second seed Indian lefthander needed 30 minutes to down her unseeded rival.

In SU5 category, the players have impairment of the upper limbs. The impairment could be on the playing or nonplaying hand.

Competing in SL3 category, Mandeep hardly posed a challenge to Nigeria's third seed Bolaji Mariam Eniola, losing the contest 8-21 9-21 in

with severe lower-limb disability competing on a halfwidth court.

In SL4 category, para world championship bronze medallist Palak went down fighting 19-21 15-21 to Indonesia's Khalimatus Indonesia's

Sadiyah in 28 minutes. SL4 is a class for athletes competing standing with less severe impairment than in SL3. Later in the day, Nithya Sivan Sumathy will compete in the last-eight stage in SH6 category against Poland's Oliwia Szmigiel.

The men's singles semifinal in SL4 category will be an all-Indian affair with Suhas Yathiraj and Sukant Kadam clashing against each other. Nitesh Kumar will fight it out with Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the men's singles semifinal in SL3 category.

minute, with Lynda picking out Yeboah, who took advantage of an error in judgement by the Etihad goalkeeper, before slotting it into the back of an empty net.

The Juggernauts defended in numbers for the remaining 20 minutes.

India custodian Shreya Hooda also made a couple of remarkable saves in the dying minutes to ensure the win and cap off a historic night in Indian women's football.

In the Group Stage of the AFC Women's Champions League, Odisha FC will travel to Vietnam to face Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies (Japan), Taichung Blue Whale Women's Football Team (Chinese Taipei), and hosts Ho Chi Minh City

and will also be contested in a centralised league format from October 6-12.

The top two finishers of each group and the two best third-placed sides will progress to the quarters to be played on March 22 and 23, 2025.

A knockout stage draw will be conducted prior to the quarterfinals to determine the four pairings, which will be contested in a single-leg format, with the higher-ranked team of each tie to serve as the home side. This will be followed by a

centralised finals, which will see the semi-finals and final -- all single-leg ties -- being played out from May 21-24, 2025, to determine the first ever champions of the AFC Champions Women's League.

brace from 19-vear Lynda Kom Serto and two own goals paved the way for Odisha Vietnam to face Urawa Red FC's 4-1 win over the Singapore Diamonds Ladies (Japan), Taichung Blue Whale Women's outfit.

With Etihad Club winning 5-0 against Lion City Sailors in the next match, Odisha FC required nothing less than three points against the Jordanian champions to qualify

three groups of four teams and will also be contested in a centralised league format from from the group. Expectedly, it started as a close contest but the Juggernauts managed to take a 1-0 lead at The top two finishers of each group and the two best third-placed sides will progress to the half-time thanks to Jennifer Kankam Yeboah's 27th-minute goal after she was released in space by Neha. A knockout stage draw will be

Ĥowever, Etihad Club found the equaliser in the 57th minute via Jordan's all-time top-scorer Maysa Jbarah, who scored with a left-footed strike into the bottom corner. But Odisha FC were not to be

team of each tie to serve as the denied. They found their home side.

PTI AL AIN (UAE)

Bolympic future was thrown into further jeopardy after the sport's Asian governing body voted against leaving the suspended International Boxing Association (IBA) to join the rival association.

The polling was held via a secret ballot with 21 countries voting in favour of continuing with IBA, while 14 cast their ballot in favour of joining World Boxing, the new body constituted to run the affairs of the sport There the affairs of the sport. There was one invalid vote.

which Besides India, participated as an observer, the other countries whose names figured on the roll call included, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Timor Leste, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, , Kyrgyzstan, on, Macau, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, wherewithal to organise Philippines, Qatar, Saudi major international events.

Boxing's future hangs in balance after Asian body votes in favour of IBA

Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and Yemen. The IBA has been at loggerheads with the IOC, qualification process for the Tokyo and Paris Games. With the

With the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) refusing to the join World Boxing, which is being pushed as an alternate to IBA, the future of the sport in the 2028 Los Angeles Games hangs in a balance. Following the voting, IBA hit out at World Boxing, saying the new body lacked the wherewithal

Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, "World Boxing, to tell the Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, truth, has no finances, truth, has no finances, expertise and support to Uzbekistan, organise any proper major events, no means to support their members and no intention to develop boxing," said IBA in a statement.

"They (World Boxing) claim that they want to keep boxing at the heart of the Olympics, fair enough; that said, they do not care about the development of the sport in the countries, grassroots boxing, performance path of the athletes. They have no program, no vision -- just a standalone idea of boxing being at the Olympics," the statement added.

IBA also asked the national federations to think twice before leaving as that could



mean a dead end for them. "The IBA calls (upon) National Federations to make decisions carefully, as there

will be no way for a U-turn, athletes, should a federation decide to leave. The IBA remains

coaches National Federations. "World Boxing can guarantee committed to supporting its nothing; the IBA in turn can

Welcoming the support from the Asian body, IBA added that it was an affirmation of the good work done by it

reflects the years of IBA's hard work invested in boxing development worldwide and true unity of the IBA Boxing Family," the statement

IBA also hit out at some of the national federations that had voted against it during the secret ballot.

"Politically motivated intentions to join World Boxing backed by some members are reckless. There is no rationale in joining an organization that has no intention for boxing to thrive but only pursues personal ambitions of their leadership "A move towards World Boxing will undoubtedly damage the sport in those respective countries, the thesis confirmed by the performance of World Boxing nations in Paris 2024," it said.

Where does India stand visa-vis World Boxing?

The Boxing Federation of India had in May agreed to become a member of World Boxing. The membership application was approved by the BFI's General Assembly. Senior BFI office-bearers had also met with World Boxing president and secretary-general to discuss ways in which India could support the international federation in growing its membership base in Asia.

show actions supporting every word said. We work hard in support of grassroots boxing, while giving elite boxers opportunities to excel as amateurs professionals both," statement added. and the

over the years. "This decision (by ASBC) added.

and

AIG



02 सितम्बर, 2024

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श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

श्री विष्णु देव साय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

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