



OPINION 6

WILL DEMOCRATS
NOMINATE JOE BIDEN

WORLD 8

'TRUMP WILL WIN IF
ELECTION IS FREE AND FAIR'

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY SETTLE
Marginally Down

BHOPAL, FRIDAY JULY 12, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1864

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.21 Issue 191
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

PARIS MY FOURTH,
LAST OLYMPICS:
MANPREET
11 SPORTS



Crucial Security Meet on Jammu and Kashmir



An Inter-State Coordination Conference between BSF, J&K Police, Central Agencies and the Punjab Police being held to focus on enhancing border security and synergy between the two State Police Forces and the Border Guarding Force, in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The top brass of the Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab police, along with representatives of the Central agencies, on Thursday attended the Inter-State Coordination Conference in Kathua to further strengthen the security grid and prevent infiltration from across the border.

After the Kathua ambush, in which five soldiers of the Indian Army sacrificed their lives in the line of duty on July 8, it is believed that the

suspected group of foreign terrorists may have infiltrated inside the Indian territory from across the International border.

When terrorism was at its peak, the Kathua-Billawar-Badnota-Basantgarh-Bhaderwah-Kishtwar axis was considered a traditional route of infiltration taken by the terrorists to enter the Kashmir valley.

Former Union Minister hailing from the region, Dr Karan Singh, said the spate of terrorist attacks in the Jammu region are a matter of great concern. "I trust the

civilian and military authorities are making every effort to track down the militants as soon as possible. I do have one suggestion for Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. For many years, the Jammu Division was under the Nagrota Corps whose headquarters are hardly thirty miles from Jammu. Some years ago, for some obscure reason, the Jammu Division was removed from Nagrota and placed under Western Command in Chandigarh, over 200 miles away," he said.

Canal breach in National Capital

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a rupture in the Munak Canal, which supplies around 36.7 per cent of water (719 cusecs) from Haryana to Delhi, residential colonies in Bawana in the national Capital turned into a river on Thursday, wreaking havoc in the daily lives of the people and stranding residents in their houses. A breach in the Carrier Lined Channel (CLC) of the canal, part of the Western Yamuna Canal, led to water entering the J, K, and L blocks of the colony in northwest Delhi early Thursday, causing significant inconvenience and concern for the locals.

Videos on social media reflect the gravity of the situation with the residents trying to wade through knee-deep flooding and even waist deep water in parts of the area. Residents of the area expressed frustrations over the sudden flooding bringing their lives to halt. Shailesh Kumar, a resident of JJ block, said he was unable to go to his work and blamed the Delhi Government for not doing enough for them. "We have informed all the concerned departments, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Flood Control Department, Public Welfare Department, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), at midnight after the canal overflowed," a police official said. Taking serious note of the situation, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena expressed concerns over the breach of a branch of Munak Canal and instructed the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to take



People wade through floodwater after a breach in one of the sub-branches of Munak Canal in New Delhi on Thursday

the matter up with State Water Minister Atishi and Flood Control Department Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj.

"The breach in the Munak Canal underlines the absence of adequate maintenance of the Canal, which should have been undertaken by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) through Haryana Irrigation Department from time to time," a letter by the Principal Secretary to the LG read. An official of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) said, "A report was received regarding the damage in the lining of Western Yamuna Canal being maintained by Haryana Irrigation Department (HID) near Bawana in the early morning of June 11. This has resulted in flooding in the adjoining areas of Bawana JJ Colony."

Informing that the field staff have been rushed to the site for taking immediate remedial measures, he said, "Water is being drained by temporarily puncturing the

existing storm water drain, coordinated with NDRF, MCD, SDM Narela, DJB, public representatives and local residents for providing relief from this situation." Resources such as JCB, Dewatering pump, drinking water tanker and mobile toilet have also been deployed at the location by DDA.

Flow of water from Sonipat has reduced and authorities have requested Haryana to close gates on the canal to control the flow, officials said. The canal originates from the Yamuna river in Munak in Haryana's Karnal district. Delhi Minister Atishi visited the site and said, "We are at the entry point at the Munak Canal in Bawana. Last night between 12 am and 2 am, there was a breach in the embankment, the water entered the adjacent areas. This canal is maintained by Haryana Irrigation Dept, their team is here, the DJB team is here, the repair work is being done."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others during a meeting with economists at NITI Aayog, in New Delhi on Thursday

Modi and leading Economists meet to design Budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met eminent economists to elicit their views and suggestions for the upcoming Budget, a senior Government official said. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget for 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on July 23.

Besides economists and sectoral experts, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery and other members also attended the meeting. Sitharaman, Planning Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran and economists Surjit Bhalla and Ashok Gulati and veteran banker K V Kamath among others were present in the meeting. The Budget will be the first major economic document of the Modi 3.0 Government, which, among other things, is expected to lay the roadmap for making India a developed nation by 2047. President Droupadi Murmu, in her address to the joint sitting of Parliament last month, had indicated that the Government would come out with historic steps to accelerate the pace of reforms.

INLD, BSP join hands for Haryana election battle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has decided to again join hands with its former ally Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for the Haryana Assembly polls due later this year, the leaders of the two parties announced on Thursday. Alliance leaders have also decided to project INLD leader Abhay Chautala as its chief ministerial face.

Under the arrangement, out of 90 Assembly seats in Haryana, the BSP will contest 37 seats leaving the rest for its senior partner in Haryana, where the ruling BJP is eyeing to come to power for third time in a row.

Addressing a joint Press conference with the BSP at Nayagaon on the outskirts of Chandigarh, Chautala asserted that the alliance is not based on any selfish interests, but has been formed keeping in mind people's feelings.

"In Haryana, we have decided to jointly fight the upcoming Assembly elections. Today, the feeling of common people is to oust from power the BJP, which is looting the state, and keep the Congress party at bay, which looted the state for 10 years earlier," Chautala said.

BSP national coordinator Akash Anand said recently BSP supremo Mayawati and Chautala held a detailed meeting regarding firming up of the alliance. "In that meeting, it had been decided that out of 90 assembly seats in Haryana, the BSP will contest on 37 seats while the rest will be fought by the INLD," he said. Anand said if alliance comes to power in the State, Chautala will be made the Chief Minister.

PUC certificate charges for vehicles increased



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has increased the pollution under control (PUC) certificate charges for petrol, CNG and diesel vehicles after a gap of about 13 years, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said on Thursday. The charges for petrol, CNG or LPG (including bio fuel) two and three wheelers has been increased from ₹60 to ₹80 and for four wheelers from ₹80 to ₹110, he said in a statement. Gahlot said the charges of PUC certificates for diesel vehicles has been revised from ₹100 to ₹140.

The new rates will be effective as soon as it is notified by the Government, he said. The Delhi Government is committed to maintaining the city's air quality and ensuring that all vehicles meet the required pollution standards,

he said.

It was a long-pending demand of the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association to keep up with the rising costs of pollution checking services, the Minister said.

"Considering the request from the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association and the fact that pollution checking rates have not been revised since 2011, the Delhi Government has announced increasing the rates for pollution checking of vehicles in Delhi," he said.

This revision is necessary to ensure that pollution checking stations can continue to operate efficiently and provide quality services to the public, he added.

The association was advocating for an increase in pollution checking fees. Its representatives had last month met Gahlot with the demand to revise the rates.



Chemicals used for WMD seized in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Security agencies in Chennai made a major breakthrough by seizing chemical consignment used in the production of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Delivery System which has been banned in India under the provisions of Customs Act 1962 and (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act 2005. The chemical Ortho-Chloro Benzylidene Malononitrile weighed 2,560 kgs and stored in 103 drums of 2.5 kgs each was seized from Kattupalli Port near Chennai from a Karachi-bound ship sailing from Shanghai Port.

Interestingly, the ship spotted a Cyprus flag.

The banned chemical was from Chengdu Shichen Trading Company Ltd and was meant for Rohail Enterprises in Rawalpindi.

Education Minister's NEET assurance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in the conduct of the medical entrance exam this year, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday met some NEET aspirants at his residence in the national Capital.

According to sources, the students raised issues like the uncertainty prevailing over the fate of the exam which was conducted in May, the delay in the counselling process and ultimately the academic calendar. While there have been demand for a retest from several quarters, the Education Ministry has maintained the incidents of paper leak were localised, and by cancelling the exam it can jeopardise the careers of lakhs of candidates who cleared the test fairly. The matter has also reached the Supreme Court, which on Thursday adjourned till July 18 the hearing on the clutch of petitions seeking that exam be cancelled and the test be reconducted. The petitioners have also sought a probe into the alleged malpractices.

Besides, the CBI on Thursday arrested one of the alleged kingpins in the NEET-UG paper leak case who was on the run ever since the crackdown on irregularities in the entrance exam began, officials said. Rocky alias Rakesh Ranjan, who hails from Nalanda, and is said to be a relative of mastermind Sanjeev



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

File Photo PTI

Mukhia, was nabbed by the agency from outskirts of Patna, they said. The Ministry has informed the Supreme Court that a data analytics of the results of NEET-UG 2024 was conducted by IIT Madras which found there was neither any indication of "mass malpractice" nor a localised set of candidates benefiting from it and scoring abnormally high marks. The Government's assertion assumes significance in view of the observations made by the top court on July 8 that it may order a re-test if there were large-scale malpractices in holding the exam. The matter is being investigated by the CBI. Over 23.33 lakh students had taken the test on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including in 14 cities overseas. The Centre and the NTA, in their earlier affidavits filed in the apex court, had said that scrapping the exam would be

"counterproductive" and "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates in the absence of any proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality. The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in Government and private institutions across the country. The CBI had been trailing Rocky since the case came to the agency. His run came to an end on Thursday morning when he was arrested by the agency, they said. The agency produced him before a Special Court in Patna which has remanded him to 10 days of CBI custody, they said. Earlier this week, the CBI had conducted searches at 15 locations in Bihar and Jharkhand gathering incriminating evidence in the case, they said.

Supreme Court summons State Chief Secretaries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday summoned the Chief and Finance Secretaries of 16 States for non-compliance of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission recommendations on the payment of arrears of pension and other retirement benefits to the judicial officers.

Expressing strong displeasure over non-compliance of the SNJPC's recommendations, a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "We know how to extract compliance now. If we just say that the Chief Secretary will be present if the affidavit is not filed then it will not be filed.



"We are not sending them to jail but let them be here and then an affidavit will be submitted. Let they be personally present now," the bench said. Though seven opportunities have been granted to the states, it appears that full compliance has not been affected and several states are in default, it said.

Temples welcome women entrepreneurs

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Temples across India are blooming green with innovative waste management initiatives focusing on recycling of floral offerings into eco-friendly products such as compost, natural dyes, incense sticks, and more, thus protecting Mother Nature and creating job opportunities, particularly for women. For instance, at much-revered Ujjain's Mahalakaleshwar Temple, 5-6 tonnes of daily flower waste are transformed into eco-friendly products while at Mumbai's famous Siddhivinayak Temple, floral waste is being turned into natural dyes. Similarly, the Tirupati Municipal Corporation upcycles over 6 tonnes of waste daily from the Tirupati temple, employing 150



women in these green endeavours. Far in the Eastern part of India in West Bengal, known for its 13th-century Ma Tara temple, Tarapith which attracts around 12,000 devotees daily, a joint initiative between the Mallarpur Naisuva Trust and the temple

committee is transforming piles of flowers offered to the deity into recycling. The used flowers from temple offerings are turned into vermicompost for local farmers. Following the consecration of the sacred Ram Mandir in

Ayodhya early this year, the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation too has embarked on a similar plan to recycle flowers offered in the temples of Ayodhya Dham. The move aims not only to maintain the cleanliness of the temple premises but also to create job opportunities for women through the production of incense sticks and gulaal. Vishal Singh, vice-chairperson of Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) said, "The idea is to check floral waste from being dumped into rivers and other bodies of water that has been the cause for choking and polluting, leading to environmental degradation." As disposal of flowers in rivers, oceans, etc. leads to water pollution as well as affects the living organisms present in the

waters, there has been increasing demand for the concept of "Green Temples" to be integrated into national policies, transforming these religious spaces into eco-friendly hubs, said an official from the Union Environment Ministry. He said encouraging the use of digital offerings or biodegradable materials instead of traditional flowers can effectively reduce floral waste. Lauding such initiatives that have encouraged women entrepreneurs in green businesses, such as organic farming, eco-friendly product manufacturing, and sustainable fashion, Heera Lal, Special Secretary, Irrigation Department, Uttar Pradesh, said, "This not only promotes economic empowerment but also contributes to environmental sustainability."

Tree plantation by cops shows their sensitivity to environment

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Environment Day has taken the form of a public campaign in the entire country. The target is to plant 5 crore 51 lakh saplings in the state. This is an attempt to awaken social consciousness towards environmental protection. Madhya Pradesh Police including plantation as its priority shows their sensitivity towards the environment. It is encouraging to see that along with the police personnel, their families are also considering tree plantation as their responsibility. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav praised the police functioning in the anti-Naxal campaign and the

sensitivity of the police in maintaining law and order in the entire state. He said the police work effectively and the state government is with them. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign organized at the 25th Battalion of Bhopal. **Chief Minister Dr. Yadav plants Rudraksha sapling** Chief Minister Yadav planted Rudraksha saplings and inaugurated the state-level program by releasing balloons in the sky. At the same time, 1 lakh 25 thousand saplings were planted simultaneously in the police units of the entire state. On his arrival, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was welcomed by girls with tilak with the police band playing in the background. The Chief Minister was given a guard of honour. The Chief Minister visited the

campus and interacted with the police personnel and members of police families who had gathered for the program. Director General of Police Shri Sudhir Saxena presented a memento to Chief Minister Dr. Yadav. **PM Shri Modi added a human touch to campaign by linking plantations with mothers** Chief Minister Yadav said that water, forest, and land connect us with nature and encourage the basic qualities of humanity. Destruction of forests and uncontrolled pollution have increased carbon emissions, which can be compensated only by planting trees. Prime Minister Modi has added a human and personal touch to the campaign by linking the plantations with mothers. Planting a tree in the name of

mothers is a tribute to Indian culture. As per Prime Minister Shri Modi's call, we have to plant the sapling and take care of it till it grows five feet tall. **Planting trees will inspire police families to protect the environment** Director General of Police Shri Sudhir Saxena said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam - Massive Tree Plantation' campaign organized by Madhya Pradesh Police in all the police units of the state will help in environmental protection by bringing the police personnel and their families closer to nature. Along with protecting the earth, it is also our responsibility to nourish the earth by planting trees. **Three-year-old Vijayansh Kushwaha plants sapling with his mother**

On the instructions of the Director General of Police Shri Sudhir Saxena, police personnel and their families participated with enthusiasm in the tree plantation program organized in all the police units of the state. At the event in Bhopal, three-year-old Vijayansh Kushwaha came with his mother to plant saplings in police uniform. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav praised Vijayansh's enthusiasm and planted a sapling with him. On this occasion, many children planted saplings along with their mothers, and many policemen also planted saplings in the memory of their mothers with their photographs. The massive tree plantation campaign was celebrated in all the police units of the state including Bhopal.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with the family of police personnel participates in a mega plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' at 23rd and 25th police battalion, in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Mayor for permanent solution to water logging

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Permanent solution to the water logging issue should be made, said BMC Mayor while visiting at water-logged area at Alpana Talkies trisection in Bhopal, vehicles remained stuck for 1 hour. This situation troubled several commuters. There was around 2 ft of water on the main road due to this, Mayor Malti Rai reached Alpana Talkies crossing on Thursday morning and inspected it. She said that a permanent solution is being found for the problem of waterlogging. Mayor Rai inspected with PWD officers. He said, PWD has received approval for the construction of Hamidia Road.

This situation troubled several commuters. There was around 2 ft of water on the main road due to this, Mayor Malti Rai reached Alpana Talkies crossing on Thursday morning and inspected it

PWD will build a 2 ft high drain on both sides, but we have demanded a 4 ft high drain, so that the problem is solved. After the construction of the drain, there will be no waterlogging and pedestrians will not face any problem in commuting. Hundreds of vehicles were stuck in the jam. Due to this, people kept getting troubled. Hundreds of vehicles were stuck in the jam. Due to this, people kept getting troubled. Hundreds of vehicles were stuck.

Due to rain, there was a long jam on the road from Nadra bus stand to Chhola from 3 to 4 pm on Wednesday. Hundreds of vehicles were stuck in it. Rain water also accumulated on the road connecting Chhola road from Alpana Talkies Tiraha and Bhopal station platform number six. Due to this, traffic jams kept occurring. It took 1 to 1.5 hours for the traffic to become normal. Due to this, the mayor reached the spot for inspection on Thursday.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Heavy rains continued in the eastern part of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday, rainfall was witnessed in 12 districts. Damoh received the most rainfall of 56 mm i.e., 2.2 inches. Meanwhile, a 12-year-old girl died due to lightning in Panna. Her two brothers were injured in the incident. According to the Meteorological Department, about half an inch to 1 inches of rainfall was recorded in Khajuraho, Mandla, Naugaon, Satna, Seoni. Rainfall also occurred in Chhindwara, Jabalpur, Rewa, Sagar, Umaria, Malajkhand of Balaghat. Light rain was also recorded in the western part of the state i.e., Betul and Guna. A young man was swept away with his bike while

crossing the culvert on the Raimala to Mirapur road in Prabhat Pattan development block of Betul district. His companion somehow managed to save his life and came out. Actually, after the rain on Wednesday night, water was flowing over the causeway. Dinesh Lohare, a resident of Pohar village and Santosh Solanki of Balegaon were going to Mirapur by bike. In the middle, when the flow of water on the causeway increased, both of them were pushing the bike out on foot. During this, the bike went out of control. Santosh left the bike and came out. Dinesh did not leave the bike and got washed away along with the bike. His body was found 10 hours later on Thursday. Two brothers and a sister sitting under a tree were injured due to lightning in Panna.

The family brought all three to Gunnaur Hospital. Where the 12-year-old sister died. At the same time, the two brothers are undergoing treatment. The incident is in the Gunnaur police station area. Lakshmi Kushwaha (12) was sitting under a mango tree in village Mudwari with her two younger brothers Ashish Kushwaha (3) and Shibbu Kushwaha (5) to avoid the rain. Then suddenly lightning struck with a strong thunder, in which all three were injured. Heavy rain occurred in Khandwa after a week. The roads got wet in 15 minutes of rain. People got relief from the humidity. At the same time, the farmers also got relief. Due to no rain for a week, the soybean crop had also come to wilt. Four youths were injured after being struck by light-

ning in Birsinghpur Pali of Umaria district. All of them were sitting under a tree. Lightning struck the tree during the rain in the afternoon. Young men Lavkush (22), Sunil (20), Guddu Sonkar (32) and Ram Vishwakarma (20) were injured in this. After the information, Birsinghpur Pali SDM TR Nag reached the hospital and inquired about the injured. The SDM of Birsinghpur Pali went to the hospital and inquired about the injured. Heavy rain occurred in Ashoknagar on Thursday evening after four days. This gave relief to the people from heat and humidity. Bhopal is also included in the top-5 districts of MP with the highest rainfall. So far, 12.1 inches of rainfall has been reported. This is 32% of the

quota of rain. Bhopal is definitely ahead in overall rainfall, but is lagging behind in July's rain. Only 3 inches of rain has been recorded in the last 10 days. If 11.4 inches of rainfall is going to occur in the next 21 days, the quota of July will be completed. However, there is an alert of heavy rain for the next 4 days. In such a situation, the figure may increase. It has been cloudy since Thursday morning. It rains a lot in Bhopal in July. There is a record of 1031.4 mm i.e. about 41 inches of rain in this month. This happened in the year 1986. At the same time, on 22 July 1973, 11 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. This is also a record so far. This time the monsoon arrived on 23 June. So far the figures are better. There has been 32% more rain than normal.



New vehicles to be allotted to Madhya Pradesh Ministers, parked at state garage in Bhopal on Thursday.

Pioneer photo

Excise deptt seize fake IMFL bottles filled with cheap liquor, 4 nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Excise department staff has seized 120 fake liquor bottles filled with cheap liquor and arrested 4 youths while a car and a scooter were also seized. According to the officers, this liquor can also be fake. Therefore, the department is engaged in investigation. Assistant Excise Commissioner Deepam Raichura said, on July 10, Hrithik Chaudhary resident Bijli Colony Govindpura was caught while transporting 12 bottles of English liquor in a white Activa near Chetak Bridge in MP Nagar. The seized liquor bottles were branded. Whose market price is up to 20 thousand rupees. When investigated, the liquor filled in it was not branded but cheap. The Excise Department registered a case against Hrithik under Section 34(1)a of the MP Excise Act 1915 and interrogated him. In which he also revealed the names of his associates. On this basis, checking was done on New Subhash Nagar road. During this, a black car was stopped and searched. There were a total of 108 bottles of English liquor in

The Excise Department registered a case against Hrithik under Section 34(1)a of the MP Excise Act 1915 and interrogated him

4 sacks and 1 bag in the trunk of the car. In this case, a case was registered against the accused Gajendra father Tilak Singh Gurjar, Aryan father Parvat Singh Meena and Prashant father Darpan Singh under Section 34(1)a and Section 34(2) of the MP Excise Act 1915 and they were arrested. Excise staff with seized liquor. Assistant Excise Commissioner Raichura, who was interrogating, said that one of the accused is a convicted excise offender. The total cost of the vehicle and liquor is about Rs 8 lakh. Assistant District Excise Officer Amitabh Tripathi, Excise Controller RG Bhadoria and other staff took this action.

CM hails courage of Asha Malviya

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has given instructions to provide one lakh rupees as incentive to solo cyclist Sushri Asha Malviya going from Kanyakumari to Kargil-Siachen for the silver jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26. Sushri Asha, a resident of village Nataram of Rajgarh district, began her cycle journey from Kanyakumari with the objective of "Strong Army-Prosperous India" and reached Bhopal. Cyclist Asha Malviya met Chief Minister Yadav at Samatva Bhavan. CM Yadav greeted Asha by presenting her a bouquet of flowers and a cap and presented her with a sports kit. Yadav praised the courage of solo cyclist Sushri Asha and wished her a bright future and success in achieving her goals. National player and solo female cyclist Sushri Asha has so far undertaken a solo bicycle journey of 26 thousand kilometers across India with the objective of "Women S a f e t y - W o m e n Empowerment".

AIIMS designated as Learner Support Centre (LSC) for IGNOU courses

Bhopal: AIIMS Bhopal is designated as a Learner Support Centre (LSC) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) courses. Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, expressed his delight at this development, emphasizing its potential to enhance educational opportunities for healthcare professionals. Since 2020, AIIMS Bhopal has been at the forefront of academic innovation through its collaboration with IGNOU, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), and four other medical institutes across the country in offering the Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Management of CBRNE Disasters (PGCMDM) program. This pioneering initiative, introduced for the first time in India, has paved the way for further collaboration and expansion of educational offerings. Now, building upon the success of the PGCMDM program, AIIMS Bhopal is poised to launch 11 additional courses in partnership with IGNOU. These courses cover a wide range of topics essential for healthcare professionals, including hospital and healthcare management, maternal and

child health, geriatric medicine, nursing, and healthcare assistance. Online Theory classes for PG Diploma in Hospital and Healthcare Management commenced on 9th July 2024. 32 students are enrolled for this course. "The designation of AIIMS Bhopal as an IGNOU Learner Support Centre underscores our commitment to providing accessible and high-quality education to healthcare professionals," stated Professor Ajai Singh. "We are thrilled to expand our collaboration with IGNOU and offer a diverse range of courses that cater to the evolving needs of the healthcare sector." Dr. Arneet Arora has been appointed as the coordinator of the Learner Support Centre for IGNOU courses at AIIMS Bhopal. "The Learner Support Centre at AIIMS Bhopal will serve as a hub for academic support, guidance, and resources for students pursuing IGNOU courses," remarked Dr. Arneet Arora. "We are committed to facilitating a conducive learning environment that empowers healthcare professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills for the benefit of society."

IIFM organizes three-day training programme on 'Mission LiFE'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal organized a three-day training programme on Mission LiFE from July 08-10, 2024. The workshop was graced by Dr K. Ravichandran, Director, IIFM. This training programme observed the participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including members from monitoring agencies, project managers, social experts, environmentalists, technical officers, and sustainability project leads. Under the guidance of the programme director Dr Yogesh Dubey, this training programme featured a wide range of expert session including essential topics, notably, Mission LiFE thematic areas and its interrelation with SDGs, Mission



LiFE- Behavior-based solutions for Pro-Planet people, Managing urban green & blue spaces for a better life, Adopting sustainable food systems & Experiencing Sustainable organic farming, Water Crisis: Challenges and solutions, Saving water for future, Circular Economy: Way forward in meeting sustainability chal-

lenges, Adopting Sustainable Food systems & Experiencing Sustainable organic farming, Curating your habitat - Managing urban green & blue spaces for better life, Beating the waste for a clean environment- how to deal with municipal, plastic and other wastes from our daily lives, Adopting a Sustainable &

healthy lifestyle and How to lead an energy-efficient lifestyle - options & opportunities - saving energy, Climate Change and its impacts on environment & Human Well being and How to lead an energy-efficient lifestyle - options & opportunities - Saving Energy. The program also included an exposure visit to Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalay, an understanding of tribal culture and lifestyle, and a municipal solid waste dumping site to provide participants with practical insights and a better understanding of waste management challenges. This multi-faceted training was aimed towards the commitment to fostering environmental sustainability and promoting pro-planet behaviours among diverse stakeholders across the country.



Waterlogging on a street at CTO colony, 3 EME Center, airport road ward no 2, in Bhopal on Thursday.

Pioneer photo

Lecture on pediatric neurology held at AIIMS Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the able guidance and support of Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, the Department of Pediatrics organized a Guest Lecture on Wednesday. The event featured distinguished pediatric neurologists Dr. Rachana Dubey (D.M. Pediatric Neurology, AIIMS

New Delhi) and Dr. Pankaj Pal (D.M. Pediatric Neurology, PGIMER, Chandigarh). The lecture aimed to enrich the knowledge base of our residents, foster learning, and facilitate the sharing of valuable experiences. Dr. Rachana Dubey delivered a lucid presentation on the "Approach to Movement Disorders," incorporating videos for a more practical understanding. Dr Pankaj Pal discussed recent

updates and approaches to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome. The sessions were chaired by Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Shikha Malik, and Dr. Priyanka V Kashyap, Associate Professor of Neurology, AIIMS Bhopal. A case-based presentation was also conducted by postgraduate resident Dr. Pooja Phulgirkar, with expert comments provided by our esteemed guest faculty.

Commencement of agriculture-related subjects in school

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav emphasized the introduction of subjects such as agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, dairy, and animal husbandry in high school and higher secondary classes. Noting that many students in the state's schools hail from farming families, he highlighted the importance of these subjects in fostering stronger connections between education and everyday life. Yadav advocated for prioritizing these subjects in C.M. Rise Schools, suggesting that students should have the freedom to choose subjects based on their interests, similar to higher education systems. To implement this initiative at the school level, he instructed to form a task

Yadav advocated for prioritizing these subjects in C.M. Rise Schools, suggesting that students should have the freedom to choose subjects based on their interests, similar to higher education systems

force comprising educationists, teachers, voluntary organizations, and subject experts. These directives were issued during a meeting of CM Rise School management, attended by Tribal Affairs Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh, Chief Secretary Veera Rana, and other officials. ITIs should be established in every development block Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

said to prioritize establishment of C.M. Rise schools in tribal and rural areas, stressing the need to ensure adequate accommodation for teachers and staff. He highlighted the importance of seeking assistance from the Government of India for these efforts. Dr. Yadav also underscored the integration of education with employment by proposing the establishment of ITIs in every development block. For blocks without ITIs, he

instructed to devise strategies for providing facilities through private sector initiatives. Additionally, he called for discussions with investors interested in the upcoming industrial summit to explore collaboration opportunities in this endeavor. **Use e-vehicles in the transportation system of C.M. Rise schools** Chief Minister Dr. Yadav emphasized maximizing the use of e-vehicles in the transportation system of C.M. Rise schools. He directed to utilize vehicles from the Municipal Vehicle Service for transporting students, ensuring their regular attendance and convenient transportation. Dr. Yadav stressed the importance of prioritizing vehicle maintenance. He directed

timely completion of land marking for new school buildings with inter-departmental coordination, resolving delayed cases at the state level. Dr. Yadav also emphasized preventing encroachment around schools to ensure their safety and functionality. **Buildings of 21 schools will be completed by the month of August** Information was given that the construction of buildings of 21 schools in 274 C.M. Rise Schools will be completed by the month of August. The work of remaining school is in progress. Presentations were given in the meeting regarding free transport service, supply of essential materials, infrastructure development, educational activities, vocational education, etc.



Union Minister for Telecom Jyotiraditya Scindia being welcomed upon his arrival at the airport in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. Pioneer photo



Visitors go through the state level inspire award science exhibition at JK hospital, LNCT University in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

State-level Bankers' committee meet held

Bhopal: The 189th and 190th meeting of the State Level Bankers Committee, Madhya Pradesh was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Convener State Level Bankers Committee, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Tarsem Singh Jeera welcomed the Chief Minister by presenting him a plant. During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed various schemes of the Central Government and the State Government for the overall development of Madhya Pradesh and gave necessary guidelines. He encouraged the banks to increase term lending in the agricultural sector, to give maximum loans to nomadic and semi-nomadic people and Scheduled Castes and Tribes. He also directed to give maximum loans to the students in an accessible manner under the Higher Education Guarantee Scheme of the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Chief Secretary Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Rajesh Rajora and senior officers of the Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting. On behalf of the banks, Rekha Chandanavali Regional Director Reserve Bank of India, Hemant Kumar Soni General Manager Reserve Bank of India, Sunil Kumar Chief General Manager NABARD, Chandra Shekhar Sharma Chief General Manager SBI, Pramod Mishra Deputy General Manager State Level Bankers Committee and senior officers of banks were present. At the end of the meeting, the Annual Credit Plan for the year 2024-25 was released by the Honorable Chief Minister.

Three M Paper Boards Ltd IPO opens today

New Delhi: Three M Paper Boards Ltd , a Mumbai based company engaged in the business of manufacturing Recycled Paper-based Coated Duplex Board products since over 3 decades, is planning to raise up to Rs. 39.83 crores through its SME IPO. Shares of the company will be listed on the SME platform of BSE Ltd (BSE SME). The public issue open for subscription on July 12 and closes on July 16. Funds raised through the issue will be used for business expansion including purchasing machinery, factory building extension, repayment of loans, working capital infusion and general corporate purposes. Comfort Securities Limited is the Book Running Lead Manager to the issue. The initial public offering of Rs

39.83 crores consist of a fresh issue of 57,72,000 equity shares of Rs 10 each in the price band of Rs 67-69 per share. Company plans to utilize Rs 14 crores towards capital expenditure, including the purchase of a Plastic-Fired Low-Pressured Boiler, which will use waste plastic for power generation and significantly lower power costs. The funds will also support a factory building extension to increase storage capacity and the acquisition of a sheet cutter to enhance production speed. Rs. 10 crores will be allocated for working capital and Rs. 7 crores for term loan repayment, which will smoothen operations, improve cash flow management, and lower interest costs. The remaining funds will be used for general corporate purposes and issue expenses.

Interactive session on investment opportunities in MP

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, in a bid to encourage investment in Madhya Pradesh, has declared the year 2025 as "Industry Year". Under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, continuous efforts are being made to strengthen the positive environment through various strategies and schemes to promote industrial development. "Invest Madhya Pradesh-Global Investor Summit-2025" is proposed to be organized in Bhopal in February 2025. The objective of GIS- 2025 Summit is to establish Madhya Pradesh as a favorable investment destination by highlighting the state's capabilities, abundant resources, favorable industrial environment and to include it among the leading states of the coun-

try. To make GIS successful, the Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Department is organizing interactive sessions on investment opportunities and resources in Madhya Pradesh, in different cities of the country. The first such session is being organized in the country's financial capital Mumbai. Mumbai is the headquarter of many major business organizations/companies and is home to the oldest stock exchange not only in the country but also in Asia. Leading industrialists from various sectors based in Mumbai are being invited to the proposed interactive session. Chief Minister Yadav will participate in the session. The vision and efforts of the gov-

ernment to promote investment, innovation, and sustainable development in Madhya Pradesh will be highlighted. Principal Secretary Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Madhya Pradesh will give information about investment opportunities and possibilities. In the program, leading industrialists of Madhya Pradesh will also share their views on the industrial scenario and development prospects of the state. The program will provide a platform for investors to connect with key stakeholders, participate in round table discussions and form a network with industry representatives. One-to-One meeting will be held between industry representatives and the Chief Minister.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Bihar Agriculture Minister during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Smart City Mission

Bhopal: Under the Smart City Mission, 70 projects costing Rs 940 crore have been completed in Bhopal Smart City. The Central Government had issued the guideline of Smart City Mission on 25 July 2015. Under this, 100 cities of the country were selected on the basis of competition. The main objectives of the Smart City Mission were the proper development of cities, economic reform and improvement in the lifestyle of citizens. The works that have been primarily completed in Bhopal Smart City include public bike sharing, smart road, boulevard street, smart pole, smart LED light, construction of government housing, construction of incubation centres for skill development of youth, conservation of archaeological heritage and renovation of Sadar Manzil. Works worth Rs 940 crore have been completed on all these projects.

truCAP FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly known as Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd)
Registered Office: 3rd Floor, A Wing, D.J. House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra,
GST No: 27AAAD9887012C
Corporate Identity Number: L24231MH1994LC334457

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by TruCap Finance Limited (Formerly known as Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd) on **29th July 2024** at New Market, Bhopal at 11:00 A.M.

Branch address: TruCap Finance Limited (Formerly known as Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd), 1st Floor, Plot no. 34, TT Nagar Shopping Centre, New Market Main Road, Bhopal -462 003.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Kolar Branch: GL0000000084893 (Shivalik-102742512707).

For more details, please contact TruCap Finance Limited (Formerly known as Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd).

Contact Person: Vinod Mhaskar.
Contact Number(s): 9870424107

TruCap Finance Limited (Formerly known as Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd) reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

TruCap Finance Limited
(Formerly known as Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd)

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

Regional Office Ujjain,
Near Cosmos Mall, Nanakheda,
Ujjain-456010
Ph. 7974875163, 9830687877,
7999556244

E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE)

Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the **Canara Bank (secured creditor)** will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on **31/07/2024** for recovery of bank dues to the **Canara Bank (secured creditor)**

Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Demand Notice Dt. Possession Dt. Outstanding Amt.	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Reserve Price EMD Amt. Bid Increment Amt.
Canara Bank Ashta Branch, Distt. Sehore Contact no.7024241381 Authorised Officer :- Mr. Chetan Yadav, Mob No. 9425302389			
Borrower: M/s Shankar Machinery and Electrical Prop: Mr. Mathura Prasad S/o Mr. Bhagvat Singh	23/10/2023 08-01-2024 as on 30.09.2023 ₹ 12,37,246.93/- + Int. & other charges	1- House on Survey no. 140/3, Area 870 sq.ft. (80.85 sq.mtr.) situated at Gram Jagmalpur, Tehsil Astha, Distt - Sehore (MP) Owned By:- Mr. Mathura Prasad, S/o Mr. Bhagvat Singh Boundaries: East: Land of Kalu Malviya, West: Land of Mahervan singh Malviya, North: Jagmalpur -Barmuliya Bhati Road South: Land of Kailash / Anaru	₹ 25,00,000/- ₹ 2,50,000/-
		2- House on Survey no. 140/3, Area 780 sq.ft. (72.49 sq.mtr.) and Open plot on Survey no. 140/3 Area 4485 sq.ft. (416.82sq. mtr.) total area 5265 sq.ft. (489.31 sq.mtr.) situated at Gram Jagmalpur, Tehsil Astha, Distt - Sehore (MP) Owned By:- Mr. Mathura Prasad S/o Mr. Bhagvat Singh Boundaries: East: Land of Kalu Malviya, West: Land of Suraj Yadav, North: Jagmalpur- Barmuliya Bhati Road, South: Land of Harnahth Singh Malviya	₹ 10,000/-

Last date for submission of online bids is on or before **30/07/2024 upto 5.30 p.m.**
Date and Time of e-auction : 31/07/2024, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (https://www.canarabank.com) or may contact concerned branches Or may contact Authorised Officer of Our Bank Mr. Chetan Yadav, Mob No. 9425302389, email id: robp2rec@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.
Place: Ujjain, Date: 11-07-2024

AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

यूको बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

रिपलानी शाखा, भोपाल

स्वर्ण आभूषण नीलामी सूचना

नीचे वर्णित उधारकर्ता को बैंक द्वारा, स्वर्ण आभूषणों को गिरवी रखकर प्रदत्त ऋण की बकाया राशि का भुगतान करने हेतु नोटिस जारी किया गया था। उधारकर्ता बकाया राशि को चुकाने में असमर्थ होने पर हम गिरवी रखे स्वर्ण आभूषणों की नीलामी दिनांक **13.08.2024** को सायं 5.00 बजे आयोजित करने के लिए निम्न है। उस नीलामी से अधिशेष राशि प्राप्त होने पर संबंधित उधारकर्ता को वापिस की जायेगी और यदि नीलामी से उधारकर्ता की देवताओं से कम राशि प्राप्त होती है तो शेष राशि उधारकर्ता से उचित कानूनी कार्यवाही के माध्यम से वसूली जायेगी।

यूको बैंक को बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के निम्न खाते में से किसी को हटाने का अधिकार है। यूको बैंक बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के नीलामी को तारीख बदलने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।

क्र.	ऋणी का नाम	ऋण खाता संख्या	देय राशि	आरक्षित मूल्य
1.	श्री अब्दुल शमीम	06630610019931	18,000/- +बाकी व्याज + बैंक खर्च	₹ 51250/-
2.	श्री अब्दुल शमीम	06630610021163	2,04,000/- +बाकी व्याज + बैंक खर्च	₹ 412500/-

नीलामी की विस्तृत नियम एवं शर्तें शाखा के नोटिस बोर्ड पर उपलब्ध है। इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता सोलंबंद लिफाफे में दिनांक 13.08.2024 तक सायं 4.00 बजे तक अपनी बोली शाखा में दे सकते हैं।

इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं द्वारा निरीक्षण के लिए आभूषण दिनांक 03.08.2024 को दोपहर 3:00 बजे से शाम 5:00 बजे तक बैंक में उपलब्ध है।

इच्छुक खरीदार आरक्षित मूल्य का 25% बयाना राशि जमा करेंगे।

दिनांक : **12-07-2024**
स्थान : भोपाल

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी
यूको बैंक

SISTec signs MoU with institution of valuers

Bhopal: Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) Ratibad campus under the banner of its Industry and Institute Partnership Cell (IIPC), has signed a MoU with the prestigious Institution of Valuers (IOV) Bhopal. This collaboration marks a new chapter in knowledge sharing, joint training programs, and onsite projects aimed at promoting innovation and excellence in the field of valuation. With the MoU, SISTec students will be connected with industrial training, on-site projects, innovation and evaluation, making them corporate-ready.

Head of IIPC Abhishek Choubey, this collaboration promises to benefit the engineering community, enhance professional development, and contribute to the development of industry standards. Distinguished representatives from both organizations signed the MOU with, Manish Billore, Principal SISTec - R and Dr. Jyoti Deshmukh, Group Director SISTec and Hirdesh Kirar, Chairman IOV Bhopal, Manish Sharma, Vice Chairman IOV Bhopal, Manish Saxena, Joint Secretary IOV, and Anupam Soni, Member of IOV executed the MoU.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)
साइकल नगर, भोपाल (म.प्र.) -462020 , www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in

No. ADM-2 (4)/2024/AIIMS/BPL/Rec. CELL/AP. Contractual/5823 Date: 11/07/2024

WALK-IN- INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF ASSISTANT PROFESSORS AT AIIMS, BHOPAL ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal will hold an Interview for engagement of Assistant Professors in various departments on a fixed monthly remuneration purely on contractual basis. For details of essential eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of engagement, application form, application procedure etc, the detailed advertisement may be referred on the Institute's website-www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in. Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria and aspiring to attend the walk-in-interview may submit their application in the prescribed format within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement on recruitment@aiimsbhopal.edu.in. The date of interview and document verification shall be notified separately on Institute's website.

Sd/-
Dy. Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

INDUSIND BANK LTD., FRR Dept,
11th Floor, Tower 1, One World Centre,
841, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone
Road, Mumbai 400013

Possession Notice [see rule 8(1)]
(For Immovable property)

Whereas The Authorised Officer of the **IndusInd Bank Ltd.**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated **10-April-2024** calling upon the Borrower **M/s Anil Agencies (Proprietor: Mr. Raj Kumar Lalwani)** and the Guarantors/ Mortgage Mr. Raj Kumar Lalwani, Mr. Ashok Lalwani and Mrs. Anju Lalwani to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of **Rs. 92,15,604.29 (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Four and Twenty Nine Paise)** as on 08-April-2024 together with further interests from 09-April-2024 plus costs, charges and expenses, etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **10th day of July of the year 2024.**

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IndusInd Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs. 92,15,604.29 (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Four and Twenty Nine Paise)** as on 08-April-2024 and further interests from 09-April-2024 plus costs, charges and expenses etc. thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTY.

6, Old Sindhi Colony, Opp. Sai Mandir, Bhopal (M.P.) Land admeasuring 1800 Sq. Feet and construction thereon existing and future. **Boundaries:** East: House of Maharaj Naradadi, West: Road, North: House of Dayaldas, South: House of Hargundas Tanwani

Place: Bhopal
Date: 12-07-2024

Authorised Officer
IndusInd Bank Ltd.

INDUSIND BANK LTD., FRR Dept,
11th Floor, Tower 1, One World Centre,
841, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone
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The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **10th day of July of the year 2024.**

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Place: Bhopal
Date: 12-07-2024

Authorised Officer
IndusInd Bank Ltd.

India continues its efforts to infuse energy into BIMSTEC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday called on seven-nation Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping to infuse new energies, resources and a fresh commitment to bolster cooperation among the Bay of Bengal countries.

The appeal was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while hosting his counterparts from BIMSTEC member states at a two-day retreat in the national capital. The BIMSTEC brings together seven countries of South

and Southeast Asia for multi-faceted cooperation. Besides India, BIMSTEC comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. Jaishankar said BIMSTEC should harbour higher aspirations. For India, BIMSTEC represents the intersection of its 'Neighbourhood First' outlook, the 'Act East Policy' and the 'SAGAR' vision. Jaishankar said in his opening remarks on the first day of the retreat. "Each of these endeavours is being proposed with a specific focus on the Bay of Bengal, where collaborative potential

has long remained unrealised," he said. "Our challenge is to change that for the better, and to do so rapidly," he added. India has been making concerted efforts to make BIMSTEC a vibrant forum for regional cooperation as initiatives under SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) were not moving forward for a variety of reasons. India has been cooperating with the countries of the Indian Ocean region under the broader policy framework of SAGAR or Security and Growth for all in the Region.

BIMSTEC foreign ministers' retreat is aimed at exchanging ideas openly, candidly and fruitfully. "We all benefited from the last such exercise in Bangkok. This one now has a particular importance as it serves to prepare strong outcomes for the summit to be held later in the year," Jaishankar said. "Our message should be clear - that we are all determined to infuse new energies, new resources and a new commitment into cooperation among the Bay of Bengal nations," he said. Thailand is the current chair of BIMSTEC and it is set to

host the annual summit of the grouping later this year. Jaishankar said the first part of the discussions in the retreat will revolve around connectivity, cooperation in trade and business, collaboration in health and space, digital public infrastructure, capacity building and societal exchanges. "I hope in the second part of our deliberations, we could focus more sharply on the possible outcomes of the forthcoming summit," he said. BIMSTEC foreign ministers had last met in a similar format in Bangkok in July last year.

Boost to indigenous defence production

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to give a boost to self-reliance in defence manufacturing, India's premier defence research organisation DRDO has awarded seven new projects to private entities to develop key military assets including underwater launched unmanned aerial vehicle and long-range remotely operated systems.

The projects were cleared under the defence ministry's Technology Development Fund scheme to boost domestic defence manufacturing, Defence Ministry said here on Thursday.

The project for underwater-launched unmanned aerial vehicles is aimed at developing versatile marine battlefield accessories which can be deployed in multiple combat roles, officials said.

The objective is part of a larger framework of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) and maritime domain awareness (MDA), they said. The project has been awarded to Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd, Pune, according to the defence ministry. The other projects are development of ice detection sensor for aircraft, manufacturing of radar signal processor, long-range remotely-operated vehicles for detection and neutralisation of underwater objects.

The long-range remotely-operated vehicles will be dual-use systems that will enable detection, classification, localisation and neutralisation of underwater objects while keeping the key assets away from the suspected operational area, the ministry said.

The work has been awarded to a start-up, IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd, Kochi. The other projects are development of radar



signal processor with active antenna array simulator, development of Indian regional navigation satellite system-based timing acquisition and dissemination system and indigenous scenario and sensor simulation toolkit.

The toolkit project involves development of an indigenous system for simulator training of pilots in realistic scenarios. This will help in full mission planning and large force engagement, the ministry said. The project has been awarded to start-up, Oxygen 2 Innovation Pvt Ltd, Noida. "Providing impetus to Aatmanirbharta, Defence

Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has awarded seven new projects to industries under the Technology Development Fund scheme for various requirements of the armed forces and aerospace and defence sectors," the ministry said. "These project sanctions are a testimony to the continuing endeavour of DRDO in nurturing Industries, especially MSMEs & start-ups, in defence and aerospace domains," it said. "The indigenous development of these technologies will strengthen the military industrial ecosystem," it said in a statement.

Nadda bats for family planning for Viksit Bharat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Thursday that the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained and this can be accomplished by the smaller families, he stated.

He said the Centre and the States need to collectively work to ensure that women can exercise their right to make family planning choices and are not burdened by unwanted pregnancy.

Nadda virtually held a meeting with the states and the Union Territories (UTs) on the occasion of World Population Day. The theme of the event was 'Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies for the wellbeing of mother and child'.

He said the Centre and the States should also ensure that the unmet needs of contraceptives are met especially in the high burden States, districts

and blocks. Highlighting that one-fifth of global population is India's, he stressed on the need to celebrate World Population Day as a reaffirmation and recommitment to working towards population stabilisation.

The goal of Viksit Bharat can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained, which can be achieved by smaller families," he stated.

The Centre and the states need to collectively work to ensure that women can exercise their right to make family planning choices and are not burdened by unwanted pregnancy, and to ensure that unmet needs of contraceptives are met especially in the high burden states, districts and blocks," he said.

The objective of the family planning (FP) programme needs to be 'Birth by choice and by informed choice', he stated.

Highlighting the government's

focus on securing a brighter, healthier future for all, including youth, adolescents, women and the elderly, the Minister said. "Collaboration is key as we address upcoming responsibilities and recognise family planning and reproductive health as fundamental."

Nadda spoke on 'Mission Parivar Vikas' (MPV), one of the successful schemes of the National Family Planning Programme, which was initially launched for 14 high priority districts (HPDs) in seven high-focus states and later expanded to cover all districts in these states and six northeastern states.

"Making districts as the primary focal point of this scheme helped in bringing the TFR (Total Fertility Rate) down in the entire state. Mission Parivar Vikas has not only contributed to lowering the states' TFR but also helped in the national TFR", he stated.

CBI likely to file chargesheet in UGC-NET paper leak case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to file a chargesheet against a youth who allegedly circulated a "doctored" screenshot of the UGC-NET paper on Telegram which led to the cancellation of the examination after an alert from the Union Home Ministry about a possible "breach", officials said.

The CBI did not find any large-scale conspiracy in the episode and would limit the charge sheet to offences of attempt to cheat or cheating, they said.

The central agency's probe into the alleged UGC-NET paper leak had found that the screenshot of the "leaked" question paper for the June 18 examination was "doctored" by a school student, the officials said.

The CBI has informally conveyed its findings to the government and is likely to file a charge sheet against the youth, they said.

More than 11 lakh candidates had registered for the examination which determines eligibility for junior research fellowship, appointment as assistant professors and admission to PhD in Indian universities and colleges.

The examination was cancelled by the Union Education Ministry on June 19 following the alert from the Union Home Ministry's National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit of the Indian



Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C). "The UGC received certain inputs from the National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre under the Ministry of Home Affairs on the examination.

These inputs prima facie indicate that the integrity of the aforesaid examination may have been compromised," the Ministry of Education had said after the cancellation of the examination.

The investigation was handed over to the CBI, which found that the purported screenshot of the paper was created by the school student using an app. He changed the date of the screenshot to June 17 to make some money by giving the impression that he had access to the question paper, they said.

The youth tried to give an impression that he could arrange subject-specific papers which were to be held later, they said.

The central agency consulted forensic experts who opined that the screenshot was doctored, they said.

The examination was cancelled based on inputs received by the University Grants Commission from the I4C that the paper was available on the darknet and was allegedly being sold for Rs 5-6 lakh on messaging platforms, sources said.

The UGC-NET will now be held afresh from August 21 to September 4.

LS Speaker Birla for greater democratisation of UN, WTO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday made a strong pitch for greater democratisation of global governance structures such as the UN Security Council and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Addressing the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St.

Petersburg in Russia, Birla said India was committed to uniting emerging markets and developing countries, and affirmed its dedication to the principles of mutual respect, understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness and consensus.

He was speaking at the first plenary session on the theme of "The BRICS Parliamentary



dimension: prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation". Birla also welcomed the

four new members — Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — into the BRICS

Parliamentary Forum. "BRICS, largely representing the interests of the developing world, stands for greater democratisation of the global governance system, and for reforming the international organisations such as the UN Security Council, WTO, at the global level," the Lok Sabha speaker said.

Heart to Bravehearts car rally to mark Kargil war anniversary flagged off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, on Thursday here flagged off the 'Heart to Bravehearts', a car rally to commemorate the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War, army said.

The 'Heart to Bravehearts' Car Rally is a tribute to the valour, resilience and sacrifices of heroes of Kargil War to com-

memorate Rajat Jayanti Celebrations of the Kargil War. The Car Rally was simultaneously flagged off from Tanot Border Post, Tezu, and Kochi Port on June 30, carrying messages from citizens to the soldiers across the country especially those deployed on the borders.

The teams converged in Delhi on July 9 and flagged off on Thursday to further proceed to the Kargil War Memorial at

Dras. The Rally will cover a distance of over 10000 Km before culminating at the Kargil War Memorial on July 15.

The Rally passes through various military stations en-route and felicitates the brave soldiers of the Indian Army. The Flag-off and Flag-in ceremonies at all prominent places are being conducted in the presence of serving personnel, Veterans, Veer Naris, and family members of the Bravehearts and



eminent dignitaries. The Kargil War Veterans and Veer Naris are being felicitated recognising their sacrifices and unwavering support during the war.

This Rally, organised by Mahindra & Mahindra in collaboration with Indian Army, carries messages from the citizens in the form of letters, poems, sketches, and other creative expressions. As the Rally makes its way

through the length and breadth of the country, they carry with them the stories of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. The gestures in form of letters, messages and posters/ photographs collected at Mahindra & Mahindra showrooms pan India are also being carried by the Rally. The campaign is a sincere call on and opportunity for all Indians to express their appreciation towards the Indian Armed Forces.

Valmiki Corp scamsters honey trapped officials: BJP leader

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Senior BJP leader B S Sriramulu on Thursday alleged that the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scamsters honey-trapped Government and bank officials to misappropriate money. The former Minister claimed that high-end luxury cars were purchased with the money meant for the welfare of tribal people. The money was laundered and used in different elections, including the Lok Sabha election, he further claimed. "The scamsters purchased a Lamborghini car with the Valmiki Corporation funds, diverted money through 'hawal' channels and spent it on elections," Sriramulu claimed at a press conference here. Former Minister Narasimha Nayak (Raju Gowda) alleged that the state government played a dubious role in the scam. "We all know that more than



Rs three crore cannot be transferred without the approval of the Finance Secretary, but on a single day Rs 50 crore was transferred. It is surprising that no one in the government knew about it," Nayak pointed out. According to the BJP leader, the money was transferred to the accounts of 16 business persons. The amount transferred was somewhere between Rs 4.12 crore to Rs 5.98 crore. Both the BJP leaders demanded the arrest of Congress MLA B Nagendra who resigned as Tribal Welfare minister after the scam came to light. The alleged scam was

uncovered when the Accounts Superintendent of the Corporation, Chandrasekharan P, took his own life on May 26 and left a suicide note alleging that a sum of Rs 187 crore was illegally transferred from the corporation. This includes Rs 88.62 crore illegally credited to various accounts of some IT companies and a Hyderabad-based cooperative bank, according to official sources. The Congress government thereafter constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), which has so far arrested 11 people in connection with the case.

Student migration dangerous trend: UDF; not limited to Kerala alone, counters LDF

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led UDF opposition on Thursday said in the state assembly that the increasing student migration from Kerala was a dangerous trend which if not addressed, would result in the southern state becoming the home of elderly people. The Left government, however, brushed it aside, saying it was a global phenomenon that was not confined to Kerala alone. The issue was raised by the UDF while seeking adjournment of the House proceedings to discuss the matter, permission for which was denied by the Speaker after the state government said that student migrations were a normal trend and an outcome of globalisation. Following the denial of permission for the motion to adjourn the House, the opposition staged a walkout, alleging that the government and the state higher education minister were "in denial mode" and not

acknowledging the danger posed by student migration. State Higher Education Minister R Bindu claimed that student migration was a "global phenomenon" following globalisation and was not confined to Kerala alone. "Kerala is one of the states where student migration is very low," Bindu said, adding that students go abroad as they can work there while studying and also because of relaxed visa norms in countries with a smaller population. To address the issue, the state government has initiated various 'earn while you learn' projects, she said. The government was also considering framing laws to regulate agencies which recruit students to go abroad by luring them with false promises, the minister added. Bindu also claimed that the higher education in the state was one of the best in the country which was evident from the high grades received by universities and colleges in



Kerala at the national level. "Therefore, there was no need to discuss the issue in the House," the minister said. Disagreeing with the minister's claims, Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalnadan, who was one of the legislators who moved the adjournment notice, said that youngsters were leaving Kerala as they have not been provided a proper socio-economic environment to survive in the state. Kuzhalnadan said that one of the major reasons for it was the "stagnant economic

growth" in the state as compared to its neighbours. He contended that the reason for the lack of economic growth was the "ideological stubbornness" in the state, which was leading to FDI and other investment and job opportunities flowing to the neighbouring states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Kuzhalnadan also pointed out that urban unemployment was the highest in Kerala. "For all these reasons, youngsters in Kerala are socially, economically, and politically frustrated, and they want to escape from here. That is why they migrate abroad," he claimed. While his claims were refuted by Bindu as being contrary to the actual situation, he was backed by the Leader of Opposition in the state assembly, V D Satheesan, who said that student migration was "unregulated" and a matter of immense concern.

SP, Dy SP among 9 booked for assaulting SI



PTI ■ KHAGARIA

A case has been registered against nine police personnel, including an officer of SP rank, who have been accused of assaulting a sub-inspector and snatching away his mobile phone two years ago, an official said on Thursday. According to Khagaria Superintendent of Police Chandan Kumar Kushwaha, the FIR has been lodged with Chitragupt Nagar Police Station in the district, following an order, dated May 6, of the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court. "Upon receipt of the court order, an FIR was registered on July 4, taking into account the complaint of Amalendu Singh, who was earlier posted at the Mansi Police Station here," the SP said. The sub-inspector, in his complaint, alleged that he was beaten up by the then SP and other officials on June 26, 2022 when they also snatched away his phone and threatened to kill him. He claimed that many in the district police had been nursing a grouse against him ever since he caught an impostor, hailing from Begusarai, who was 'serving' as a sub-inspector in Khagaria. The complainant also claimed that after he cracked the case, he started facing pressure from colleagues and seniors "to keep silent" over the matter and was even placed under suspension after being booked in a "fake corruption case" at the vigilance court in Bhagalpur. He approached the CJM's court this year as his police complaint, lodged two days after the alleged assault, was hanging fire. The court said prima facie the case deserved investigation and directed the police to do the needful. Besides the then SP, others named in the FIR are the then deputy SP and the then SHO of the Sadar Police Station. Others named in the FIR are officials of inspector and sub-inspector rank posted at different places in Khagaria.

Meghalaya: Pro-ILP activist arrested for checking documents of migrant labourers

PTI ■ SHILLONG

A pro-ILP activist was arrested in Shillong on Thursday for unauthorisedly checking the documents of migrant labourers in Meghalaya, officials said. The development comes a day after the Meghalaya Home Department filed four cases against pro-ILP activists in two districts for checking whether migrant labourers possessed requisite papers. A pro-ILP activist was arrested from his residence in Shillong on Thursday. Three cases were filed against pro-ILP activists in the state capital on the previous day, they said. One case under Section 126 (2) (wrongful restraint) under 351 (criminal intimidation) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered in Ri-Bhoi district and three others in East Khasi Hills district, under which Shillong falls, the officials said. "We have registered four cases against pro-ILP activists who had gone to check the registration of migrant labourers across the state," a senior home department official told PTI. The state government has



made it compulsory for migrant labourers to mandatorily register with the Labour Department under various Sections of the Interstate Workmen Act 1979 and the Meghalaya Identification, Registration (Safety & Security) of Migrant Workers Rules 2020. Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has said that although mandatory registration is required for all migrant labourers, no individual or organisation is authorised to check the papers of such workers. "No individual or organisation is authorised to check the papers of the migrant workers. If they do

so, they are on the wrong side of the law and the police are taking action," he said. On the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA), another Act to safeguard the interests of the indigenous people of the state, Sangma said the Bill was sent by the Governor to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which returned it with suggestions to make some amendments. The Khasi Students' Union is one of the many organisations demanding the implementation of the Inner Line Permit in the hill state. The ILP is a special permit required by residents of other parts of the country to enter

and stay for a specified period in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Manipur. The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly had also unanimously passed a resolution urging the Centre to consider extending the implementation of the ILP in Meghalaya in 2019 and is awaiting the Centre's nod. KSU claimed that despite the presence of the state police's infiltration check gates at the various entry points into the state, it had detected over 300 migrant labourers without registration. Last week, KSU activists erected an ILP check gate at Byrnihat which was brought down by the Ri-Bhoi district administration. "Over 300 illegal labourers have been detected across the state as our members have gone to check if the labourers engaged by the contractors in big construction sites have requisite papers," KSU president L Marngar said. The KSU leader said the organisation will intensify their checking and will not cow down just because cases were filed against its members.

Make State advisory board for disabled persons functional in one month: HC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday directed the Maharashtra government to make the state advisory board for policies related to disabled persons functional within a month. "For God's sake, do it by then," the HC said. A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar said it was alarming that the state government requires directives from the court to fulfil its statutory obligations. The state government should not wait for orders from court to implement laws, especially reformative ones, it said. The government constituted the board under provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2018, but it has been non-functional since 2020 as posts of the non-official members are vacant. The HC bench on Wednesday asked the government to inform a time frame by when vacancies would be filled and the board would be made functional. Additional government pleader Abhay Patki on Thursday said the board would be made functional in 15 days. "We will give you some more



time than 15 days. For God's sake, do it by then. We direct that the advisory board shall be constituted and made functional within a month from today," the HC said. The court was hearing a public interest litigation taken up suo motu (on its own) on the issue of bollards put up on footpaths in Mumbai, thus making them inaccessible to persons with disabilities. The bench noted that if the state advisory board was functional, then courts would not be burdened with matters pertaining to the welfare of persons with disabilities. "We could have relegated this matter also to the board. It could have taken all measures," the court said. The state government should not wait for orders from court to implement laws, especially reformative ones, it said.

"Can there be anything more alarming that for an Act the court has to issue directions. This is your (government) obligation. For this also you need directions?" CJ Upadhyaya asked. In July 2023, the Maharashtra government informed the Supreme Court, which was hearing a matter related to disabled persons, that the state advisory board was constituted, the bench noted. It is true that the board was set up in 2018 but it is non-functional since 2020 due to vacancies, the court said. "What is the use of merely constituting a board when it is not functional? We hope and expect that within 30 days the board shall be made functional in all respects," the HC said posting the matter for further hearing on August 14.

Unnao accident: Bus was not road worthy

PTI ■ UNNAO

The double-decker bus that hit a milk tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway, leaving 18 people dead, was "unfit" for operations, officials said. Police have registered an FIR in connection with the incident, which also left 19 people injured, but have not named any accused, they said. "The bus that met with the accident belongs to M/s K C Jain Travels Jodhpur, Rajasthan which is registered at Pushpendra Singh's address in Mawai Khurd of Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh. The said bus was found to be unfit for operations as it did not have the necessary documents," Assistant Divisional Transport Officer (Enforcement) Arvind Singh told reporters on Wednesday. "On contacting Pushpendra Singh, it was found that the bus was being operated by Chandan Jaiswal, a resident of Paharganj in Delhi," he said. Based on a complaint by Arvind Singh, an FIR was registered in the matter on Wednesday under sections 233 (using false evidence), 106-1 (death due to negligence) and 125 (endangering the life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS). "No accused has been named in the FIR. We are trying to ascertain the real owner of the bus and the company that



operated it. Arrests will be made once it is ascertained," said Investigating Officer (IO) Phool Singh. Meanwhile, the local administration was busy making arrangements to send the bodies of the 18 people killed in the accident, all of them from Bihar, to their native places. The deceased were identified as bus driver Ekhlaiq (49), milk tanker driver Sunil Kumar (35), Ashfaq (45), Ruby (40), Gulnaz (12), Suhail (4), Sonu (32) and Soni (28), Deepak Kumar (27), Shivdayal (28), Murtaza (53), Bharat Rai (45), Anil Rai (41), Himanshu (23), Naushad (41), Ramchandra Sahni (40), Shahid Ali (45) and Satendra Rai (30). Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Unnao Dr Satya Prakash said ambulances carrying the bodies of 15 victims left for their native places around 1 am after post-mortem examination. The

ambulances were provided by the administration. "Post-mortem of the remaining three bodies was completed around 10 am and they were also sent to the victims' native places in ambulances," the CMO added. Sixteen of the 19 injured were admitted to the district hospital. Six of the injured who sustained serious injuries were referred to Lucknow and Kanpur trauma centres on Wednesday, said Chief Medical Superintendent of district hospital Dr Vivek Gupta. "Five of the 10 injured were discharged from the hospital after their condition improved. The other five are undergoing treatment and are out of danger," he said. Former MP Anand Mohan reached the district hospital late on Wednesday night and met the injured. He also consoled the family members of the deceased.

Nobody claims wagh nakh being brought from London was used by Shivaji: Minister

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar told the Legislative Assembly on Thursday that nobody has claimed that the 'wagh nakh' or tiger claw-shaped weapon being brought to the state from London was used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He also rejected the claim that the government spent crores of rupees to bring this weapon from Victoria and Albert Museum in London to Maharashtra, and said the travel expenses and signing of the agreement cost Rs 14.08 lakh. His remarks come days after a historian claimed that the wagh nakh used by the founder of the Maratha empire to kill Bijapur

Sultanate's general Afzal Khan was in Satara itself. Mungantiwar informed the House that the wagh nakh will be brought from London for a period of three years and kept on display at a museum in Satara in the state from July 19. The museum in London had initially agreed to give the weapon for one year, but the state government persuaded it to hand it over for display in the state for three years, he said. "The wagh nakh will be kept on display at the government museum in Satara in the presence of the descendants of the warrior king on July 19," the Cultural Affairs Minister told the House. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was an ideal ruler and is an inspiration to one and all, he



said. "Nobody claims that this wagh nakh being brought from London was used by Shivaji Maharaj...We were given photo evidence by Shivaji Maharaj's followers that a box in which the wagh nakh was kept at the London museum mentioned that it was used to kill Afzal Khan. We communicated with the

prime ministers of India and the UK as well as the museum authorities. The museum never mentioned that the weapon belonged to Shivaji Maharaj and used for killing Afzal Khan," he said. "There were demands to remove the encroachment around Afzal Khan's grave on November 5, 2022. Accordingly, it was done on

November 10, the day when Shivaji Maharaj killed Afzal Khan using a wagh nakh (in 1659)," he said. Mungantiwar said the government spent Rs 14.08 lakh for travel to London and signing of the agreement with the museum there to bring the wagh nakh to India. "We are not giving any rent to display the wagh nakh here," he said. Historian Indrajit Sawant recently said the wagh nakh being brought to Maharashtra from London does not belong to Shivaji Maharaj as the original one is with the descendants of the Maratha warrior king in Satara. He also claimed that the wagh nakh was being brought to the state on a loan agreement of Rs 30 crore for three years.

First mothership docks at Kerala's Vizhinjam port

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A big cargo ship called 'San Fernando' from China arrived at Kerala's newly built Vizhinjam International Sea Port on Thursday, marking the first container ship arrival at India's largest transshipment port. The mothership was given a water salute by four tugs, which piloted it to the dock. San Fernando, a 300-meter-long cargo ship, will offload 1,900 containers at Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL). On Friday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

will formally welcome the ship. In a Facebook post, Kerala Port Minister V N Vasavan said San Fernando has been berthed at Vizhinjam Port and termed it as a truly momentous occasion. "This is a truly momentous occasion. Tomorrow (Friday), the chief minister will formally welcome the ship, with the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, attending as the chief guest. The ship was safely berthed by four tugboats," he said. The minister said the ship



had been tied up to the dock using a heavy-duty rope, and this process (called mooring) has been completed successfully. The mothership carries large

containers which will be transferred to other ships and later transported to other ports in the country and abroad. The formal reception ceremony will be attended by

several dignitaries, including Central and state ministers, officials, and members of the public. "The dream is approaching the shore. The first mothership is reaching Kerala's Vizhinjam port. San Fernando will be officially welcomed on behalf of Kerala tomorrow," Vijayan in a Facebook post said on Thursday. Equipped with modern equipment and advanced automation and IT systems, Vizhinjam will become India's first semi-automated port, expected to be fully commissioned in September or October 2024.

Going strong @75

The 2024 NATO summit concluded with pledges to support Ukraine and strengthen defence preparedness

Seventy-five years ago, 12 nations gathered in Washington, DC to sign the North Atlantic Treaty, better known as NATO aiming to safeguard their collective defence amid the rise of communism under Soviet Union. This year, 32 NATO Allies convened once more in Washington, DC to make critical decisions on ensuring the protection of the member countries. In these 75 years a lot has changed. The Soviet Union does not exist and the Warsaw Pact has been disbanded. But NATO is alive and taking on new challenges in the emerging world order. The 2024 NATO Summit concluded after three days of high-level discussions and strategic deliberations among the member states. Basically, a product of cold war era, NATO has been pivotal in addressing pressing global security challenges, reaffirming commitments to collective defence, and exploring new avenues of cooperation among the member states. One of the primary focuses of the summit was of course reinforcing NATO's collective defence posture. In response to



escalating tensions and conflicts in various parts of the world, NATO leaders agreed to bolster their military capabilities and readiness. This includes increased defence spending by member states, the deployment of additional troops to Eastern Europe, and the enhancement of cyber defence mechanisms. NATO members reaffirmed their commitment to expanding partnerships beyond its traditional geographical boundaries.

The summit saw increased engagement with non-member countries, emphasising the importance of global security cooperation. Key partners, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, participated in discussions on shared security concerns

and collaborative initiatives. In the new world order China and Russia have emerged a formidable player in the world arena. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine remained a critical issue at the summit. NATO reiterated its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. NATO has remained steadfast in its support to Ukraine and has supported Ukraine's war efforts but just about avoiding direct confrontation with Russia and widening the scope of war. India so far has maintained a safe distance with NATO. It has charted its own nonaligned path steering clear of either of the two blocs NATO and now defunct, The Warsaw Pact. India, though not a NATO member, has been closely monitoring the developments of the summit. As a major player on the global stage, the outcomes of the NATO summit have several implications for India's strategic interests and foreign policy. India has been increasingly engaging with NATO members on various fronts, including defence and security cooperation. The emphasis on collective defence and partnerships at the summit opens avenues for India to deepen its strategic ties with NATO countries. Joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and defence technology collaborations could see a significant boost, enhancing India's defence capabilities.

PICTALK



Anganwadi workers conduct inspection of stored water to curb the spread of dengue during monsoon

PTI

The synergy between culture and economy

Culture and economy are are deeply intertwined, each influencing and enhancing the other. This can lead to sustainable economic progress

Culture and economy are deeply intertwined, each influencing and shaping the other in multiple ways. This synergy can be observed through various lenses, from local community impacts to global economic trends. Cultural assets such as traditions, arts, and heritage sites can drive economic growth. Cities with rich cultural histories often attract tourism, which stimulates local businesses and generates revenue. For example, the cultural heritage of cities like Paris and Rome makes them top tourist destinations, contributing significantly to their economies.

The creative sector, including music, film, fashion, and design, is a major economic driver. These industries not only create jobs and generate income but also foster innovation and attract investments. The global success of Hollywood and the fashion industry in Milan and New York are prime examples of how culture fuels economic activity. Governments often implement cultural policies to boost economic development. By investing in cultural infrastr-



structure such as museums, theatres, and festivals, they create vibrant communities that attract residents, businesses, and tourists. These investments can lead to urban regeneration and increased property values. A culturally diverse workforce brings various perspectives and skills, fostering creativity and problem-solving. This diversity can enhance a company's ability to innovate and adapt to changing markets, making economies more resilient to shocks. Globalisation has increased cultural exchange, leading to the spread of ideas, goods, and services across borders. This cultural exchange can open new markets for businesses and create opportunities for economic partnerships. For instance, the glob-

al popularity of K-pop and Japanese anime has created vast economic opportunities for South Korea and Japan. Cultural education enhances human capital by fostering critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. These qualities are essential in the modern economy, where knowledge and innovation are key drivers of success. Investing in cultural education can thus contribute to a more skilled and adaptable workforce. Maitreya Dadashri, the force behind the summit also shared this vision, "The synergy between culture and economy forms the foundation of sustainable development. We envision a future where spiritual and economic prosperity evolve hand in hand," he said.

Countries and cities often use culture to brand themselves and build soft power. Cultural diplomacy, through international cultural events, exchanges, and collaborations, can enhance a nation's global image and influence, attracting foreign investment and tourism. Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal echoed this senti-

ment at the Maitri Cultural Economy Summit 2024. "The Modi government has been dedicated to nurturing culture to harness its economic potential," he said. He emphasised that India's cultural economy is deeply rooted in the ancient wisdom of the Vedas and Puranas, making it an intrinsic part of the nation's identity. Cultural tourism in cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Puri, along with major events such as the Kumbh Mela, play a significant role in contributing to the GDP

In conclusion, the synergy between culture and economy is a powerful combo that drives both societal and economic progress. By recognizing and fostering this relationship, policymakers, businesses, and communities can harness cultural assets to achieve sustainable economic growth and development. This was aptly summed up by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari when he said that importance of cultural economic governance must be the cornerstone of our policies.

(The writer is a social activist and business consultant; views are personal)



PRABHA GUPTA

Will Democrats nominate Joe Biden

As the Democratic Party prepares to nominate him, questions linger about Biden's ability to lead, the party's strategy and potential challengers

U.S. President Joe Biden's underwhelming performance in the 2024 presidential debate last week raised concerns due to his apparent fatigue, forgetfulness, and confusion. This has caused uncertainty among supporters despite Biden's attempts to reassure them in the post-debate period. Even last week, during a speech in Madison, Wisconsin, he initially said he would "beat Donald Trump again in 2020" before correcting himself to "2024," which added to the uncertainty. According to the Spanish newspaper El Pais, Biden has defended himself about three things. First, his support stayed pretty much the same after the debate. Secondly, most party voters want him to continue. The last point is that other options are not better. President Biden has demonstrated resilience in the face of pressure to step down. He confidently declared at a rally in Madison that he would run and win again, which cheered his supporters and reassured sceptics. President Biden's improved performance in his public appearances post-debate has the potential to significantly reshape his chances in the upcoming election and the prospects of the Democratic Party.

This shift in dynamics could bring a sense of hope and anticipation to the party. Next month, the Democratic Party will nominate President Biden as its 2024 Presidential candidate in a virtual convention. This event will officially confirm Biden's candidacy and establish the party's campaign strategy. If Biden stays in the race, it will be tough for any other candidate to win the Democratic nomination. This is because the party rules give Biden a big advantage. These rules include specific guidelines for delegate allocation and superdelegate influence.

If Biden were to resign, who would take his place? With only four months before the 2024 election, finding the right person takes a lot of work. This shows how serious the situation is. Kamala Harris, the current Vice President and Joe Biden's running mate is the top contender for the

upcoming presidential election. Many believe that she has the advantage. However, her lack of popularity could be a significant challenge, as 49% of Americans disapprove of her according to polling averages. Republicans hope Harris will become the Democratic presidential nominee, believing it will benefit Trump's campaign.

The Trump campaign has launched an ad with the slogan: "This November, vote Republican. Stop Kamala." A recent poll by Reuters/Ipsos showed that Michelle Obama could win against Trump in November. However, Michelle has repeatedly said she does not aspire to be President, so it's doubtful she will run. Several names are being floated to replace President Biden.

This includes at least six governors: Gavin Newsom from California, Gretchen Whitmer from Michigan, Josh Shapiro from Pennsylvania, J. B. Pritzker from Illinois, and Ro Khanna, a representative from California. Each of these potential candidates has their strengths and weaknesses. For instance, Gavin Newsom is the favourite. Their potential to run for office would have dif-



IF BIDEN WERE TO RESIGN, WHO WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE? WITH ONLY FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE 2024 ELECTION, FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON TAKES A LOT OF WORK. THIS SHOWS HOW SERIOUS THE SITUATION IS



ferent effects on the Democratic Party and the upcoming election. After the debate, polls from CNN, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal showed that Biden is six points behind Trump in the country. Biden is also trailing in the most crucial states he won in 2020. Furthermore, other states he won—Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Virginia—now seem uncertain.

In 2020, four months before the election, Biden was 9 points ahead in the polls. However, he eventually won the election with 51.25% of the popular vote, compared to Trump's 46.8%. This data suggests Biden may face a more challenging race in 2024 than 2020. When asked whether he could run the country for another term, he told ABC in a recent interview. "I believe so; I wouldn't be running if I didn't think I did. Look, I'm running again because I believe I understand best what has to be done to take this nation to a completely new level. We're on our way." Polls reveal that voters are more concerned about whether the 81-year-old President could manage another four years in the

White House than his 77-year-old predecessor. Biden needs to be more competent to win in November. Biden was confident when he said, "If the Lord Almighty came down and said, 'Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out of the race," but added, "The Lord Almighty's not coming down." So, it is up to God Almighty to go down and ask him to keep out of the race. Trump quietly observes Biden's challenging position. India has had a good rapport with both Trump and Biden. There is also bipartisan support. Therefore, it is unlikely that their South Asia and India policies will change, given the growing economic influence of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also has a good rapport with both of them. Biden is facing challenges as he moves toward November. Trump has raised a lot of money and still has support from his party despite some court decisions going against him. Both candidates are trying to harm each other's reputation. Elections are unpredictable, especially with four months to go. Anything could happen.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

USE OF DIGITAL TECH IN HEALTHCARE

Madam — Apropos the article "Transforming healthcare with digital technologies," published on July 9, this is my response. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for digital transformation in the healthcare sector. According to the 2018 Digital Trends report by Econsultancy, only 7% of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies have gone digital, compared to 15% in other industries. The pandemic has underscored the importance of digitizing medical services, which can reduce costs and improve quality. For instance, Austria's e-Medication system has been running successfully for years, allowing patients to access their electronic medical records anytime and anywhere. Similarly, doctors in Sweden and Denmark send e-prescriptions to pharmacies. The UK's National Health Service is working with Google to deploy AI in healthcare. Digital transformation empowers patients to manage their treatment independently and ensures that medical histories are readily accessible in emergencies, eliminating the need for physical files.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

RAGA AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Madam — During the last week, Rahul Gandhi visited Hatheras, Manipur, and Rae Bareilly, expressing his opinions on various incidents as the Leader of Opposition. This reflects a mature Indian democracy and raises expectations for his role in the next budget session. A 2012 government note described the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as the "Shadow Prime Minister of India." Since becoming LoP, Gandhi has targeted Modi inside and outside Parliament.

However, with great power comes great responsibility. Gandhi must maintain the sanctity of his position, opposing questionable government policies without obstructing proceedings. He should ensure government accountability, pro-

Upgrade teaching standards in new technology



During the IT industry boom, many engineering colleges in India emerged without updated curricula, industry linkages,

or adequate student-faculty ratios. Except for IITs, some NITs, and a few private colleges, these institutions have failed to produce job-ready graduates. A survey by Aspiring Minds revealed that 86% of engineers are unemployable in the knowledge economy. Most private engineering colleges now focus on AI, ML, DS, and IoT, but 90% of their teachers lack fundamental knowledge in these fields. Teachers need continuous professional development through refresher courses and orientation programs to stay current. Teaching AI and Data Science requires a different approach than programming them. Addressing the gaps in teaching standards, particularly in emerging technologies, is crucial for preparing future engineers and maintaining the quality of education in India.

M Suresh Babu | Hyderabad

pose alternatives, and facilitate smooth functioning of the House. Gandhi's recent actions have portrayed him as a proactive leader, but he must be mindful of his conduct. The effectiveness of his maiden speech as LoP is debated, but it undeniably stirred significant responses from the Prime Minister and Union ministers. The upcoming budget session will be keenly watched to see if the Opposition can maintain its momentum.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

ADDRESS MOB LYNCHING IN UP

Madam — In 2023, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a provision for the death penalty for mob lynching under new criminal laws. However, this commitment seems hollow in practice. In Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh, scrap dealer Firoz Qureshi was lynched by a mob, yet local authorities downplayed the incident as a mutual dispute. When journalists Zakir Ali Tyagi and Wasim Akram Tyagi reported on the

lynching, they faced FIRs for allegedly disturbing communal harmony. The Press Club of India has rightly called for the cancellation of these FIRs, emphasizing that reporting publicly available information is a cornerstone of authentic journalism. The arbitrary use of laws to intimidate journalists violates Article 19(1)(A) of the Constitution. Upholding journalistic freedom is essential to maintaining a democratic society. Mob lynching must not be tolerated because it represents a severe breakdown of the rule of law and undermines the foundations of a civilized society. It fosters a climate of fear and impunity, where individuals take the law into their own hands, leading to tragic and often fatal outcomes. Such acts of violence erode trust in legal institutions, perpetuate communal hatred, and jeopardize the safety and rights of individuals.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

PM MODI'S STRATEGIC VISIT



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

PM Modi's visit to Russia underscores the importance of Russia in India's foreign policy

This week marked several high-profile meetings amongst senior leaders around the globe, discussing primarily various conflicts and possible outcomes. PM Narendra Modi, in his first state visit during his third stint, visited Russia and Austria. The State visit by the India PM was the first since the Ukraine war and underscores the primacy of Russia in India's state of affairs. Meanwhile, all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders assembled in Washington DC to discuss global geopolitics. Ukraine and the Middel East featured prominently in all the discussions, even though the flavours were significantly different.

The India-Russia joint statement following President Putin and PM Modis' bilateral meetings read "The Sides highlighted the imperative of peaceful resolution of the conflict around Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy including engagement between both parties. They noted with appreciation relevant proposals of mediation and good offices aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict by international law and based on the UN Charter in its entirety and totality. "Earlier, PM Modi during one of the televised speeches of the two leaders told his Russian counterpart "peace is of utmost importance" and solution to Ukraine could not be found on the battlefield. He expressed serious concern regarding the bombing of a children's hospital in Kyiv and said "When innocent children are murdered, one sees them die, the heart pains and that pain is unbearable." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, with whom PM Modi has had several telephone calls in the past, called the Russia state visit by India "a blow to peace efforts."

NATO Secretary General, Mr Stoltenberg in the run-up to the NATO summit said "Allies will agree a financial pledge for Ukraine", and that he also expects more immediate military support to Ukraine." Ukraine is moving closer to NATO ". The close relationship with NATO was one of the reasons Russia came marching into Ukraine. It was a tightrope walk for PM Modi, in Russia, given the relatively new strategic relationships, he has developed in his last decade of being at the helm, crucial among them being the India-US partnership. It would be worth mentioning that



In the wake of the war in Ukraine, India has not yet verbally criticised Russia, for its aggression and has also stayed away from multilateral resolutions against Moscow. In the first few months, of Russia's attack on Ukraine, several US top leaders had criticised India's stance regarding the war, and even a threat of sanctions was discussed.

However, with deft diplomatic efforts made by both long-term partners, the high-decibel criticism was restricted to closed-door meetings. PM Modi's state visit to Russia opened some of the past heartburn regarding Ukraine in Washington. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said "US has raised concerns with India regarding its relationship with Russia". He added "We would urge India, as we do any country when it engages with Russia, to make clear that any resolution to the conflict in Ukraine needs to be one that respects the UN charter, that respects Ukraine's territorial integrity." This comes at a time when the US has been seen to be one of the most important allies of India in the recent past.

Interestingly President Putin upon re-election chose to visit Beijing in one of his first official trips and followed it with a bilateral last week, on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Kazakhstan. China and Russia have mutually agreed to be friends without any limitations, and are widely seen as challengers to what they allege as the US-led democratic order. India and China are on an extremely rough patch due to the military aggression on India's borders. India managed to walk the tight rope for now, but at some point of time it will have to balance it out with more action-able statements on world conflicts.

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

A call for civility and integrity in democracy



J S RAJPUT

The elected representatives must adhere to constitutional principles and the high standards set by the framers of the Constitution



The Constitution and its makers Deserve Respect.J.S. RajputIn a functional democracy, election times could indeed become a celebration time, not only the competing candidates and their partiers, but also for the for entire country, which may involve votes, and future voters. Imagine a situation in which every candidate remains respectful to all others, and is ever conscious of his words and their usage in every interaction, interview and interpretation of the views of his competitors. Everyone who enters the election fray is duty-bound to remember that there is a generation of younger people watching closely how they conduct themselves in competitive conditions, and the extent to which they are conscious of their conduct and behaviour, both in public and private. Though it is a major responsibility of the family and school to shape the growing up of the children, the significance of the role of society and particularly those keen to lead the society could never be ignored.

It is not only the 'Acharya' whose conduct is under watch and is emulated, children in their sensitive years learn from numerous sources, and no one is out of their ambit of keen observation. Having seen, observed and participated in the elections that were just over, one may find all these 'expectations' just 'utopian, to be aspired for, but with full understanding that these would never be fulfilled! After the election results, the parliament meets, and there is only a superficial bonhomie of a few minutes, followed by the same old routine of distrust, and a sense of shyness, the creation of hurdles and ensuring that the nation must once again get ready to suffer continuous shouting in both the Houses of parliament and regular walk-outs! Is it amazing – and sadly enough, amusing – that the elected representatives of the great Indian democracy just cannot sit together and find out ways and means to sit together, express themselves, and arrive at inferences that are for the good of their voters? How could they ignore that they are the legatees of Gandhi, Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad, Rajagolachari, and that illustrious lot that prepared the Constitution, and had created conditions to enable them to get elected, enjoy all the perks and privileges that have been acquiring bulging proportions? A veteran of the freedom struggle once told me he finds it repulsive when people go to Raj Ghat before beginning their so-called fasts, political dramas and whatever you may call it. I share his anguish. Many others would also be doing so. Those who indulge in such frivolities could remember what Dr Ambedkar had mentioned in his concluding speech in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949: "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also a fact, what must we do? The first thing in my judgment we must do is hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives. It means we must abandon the bloody methods of revolution. It means that we must abandon the method of civil disobedience, non-cooperation and satyagraha." He goes on to point out that even with the Constitution in place, the nation, its people in general and those occupying constitutional positions in particular must never forget: "...however good a constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot.... The Constitution can provide only the organs of the State such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." Not only Dr. Ambedkar, but other stalwarts were also equally concerned oabouthow things may take shape in future.



IF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ELECTED ARE CAPABLE, MEN OF CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST EVEN OF A DEFECTIVE CONSTITUTION. IF THEY ARE LACKING IN THESE, THE CONSTITUTION CANNOT HELP THE COUNTRY

Speaking on November 26 of 1949, the final remarks of the President of the Constituent Assembly could be the guiding light for every member of parliament, irrespective of his party affiliations: "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend on how the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. It is a trite saying that a country can have only the Government it deserves. If the people who are elected are capable, and men of character and integrity, they will be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. After all, a constitution like a machine is a lifeless thing. It acquires life because of the men who control it and operate it, and India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men who will have the interest of the country before them". There can be no better articulation of the anxiety and anguish that every concerned Indian citizen experiences at this juncture of history. India needs awakeners not only in every section of Indian society." The newly elected MPs could rally move towards an illustrious political career if they just internalize the thoughts, ideas and ideals of three of the illustrious Indians: Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad and Ambedkar; the ARG" This could become their tribute and salutations to the three of them, and that would equip them to plunge into the service of the people and India. Scholars and institutions must launch serious analysis of certain aspects of how the democratic process has fared in its actual practice, in sustaining its credibility amongst the voters. They could also find out with academic fidelity – and inform the

people what has eroded Gandhian values that were supposed to become the cornerstone of the Indian Democracy after the Constitution of India was prepared with un-heard of dexterity and socio-economic and cultural comprehension by its framers, all of whom were distinguished freedom fighters, known for their sacrifice, non-accumulation, and commitment to a cause. Not only in India, the greatness of the contributions of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar is acknowledged globally. It is indeed intriguing for numerous people how those who swore by his name all the time to give a zing to their political ambitions, blatantly ignore some of his basic premises which were an outcome not only of his intellectual prowess but also a precise and incisive comprehension of life he had led! Take the example of reservations for the SC/SC communities. It is the responsibility of the members of the Parliament and State assemblies to fact-check the extent to which reservations have helped the target groups. How long shall the unscrupulous among the politicians shall be allowed to play the games of caste, creed, religion, region and even language? If all this is permitted to continue, it would be impossible to create an India that projects social cohesion and religious amity. Revert back to the sixties of the last century, Gandhi had gone but had not vanished from the psyche of the people, young persons were convinced that the caste system would be eliminated during the next two to three decades. Yes, that was the spirit of the Constitution of India, that was the India of Baba Saheb's Dreams! (Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity; views are personal)

India and US support for the Dalai Lama and Tibetans upsets China

India and America's identical and unequivocal stance on Tibet has rattled China, highlighting the evolving geopolitical dynamics in Asia

In a significant diplomatic move, both India and the United States have extended their support to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan cause, provoking a strong reaction from China. The adoption of the Resolve Tibet Act by the US Congress and a recent high-profile meeting between a bipartisan American Congressional delegation and the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala have amplified the tensions between the US, India, and China. This article explores the strategic and ideological implications of these developments.

A Diplomatic Convergence: The backdrop of this development is the increasingly strained relationship between the United States and China.



K S TOMAR

The US Congress's passage of the Resolve Tibet Act, which promises comprehensive support for the Tibetan cause, marks a clear stance against China's policies in Tibet. The meeting between the American delegation and the Dalai Lama further underscores this commitment. In a related move, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the US delegation, who congratulated him on his historic third-term

election victory and praised the fairness and transparency of the recent Indian general elections. Modi's subsequent Twitter post highlighted the strong bipartisan support for advancing the India-US strategic partnership. Notably, the post did not mention the Dalai Lama, though it was clear the topic was a significant aspect of the discussions. India's hosting of the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamshala places it in a unique position concerning the Tibetan cause. The Indian government has historically balanced its support for Tibet with its broader strategic and economic relations with China. The timing of the meetings suggests a coordinated diplomatic effort to highlight shared values and mutual

interests in countering China's assertive policies. **Strategic Ramifications:** The convergence of American and Indian interests reflects the evolving geopolitical landscape in Asia. Both nations share concerns about China's growing influence and assertive behavior, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. By reinforcing their strategic partnership, the United States and India signal their commitment to a rules-based international order, countering China's ambitions. In response, China is likely to intensify its efforts to strengthen alliances and expand its influence in the region. This could involve deepening ties with Pakistan, increasing engagement with other South Asian nations, and accelerating

ing Belt and Road Initiative projects to secure strategic footholds. Additionally, China might enhance its military posture along disputed borders with India, particularly in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, to assert territorial claims. Beyond immediate strategic calculations, these meetings highlight the broader ideological contest between democratic values and authoritarian governance. The Dalai Lama, a symbol of non-violent resistance and spiritual leadership, embodies values resonating with global advocates of democracy and human rights. Engaging with him reinforces the US and India's commitment to these principles. China, facing scrutiny over its

human rights record in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong, is placed in a defensive position. In the global influence battle, soft power and moral authority are becoming increasingly important. The Dharamshala and Delhi meetings enhance the soft power of the United States and India, positioning them as champions of human rights and democratic values. **The Path Forward:** As the geopolitical chessboard in Asia becomes more complex, the interplay between diplomacy and deterrence will be crucial. The United States and India, through coordinated diplomatic actions, are setting the stage for a more assertive and collaborative approach to countering China's influence. This involves not only

strengthening bilateral ties but also fostering broader coalitions with like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The high-level US delegation, led by Republican Rep. Michael McCaul and including prominent figures like Democratic former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, discussed the relevance and significance of the Resolve Tibet Act. President Joe Biden, a strong advocate for Tibetan rights, is expected to approve the Act. China's reaction has been predictably strong, warning the United States against sending the "wrong signal." The Chinese embassy in India emphasized China's stance on Tibet as an internal matter, condemning any perceived

interference in its domestic affairs. **Conclusion** India and America's identical and unequivocal stance on Tibet has rattled China, highlighting the evolving geopolitical dynamics in Asia. The historical breach of trust by China in 1962, replicated in 2020 during the Ladakh confrontation, underscores the challenges in Sino-Indian relations. Prime Minister Modi's efforts to normalize ties with Beijing have not yielded desired results, reflecting the ongoing tension. Adopting a more nuanced approach to diplomacy may help mitigate tensions while advancing China's strategic goals. (Writer is a political analyst; views are personal)

S Korea to deploy laser weapons to intercept North Korean drones

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said Thursday it will begin deploying laser weapons systems designed to intercept North Korean drones, which have caused security concerns in the South in recent years.

South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration said that it will deploy at least one anti-air laser weapons system called "Block-I" by the end of this year and more in coming years. An agency statement said the "Block-I" system is capable of launching precision attacks on small incoming drones and multi-copters. It said the system, developed by local company Hanwha Aerospace, costs just 2,000 won (about \$1.50) per shot. "We face North Korea on our doorstep and its drones

pose present threats to us, so that's why we've been aiming to build and deploy laser weapons soon to cope with them," an agency official said, requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to media on the issue.

He said that other countries like the United States and Israel are ahead of South Korea in laser weapons technology, but their primary focus has been on higher-powered laser guns that can shoot down incoming ballistic missiles. South Korea also hopes to develop such anti-missile laser weapons, which its defense procurement agency called "a game changer" in future combat environments. The "Block-I" system is meant to hit circuit boards and other equipment in enemy drones to make them malfunction and crash on the ground. Tests of

the weapons system in 2022-2023 were successful and proved its credibility, the official said. Some experts questioned the technology. Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, doubts how effectively South Korea can use its laser weapons since its anti-air radar systems aren't advanced enough to detect North Korean drones well. He said the range of a laser weapon is relatively short, so high-power microwave weapons would be better when enemy drones are flown in large numbers simultaneously. Jung Chang Wook, head of the Korea Defense Study Forum think tank in Seoul, said South Korea is likely about five years away from acquiring a functioning laser weapon that can shoot down the drones used by

North Korea. North Korea has periodically flown drones across its heavily fortified border with South Korea for several years, in what observers have called tests of South Korean readiness. In December 2022, South Korea accused the North of sending drones across the border for the first time in five years. South Korea fired warning shots and launched fighter jets and helicopters but failed to shoot down any of the drones. In a key political meeting in December 2023, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to introduce various types of unmanned combat equipment such as attack drones for 2024. Foreign experts say Kim likely regards drones as a cheap yet effective method to trigger security jitters and an internal divide in South Korea.

Yemen Houthi rebels fire Iranian missile at Norwegian-flagged ship

AP ■ DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels likely fired an Iranian-made anti-ship cruise missile at a Norwegian-flagged tanker in the Red Sea in December, an assault that now provides a public, evidence-based link between the ongoing rebel campaign against shipping and Tehran, the US military says. A report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency released Wednesday linked the attack on the Strinda, which set the vessel ablaze, to Tehran, the Houthi's main backer in Yemen's nearly decadelong war. The findings correspond with those of a Norway-based insurers group that also examined debris found on the Strinda. It comes as the Houthis continue their monthslong campaign of attacks over the Israel-Hamas war, targeting ships in the Red Sea corridor, disrupting the USD 1 trillion flow of goods passing through it annually while also sparking the most intense combat the US Navy has seen since World War II. Iran's mission to the United Nations, responding to questions from The

Associated Press, again denied arming the Houthis despite the reports. "We are aware that (the Houthis) have significantly developed their military capabilities relying on their very own sources," the mission said. "The prolonged war against them is the primary factor behind the expansion of their military prowess." The Strinda was coming from Malaysia and was bound for the Suez Canal and then on to Italy with a cargo of palm oil when it was struck by a missile December 11. The attack sparked a major fire on board that the crew later extinguished without anyone being hurt. Debris found on board later was analysed by the US military. The DIA compared the pieces of the engine from the missile found on board to the Iranian Noor anti-ship ballistic cruise missile. "The Iranian Tolu-4 turbojet engine, used in the Noor (missile), has unique features — including the compressor stage and stator — that are consistent with engine debris recovered from the ... Houthi attack on the M/T Strinda," the DIA

report said. A stator is the stationary portion of an engine. Those pieces match images of a Tolu-4 engine that Iran displayed at the International Air and Space Show in Russia in 2017, the DIA said. Visually, the engines bore similarities in the photographs. The Noor was reverse engineered by Iran from the Chinese C-802 anti-ship missile, which Iran purchased from Beijing and began testing in 1996 before transfers stopped over a US pressure campaign. The Iranian version is believed to have a range of up to 170 kilometres, with an upgraded version called the Qader having a range up to 300 kilometres. The Houthis have a look-alike missile to the Qader called the Al-Mandeb 2 with a similar range. The Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association, known by the acronym DNK, also examined the debris following the Strinda attack. The association assessed it was "highly likely" the vessel had been hit by a C-802 or Noor anti-ship cruise missile.

'Trump will win if election is free and fair'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Observing that the June 27 presidential debate did have some impact on the popularity of Donald Trump, the head of "Sikh Americans for Trump" has said the former president's victory will depend on whether the election is free, fair and legal. "I think our community is very much in support. I have seen a lot of support in favour of President Trump. We are raising funds for President Trump. We are going to the convention soon," Maryland-based community leader Jasdip Singh Jassee, head of "Sikh Americans for Trump," told PTI ahead of the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Milwaukee next week.

Republican delegates from across the country, during the four-day RNC convention in Milwaukee, would formally nominate Trump as their presidential candidate for the November 5 general election. Incumbent President Joe Biden is the presumptive nominee of the Democratic party.

"We will be mobilising our team nationwide this time, even on the West Coast, in New York, Texas, in support of President Trump," said Jassee, who has been appointed on the finance committee for President Trump, the Trump 47.

"We all knew about President Biden's issues that he had for the last four years, but it was very interesting to see... for the American public and media, to see it during the debate how much President Biden has declined his mental capacity and his thought processes, which was very evident throughout. But somehow, the American media was kind of controlling it and not letting the people know about it," he said in response to a question.

"So right now, we see that the debate did have some impact on President Trump's popularity, but the country's overall situation, such as inflation, illegal immigration, a disorderly border at this time, the infrastructure, the violence and the crime that is happening in America, and also zero foreign

Top Biden fundraiser, says Democrats not going to win presidency with him

Washington (PTI): A top Hollywood fundraiser for US President Joe Biden called for a new Democratic presidential candidate on Wednesday, arguing that the party cannot win the White House in November with him as the nominee. "We are not going to win in November with this president. On top of that, we will not win the House, and we are going to lose the Senate. This is not only my opinion, this is the opinion of every senator and Congress member and governor who I have spoken with in private. Every single one, irrespective of what he or she is saying publicly," George Clooney, an actor, director and film producer, said in an op-ed in "The New York Times". Clooney, who

hosted a very successful fundraiser for Biden in June, said he observed a different Joe Biden at that event.

"The one battle he cannot win is the fight against time. None of us can. It is devastating to say it, but the Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago in the fund-raiser was not the Joe 'big F-ing deal' Biden of 2010. He was not even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate," he wrote. "Was he tired? Yes. A cold? Maybe. But our party leaders need to stop telling us that 51 million people did not see what we just saw. We are all so terrified by the prospect of a second Trump term that we have opted to ignore every warning sign," Clooney said.

policy where America is not a leader anymore," he observed.

"All of this has had an impact on Biden's campaign in addition to his debate performance and his physical and mental capacity. But again, the key issue is what President Trump said in the debate when he was asked a question, will you accept the verdict? He said if it is a fair, legal, and honest election, yes, I will. So again, the key is, if this election is going to be fair, honest or legal," Jassee said.

"If that happens, then yes, President Trump will win, because that is what the American public wants. But if there is a swamp involved, or deep state involved, or vested interest involved, then we do not know what the result is going to be," Jassee said. According to him, this year, the support of the Indian community, South Asian community, Sikh community for Trump has gotten like four times more than what it was in 2020. "Now, people come up to me and say, hey, we want to be in your support.

British Indian MPs swear oath on 'Bhagavad Gita, Gutka & Bible

PTI ■ LONDON

Newly elected Indian-origin MPs to the House of Commons have been pledging their allegiance to the British Crown as a symbol of loyalty to the country, choosing to swear on holy texts or to affirm their oath during the first week of a new Parliament. A new copy of the 'Bhagavad Gita' presented to Speaker Lindsay Hoyle by Shailesh Vara, former Conservative Party member of Parliament who lost his Cambridgeshire seat in last week's general election, featured early on as Rishi Sunak was among the first British Indian MPs to take his oath as Leader of the Opposition on Tuesday. Holding the text in his right hand, the former prime minister read out the customary text: "I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King

Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God." First-time MP Kanishka Narayan, who is the first Indian-origin member of Parliament to represent Wales in the Westminster Parliament after winning the Vale of Glamorgan seat for Labour, also chose the 'Gita' for his oath, as did new Tory MP from Leicester Shivani Raja. Bob Blackman, a Tory veteran who represents Harrow East in London and has chaired the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Hindus, chose to hold both the 'Gita' and the 'King James Bible' for his oath-taking ceremony. "This 'Bhagavad Gita' has been specially blessed in a temple in India and will be used by Hindu MPs entering Parliament following this General Election and those who will enter in the generations to come," said Shailesh Vara, when he recent-

ly presented the holy text blessed at the Mayapur temple headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Some of the British Sikh MPs such as Tan Dhesi and first-timers Gurinder Singh Josan, Harpreet Uppal, Satvir Kaur and Warinder Singh Juss chose to swear their oath to the Sikh scriptures but without holding any text in their hands. Preet Kaur Gill, with her head covered with a red scarf, chose to hold the cloth-wrapped 'Sundar Gutka' prayer book during her swearing-in. Sojan Joseph, the mental health nurse from Kerala who has been elected Labour MP from Ashford in Kent, chose the 'New Testament' biblical text to swear his oath. Meanwhile, the 'King James Bible' was chosen by re-elected Conservatives Priti Patel and Claire Coutinho, as well as Liberal Democrat Munira

Wilson. MPs can opt for a non-religious affirmation, as did the two new Independent MPs with their roots in India, Shockat Adam and Iqbal Mahmood, along with many others including Tory MP Gagan Mohindra and Labour's Lisa Nandy and Seema Malhotra. First-timers like Tory MP Dr Neil Shastri-Hunt and Labour's Jeevun Sandher and Sonia Kumar also chose to affirm their pledge of allegiance. The affirmation reads: "I do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law." All elected MPs, including 29 of Indian heritage, have been queuing up in the Commons chamber since Tuesday to complete this protocol before they can officially take their seats in Parliament.

US Coast Guard patrol spots Chinese naval ships off Alaska island

Anchorage (AP): A US Coast Guard cutter on routine patrol in the Bering Sea came across several Chinese military ships in international waters but within the US exclusive economic zone, officials said Wednesday.

The crew detected three vessels approximately 124 miles (200 kilometers) north of the Amchitka Pass in the Aleutian Islands, the Coast Guard said in a statement. A short time later, a helicopter aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak spotted a fourth ship approximately 84 miles (135 kilometers) north of the Amukta Pass. All four of the People's Republic of China vessels were "transiting in international waters but still inside the US Exclusive Economic Zone," which extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the U.S. shoreline, the statement said. "The Chinese naval presence operated in accordance with international rules and norms," said Rear

Adm. Megan Dean, Seventeenth Coast Guard District commander. "We met presence with presence to ensure there were no disruptions to US interests in the maritime environment around Alaska." U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Kimball is a 418-foot (127-meter) ship based in Honolulu. This wasn't the first time Chinese naval ships have sailed near Alaska waters. In September 2022, the Kimball spotted guided missile cruiser from China in the Bering Sea. And in Sept. 2021, Coast Guard cutters in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean encountered Chinese ships, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) off the Aleutian Islands. The US military routinely conducts what it calls freedom of navigation operations in disputed waters in Asia that China claims as its own, deploying Navy ships to sail through waterways such as the South China Sea.

UK mulls tighter crossbow laws after three women were slain in an attack

AP ■ LONDON

A man suspected of killing the wife and daughters of a BBC radio sports commentator with a crossbow was being treated in a hospital Thursday after being found injured in a cemetery some 15 miles (22 kilometers) from the scene of the crimes. Police had spent almost a day hunting for Kyle Clifford after the attack on Carol Hunt, 61, and her daughters Hannah, 28 and Louise, 25 at their home in Bushey, northwest of London. Police and ambulance crews called to the suburban cul-de-sac on Tuesday evening tried to save them, but they were pronounced dead at the scene.

After a frantic search across a swath of London's northern fringe, Clifford, 26, was found Wednesday in the Enfield area of north London, near his home. Footage from Sky News showed the suspect being carried on a stretcher out of Lavender Hill Cemetery. Armed police offi-

cers, forensic personnel and ambulance staff had massed around the cemetery through the day.

Police did not say how he was injured, but stressed that they had not fired any shots. They said Clifford had not yet been arrested.

"Following extensive inquiries, the suspect has been located and nobody else is being sought in connection with the investigation at this time," said Detective Inspector Justine Jenkins from the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit. Police did not say how or whether Clifford was connected to the women, but said they believed the attack was targeted. British media reported that Clifford was an ex-boyfriend of one of the victims. Jenkins said the investigation was moving "at pace" and that formal identification of the victims had yet to take place. The BBC confirmed the victims

were the family of its sports commentator John Hunt. Hunt is the main racing commentator for BBC 5 Live, the corporation's main news and sports radio channel.

His voice is known to millions through his coverage of the world famous Grand National and The Derby. Shocked neighbors came late Wednesday to lay flowers near the scene of the attack.

"They were the loveliest, gentlest family," said Su Kehinde, who lives nearby. "They were the meekest human beings. They did not deserve this. They were beautiful souls." People in Britain do not need a license to own a crossbow, but it is illegal to carry one in public without a reasonable excuse. The new Labour Party government, which took office last week, said it would "swiftly consider" findings of a recently launched review into whether controls on owning crossbows should be tightened.

Sizzling heatwave in parts of southern & central Europe prompts alerts

AP ■ BELGRADE

Weather alerts, forest fires, melting pavement in cities: A sizzling heat wave has sent temperatures in parts of central and southern Europe soaring toward 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in some places. From Italy to Romania, authorities warned people to be cautious, drive carefully if going on holiday, drink plenty of water and avoid going out during the hottest hours of the day. Italian authorities declared a red weather alert in seven cities on Thursday, mostly in the central parts of the country but also the capital Rome and Trieste in the northeast. The heat conditions are aggravated by humidity and could affect healthy people as well as those with health conditions, authorities warned. Similar warnings were issued in neighboring Croatia and further east and south.

Croatia's main tourism resort, the southern Adriatic Sea town of Dubrovnik, recorded 28 degrees Celsius (82.4 Fahrenheit) at dawn, signalling there won't be relief when the sun goes down. Forest fires have been reported this week in Albania, near the border with Greece, as well as in Bosnia and Italy. Meteorologists said temperatures were even higher than officially reported in big cities where sizzling concrete radiates the heat above the ground and the asphalt softens under one's feet. "It was impossible to breathe yesterday," said Antonela Spicanovic, from the Montenegrin capital of Podgorica, where temperatures reached 39C (102F) on Wednesday. The city seemed deserted with many of its residents staying indoors or heading for the Adriatic Sea coast or the mountains. "I spend my days in the apartment, under

the air conditioning," said Dorde Stanišić, an electrical engineer also from Podgorica. "It's hell outside." Mendim Rugova, a meteorologist from neighboring Kosovo, said temperatures in the country have risen on average by 2.5 degrees since the 1980s. He said the current heat wave could last until the end of July. "In the region we could see temperatures above 40C, in parts of Albania, Northern Macedonia, in Greece and also in parts of Serbia," he predicted. In Czechia's capital of Prague, where temperatures reached 34C Wednesday before dropping slightly Thursday, the city zoo delivered ten tons of ice to provide much-needed relief for the animals. The ice was strategically placed around the zoo Wednesday creating cool spots where animals could find refuge from unusually high temperatures.

In the Romanian capital Bucharest, street thermometers showed 42C (107F) on Tuesday and Wednesday though the official measurements were a few degrees lower. Neighboring Serbia reported record temperatures so far this summer, with thermostats at 35C (95F) Thursday morning in the north of the country. In the capital Belgrade, doctors reported treating people who collapsed, felt dizzy or complained of headaches due to the heat. Serbian authorities have said that the use of air conditioning led to huge power consumption similar to levels normally seen in winter, when electricity in the Balkan country use electricity for heating. During a previous heat wave last month, Montenegro, Bosnia, Croatia and Albania faced a major power outage amid the overload and a collapse of a regional distribution line.

Woman who swept to sea while swimming at beach rescued

Tokyo (AP): A Chinese woman who was swept out to sea while swimming at a Japanese beach was rescued 37 hours later after drifting in a swimming ring more than 80 kilometers (50 miles) in the Pacific Ocean, officials said Thursday. Japan's coast guard launched a search for the woman, identified only as a Chinese national in her 20s, after receiving a call Monday night from her friend saying she had disappeared while swimming at Shimoda, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) southwest of Tokyo. The woman was spotted by a cargo ship early Wednesday, about 36 hours after she disappeared, off the southern tip of Boso Peninsula, the coast guard said. The cargo ship asked a passing LPG tanker, the Kakuwa Maru No. 8, to help.

Deepening Russia-China ties concern NATO

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

NATO has voiced profound concern over China's deepening relationship with Russia and accused Beijing of becoming a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine through its so-called "no limits" partnership with the country. Leaders of the 32-member North Atlantic Treaty Organisation said this in a statement following their meeting in Washington to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the North Atlantic Council. "The People's Republic of China's (PRC) stated ambitions and coercive policies continue to challenge our interests, security and values. The deepening strategic partnership between Russia and the PRC and their mutually reinforcing attempts to undercut and reshape the rules-based international order are a cause for profound concern," said the Washington Summit Declaration. "We are confronted by hybrid, cyber, space and other threats and malicious activities from state and non-state actors," it said. "The PRC has become a decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine through its so-called "no limits" partnership and its large-scale support for Russia's defence industrial base. This increases the threat Russia poses to its neighbours and to Euro-Atlantic security," it said. NATO leaders called on China, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council with a particular responsibility to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, to cease all material and political support to Russia's war effort. "This includes the transfer of dual-use materials, such as weapons components, equipment, and raw materials that serve as inputs for Russia's defence sector. The PRC cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation," said the declaration issued by the heads of state and government participating in the meeting during which it welcomed Sweden as its 32nd member country. The historic accession of Finland and Sweden makes them safer and the alliance stronger, including in the High North and the Baltic Sea, it said.

Don't bring chaos to Asia: China to NATO

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Thursday hit out at NATO for terming it as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine, lodging a diplomatic protest to the Western alliance for the "provocative" remarks and asking it not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia. The China-related paragraphs in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Washington summit declaration are "biased, provocative and aimed at vilifying" Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing here. "We strongly deplore it and firmly oppose it and lodged a serious representation, (diplomatic protest) to NATO," Lin said. He also lashed out at the NATO Asia-Pacific push, saying the organisation is strengthening ties with China's neighbours and US allies trying to seek security at the expense of others and asked it not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia. NATO's Asia Pacific strategy has damaged China's interests, he said and urged it to stop interfering in its internal affairs. China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, he said. The NATO Washington summit has made scathing criticism of Beijing, saying China has "become a decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine" through its so-called



"no limits" partnership and its large-scale support for Russia's defence industrial base. Also, China's military exercises with Belarus, a close ally of Russia, were sharply criticised by NATO especially since they are being held close to the border of Poland, a NATO member. Next to Russia, China appears to have become a centerpiece of NATO's criticism which comes at a time when Beijing is trying to scale down trade tariffs and sanctions, especially for its electric vehicles which it is trying to market in the EU to reduce its overcapacity. The NATO alliance comprised 32 member states, 30 European and two North American countries including the US

and UK. Chinese analysts have also been airing concerns over China getting involved in the Ukraine war risking its political and trade ties with the EU and confrontation with the powerful NATO alliance. China is also trying to deflect criticism for supplying materials related to weapons production to Russia. The NATO declaration said, "We call on the PRC, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council with a particular responsibility to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, to cease all material and political support to Russia's war effort". "This includes the transfer of dual-use materials, such as weapons components, equip-

ment, and raw materials that serve as inputs for Russia's defence sector. The PRC cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation," the NATO declaration said. Lin also tried to play down strong EU and NATO criticism of Chinese troops taking part in joint military exercises with Belarus near the Polish border, saying that it is normal military cooperation, and does not target any specific country. Poland reportedly expressed its concern to China as the exercises are close to comfort and the Polish border is also formally referred to as the borders of NATO as Poland is a member of the organisation.

US says Chinese overcapacity has significant spillovers around world

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China's industrial manufacturing overcapacity has significant spillovers around the world, the Joe Biden administration said on Wednesday, noting that addressing these challenges may warrant taking defensive action to protect firms and workers — and the traditional toolkit of trade actions may not be sufficient. "We are growing concerned that China's enduring macro-economic imbalances and non-market policies and practices pose a significant risk to workers and businesses in the United States and the rest of the world. We are worried that these features of China's economy can lead to industrial overcapacity that has significant spillovers around the world and can compromise our collective supply chain resilience, given the resulting

over-concentration in some manufacturing sectors," Under Secretary for International Affairs Jay Shambaugh said. The United States, along with its allies and partners in developing economies and advanced economies alike, share mutual objectives to address China's policies that have negative economic spillovers to its firms, workers and economic resilience, he added. "Addressing these challenges may warrant our taking defensive action to protect our firms and workers — and the traditional toolkit of trade actions may not be sufficient. More creative approaches may be necessary to mitigate the impacts of China's overcapacity. We should be clear — defence against overcapacity or dumping is not protectionist or anti-trade, it is an attempt to safeguard firms and workers from distortions

in another economy," Shambaugh said. "The best outcome, though, would be for China to acknowledge the growing concerns among its major trading partners and work with us to address them. We will take defensive action if needed, but we would prefer for China to take action itself to address the macroeconomic and structural forces that are generating the potential for a second 'China shock' for its major trading partners," he said. "China could boost consumption by strengthening its safety net, increasing household incomes and reforming its internal migration rules. It could better support services, not just manufacturing. It could reduce harmful and wasteful subsidies. These would all be in China's interest and reduce tensions," the Treasury official said.



People make their way through the rain as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl hit Ottawa, Ontario

AP/PTI

Russia declares newspaper 'undesirable'

Moscow (AP): The Russian prosecutor general's office on Wednesday declared The Moscow Times, an online newspaper popular among Russia's expatriate community, as an "undesirable organisation". The designation comes amid a crackdown on critical news media and the opposition. It means the newspaper must stop any work in Russia and it subjects any Russian who cooperates with the paper to up to five years in prison. It is a more severe measure than the "foreign agent" designation applied to the news outlet in November, which subjects individuals and organisations to increased financial scrutiny and requires any of their public material to prominently include notice of being declared a foreign agent. The Moscow Times already moved its editorial operations out of Russia in 2022 after the passage of a law imposing stiff penalties for material regarded as discrediting the Russian military and its war in Ukraine. It publishes in English and in Russian, but its Russian-language site was blocked in Russia several months after the Ukraine war began. In an editors' note on the decision, the newspaper said "the labelling of The Moscow Times as undesirable is the latest of many efforts to suppress our reporting on the truth in Russia and its war in Ukraine.... This designation will make it even more difficult for us to do our jobs, putting reporters and fixers inside Russia at risk of criminal prosecution and making sources even more hesitant to speak to us. "We refuse to give in to this pressure. We refuse to be silenced," the newspaper said. The publication began in 1992 as a daily print paper distributed for free in restaurants, hotels and other locations popular with expatriates, whose presence in Moscow was soaring after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It later reduced its print edition to weekly, then became online only in 2017.

NC, CPN-UML ask lawmakers to vote against Prachanda's trust motion

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A head of a floor test for Nepal's Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Friday, the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML have issued whips requiring their lawmakers to vote against the confidence motion tabled by the former guerrilla leader. KP Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML, the largest party in the ruling coalition, withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing deal with the largest party in the House - Nepali Congress - to replace the former Maoist leader, who is expected to lose the confidence vote. The Nepali Congress, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats at present, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 seats required for a majority in the lower house. Prachanda's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) has 32 seats.

Prachanda, who requires 138 votes for the government to win

the vote of confidence in the House, is likely to secure around 63 votes, and the government is almost sure to lose the floor test on Friday. The Nepali Congress (NC) has instructed its lawmakers to be present in the House and vote against Prachanda's confidence motion. Similarly, the CPN-UML has also issued a whip requiring its lawmakers to vote against the motion, My Republica newspaper reported. This coordinated effort between the NC and the UML aims to oust the Prachanda-led government and establish new administrations at both federal and provincial levels. Oli, the CPN-UML chairperson, met Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba on Wednesday. The meeting between the two leaders was aimed at formulating a future strategy on how to move forward after the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) agreed to form a new coalition government. During the two-hour-long meeting held at Deuba's residence at Budhanilkantha, on the

outskirts of Kathmandu, the two leaders discussed matters such as collecting signatures in favour of the new coalition to be led by Oli and its submission to the president. They also discussed the formation of the new government and inviting other smaller parties to join the national consensus government being formed under the leadership of Oli, according to sources close to CPN-UML. The two parties have inked a deal to lead the government turn by turn for the remaining three-year period of the Parliament. According to the agreement, Oli will become the Prime Minister for one and a half years in the first stage. Last week, the CPN-UML demanded Prachanda's immediate resignation after the prime minister said that he is preparing to face a vote of confidence in the Parliament on Friday, given the withdrawal of support by some allies. Prachanda, 69, has announced that he would not quit after the resignation of eight Cabinet ministers belonging to the CPN-UML and instead face a vote of confidence in Parliament.

Pakistan court says actions of Imran Khan similar to that of a 'terrorist'

PTI ■ LAHORE

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday said the actions of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan were similar to that of a "terrorist" in a case linked to the May 9 violence and ruled that he had delegated the task of attacking military installations, government properties, and police officials to party leaders to exert pressure for his release. The 71-year-old PTI founder and hundreds of his party colleagues are being tried under multiple cases, including one under the Official Secrets Act in connection with the May 9, 2023, violent protests by his supporters that damaged key military installations across Pakistan. The unprecedented protests erupted across Pakistan on May 9 last year after Khan was arrested in an alleged corruption case. Khan's party workers allegedly vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander House), Mianwali

Airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi too was attacked by the mob for the first time. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party termed the anti-terrorism court's ruling an "absurd order" and declared that it would launch a protest. The anti-terrorism court (ATC) at Lahore had earlier this week dismissed pre-arrest bail to Khan in three cases related to the May 9 riots and allowed police his continued custody for interrogation. In a detailed order issued here on Thursday, ATC Judge Khalid Arshad said: "An extraordinary concession of pre-arrest bail is meant for an innocent person and not the petitioner, Imran Khan Niazi, who hatched, materialised alleged criminal conspiracy along with the senior PTI leadership and protesters/accused having a common object to wage a war against the state to topple over the government." The order said that Khan not

only incited people but also instructed leaders to create chaos, disturb law and order, and commit arson to pressure the military and government for his release. This was disclosed in statements from two prosecution witnesses, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. "The pre-arrest bail of the petitioner has no merits and is hereby dismissed while withdrawing his already granted interim bail," the judge said. The judge further observed: A peaceful demonstrator becomes a "terrorist" when he hatches a criminal conspiracy, disseminates it and shares a common object with other accused, who, being armed, attack and attempt to damage state properties like Lahore Corps Commander House known as Jinnah House at Lahore, targeting government machinery... He loses his normal right to be a law-abiding citizen." The order, quoting the special public prosecutor, said that a criminal conspiracy was hatched at Khan's Lahore Zaman Park

residence on May 7 and 8 in which Khan himself told the top PTI leadership regarding his apprehension of arrest and the reaction of launching protests and damage of military installations. Reacting to the detailed ACT order, the PTI said, "The judgment contains no evidence of Imran Khan ordering May 9 violence. The judge while dismissing pre-arrest bails of Khan is drawing inferences and assumptions." The PTI pointed out in its statement, how previously the Supreme Court of Pakistan had termed the arrest of Imran Khan, illegal and added: "We will challenge the verdict of the Anti-Terrorism Court." The anti-terrorist courts in other parts of the country, including Rawalpindi, Sargodha etc have dismissed the case accusing Imran Khan of being the main accused of instigating the May 9 violent incidents, based on the fact that there is no evidence provided establishing the prosecution's point," the PTI said.

Indonesia ex-minister sentenced to 10 years

AP ■ JAKARTA

Indonesia's anti-graft court sentenced a former agriculture minister to 10 years in prison Thursday after finding him guilty of corruption-related extortion, abuse of power and bribery involving ministry contracts with private vendors. The case has tarnished President Joko Widodo's credibility in fighting corruption. Five other members of Widodo's Cabinet have been sentenced to prison terms in corruption cases, casting a shadow over his efforts to clean up government while his term will end in October. The court in the capital, Jakarta, ruled that the former Cabinet minister, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, was guilty of abusing his power by enriching himself and other officials. It also

ordered him to pay a 300 million rupiah (\$18,500) fine, and said he would be subject to another four months' imprisonment if he fails to pay. "The defendant has legally and convincingly been proven guilty of corruption," presiding Judge Rianto Adam Pontoh said. "He wasn't a good example as a public official, what he has done is counter the government's efforts to fight corruption and enriched himself by corruption." Limpo had been arrested last October by the Corruption Eradication Commission, known as the KPK. He has denied wrongdoing. Several ministry officials testified during the trial that secretariats, directorates general and agencies within the ministry was required to give up 20% of their budgets to Limpo, as though they were indebted to



Former Agriculture Minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo is escorted by cops after his sentencing at the Corruption Court in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday

AP/PTI

him, and he threatened their jobs if they rejected his demands. Vendors and suppliers were also asked to set aside money to fulfill the then-minister's demands, the trial revealed. Limpo used the money on luxurious cars, gifts and apart-

ments, charter private jets, family parties and gatherings, and for religious observances and pilgrimages. Limpo also used the bribes to disburse humanitarian aid for disaster victims and to his Nasdem political party.

Prosecutors, who sought 12 years imprisonment for Limpo, said the politician accepted a total of 44.7 billion rupiah (\$2.7 million) between January 2020 and October 2023. In their indictment, prosecutors accused Limpo of ordering his two subordinates, Kasdi Subagyono and Muhammad Hatta, to collect the illicit money. They were each sentenced to four years in prison in separate cases. During the trial, Limpo said he was the victim of political persecution and felt that he had been slandered by his subordinates in his ministry who fears of being replaced or removed from their position. "I never received any information about their objection to any of my orders," Limpo said. "If they think it's wrong, they should consult and discuss with me first."

In historic first, Lahore High Court swears in woman Chief Justice

PTI ■ LAHORE

Justice Aalia Neelum on Thursday took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan, making her the first woman to be ele-

vated as the court's top judge. Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath of office to her. Punjab province's first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was also present in the oath-taking ceremony.

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक विद्युत खण्ड-प्रथम			
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एनए द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के कार्पेटी जलमय में विद्युत औद्योगिक क्षेत्र बहेरी में विद्युत विकास कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों / निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / परिवहनों / नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत विद्युत लाइसेन्सी एवं अनुमति देकर / फॉर्म से असकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो दिनांक 12.07.2024 को अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे से दिनांक 19.07.2024 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा को दिनांक 20.07.2024 को अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शायब पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 23.07.2024 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत् है-			
क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रु. (लाख में)	
1.	Providing 11 KV HT/LT Composite Line at Balance Road No. 11, 10, 06, 04, 02 & 01 at Mega Food Park Baheri Distt. Bareilly.	76.38	
नोट - 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित बरे अंकित करें। जी.एस.टी. अलग से देय होगी। 2. विद्युत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ के जे.पी. के अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होने, अन्यथा निविदा को रद्दकार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website:www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित ई-लिक एवं यूपीएलसी की website:http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक विद्युत खण्ड-प्रथम उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्र., कानपुर			

Sensex, Nifty settle marginally down

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed marginally down in a volatile session on Thursday as investors booked profits in heavyweights ahead of the announcement of key financial results for the June quarter.

Retreating from early highs, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34. The index climbed 245.32 points to hit a high of 80,170.09 in early trade but later lost momentum due to selling in index heavyweights. The barometer hit a day's low of 79,464.38, down by 460.39 points from the last close. The NSE Nifty edged down 8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95. The broader index gyrated between a high of 24,402.65 and a low of 24,193.75 in day trade."The main indices are trading in a narrow range, struggling to justify its premium valuation ahead of the Q1 earnings season, which is forecast to be subdued," Vinod Nair, Head



of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. Among Sensex shares, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, Nestle, NTPC, Power Grid, NTPC, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were the biggest laggards. The prominent gainers were ITC, Tata Motors, Asian Paints and Titan. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher. European markets were trading in positive territory. US markets ended significantly higher on

Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 583.96 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent to USD 85.26 a barrel. The BSE benchmark closed lower by 426.87 points or 0.53 per cent at 79,924.77 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty dropped 108.75 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 24,324.45. Both the benchmark indices had hit their record high levels in opening deals on Wednesday.

Gold rises on jewellers' buying, positive overseas trend

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price rose Rs 50 to Rs 75,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday driven by jewellers' buying and a firm trend in the international markets, according to All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had settled at Rs 75,050 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Silver prices also climbed by Rs 100 to Rs 94,500 per kg. It had closed at Rs 94,400 per kg in the previous session. In sarafa markets, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 75,100 per 10 grams, up by Rs 50 against the previous close, the association said. Traders said gold rallied due to fresh demand from local jewellers and a firm trend in overseas markets. In the global markets, spot gold was trading higher at USD 2,389.20 per ounce, up by USD 9.50 per ounce. Gold prices firmed for a third consecutive session with investors awaiting US inflation data due later in the day for more insights on the Federal Reserve's interest rate path, Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research, said.

India's oil, gas exploration offers USD 100 bn opportunity: Hardeep

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday called for stepping up oil and gas hunt to cut India's reliance on imports and making available fuel at an affordable and sustainable way. Speaking at the Urja Varta conference, he said the exploration and production (E&P) sector is integral in the journey towards energy self-sufficiency, which is critical for sustained economic growth. "E&P offers investment opportunities worth USD 100 billion by 2030," he said. Stating that India's exploration and production potential still lies untapped, he said, "I find it strange that India is so heavily reliant on oil imports despite the abundant geological resources available to us." The Indian sedimentary basins hold about 651.8 million tonnes of crude oil and 1138.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas, he said. Puri said only 10 per cent of our sedimentary basin area is under exploration, which will rise to 16 per cent by 2024-end after the current bid ends. "The focus of our exploratory endeavours must pivot



towards discovering 'Yet to Find' resources," he said. India imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs. Crude oil is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries. "The government is doing its part to catalyse investments in E&P. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted sweeping reforms, empowering stakeholders to contribute to our nation's progress," he said, adding "We intend to increase India's exploration acreage to 1 million sq. Km. By 2030." The minister said since its inception in 2015, the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy has garnered

investments of approximately USD 2 billion and brought in 29 new players in the field. "The opening up of the erstwhile no-go areas has paved the way for exploration activities in previously restricted zones, fostering investments, notably in regions such as the Andamans," he said. Puri announced formation of a Joint Working Group (JWG), comprising representatives from private E&P operators, the National Oil Companies, MoPNG, and DGH to examine issues relating to the ease of doing business in E&P, adequacy of policies and procedures, and the need for their revision.

FinMin notifies GSTR-1A to amend outward supply form

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry has notified the GSTR-1A form which will give an option to taxpayers to amend outward supply or sales return form. Last month, the GST Council had recommended providing a new optional facility by way of form GSTR-1A to facilitate the taxpayers to amend the details in form GSTR-1 for a tax period and/ or to declare additional details. GSTR-1A will, however, have to be filed before filing of return in GSTR-3B for the said tax period. The finance ministry on July 10 notified the GSTR-1A form. Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced a significant enhancement to the GST compliance framework with the optional facility of form GSTR-1A. "By facilitating timely corrections, form GSTR-1A ensures that the correct tax liability is auto-populated in form GSTR-3B, reducing manual errors and fostering a streamlined compliance process," he said.

Sebi to auction HBN Dairies properties; fixes reserve price at ₹67.70 cr



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi will auction eight properties of HBN Dairies & Allied Ltd next month for a reserve price of Rs 67.70 crore. The move is a part of Sebi's effort to recover money raised by HBN Dairies through illicit collective investment schemes. This came after the Supreme Court in its order dated May 14, 2024, authorised Sebi to sell the assets of HBN Dairies & Allied Ltd (HBN) with the active involvement of the liquidator. The markets watchdog initiated the process for the sale of assets after HBN Dairies & Allied Ltd and its directors — Harmender Singh Sran, Amandeep Singh Sran, Manjeet Kaur Sran and Jasbeer Kaur — failed to refund the investors' money. The properties to go under the hammer include a shopping mall-cum-multiplex, hotel, plots and commercial shops, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notice on Wednesday. The properties were located in New Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and were

auctioned at a reserve price of Rs 67.70 crore. Quikr Realty has been engaged by Sebi to assist it in the e-auction, while C1 India has been appointed as the e-auction service provider, the regulator said in a notice. As per the notice, the regulator said bidders should make independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, litigations, attachments and acquisition liabilities of the properties put on action prior to submitting their bid. "Sale or auction shall be through online bidding. Bidders can participate in the e-auction from anywhere," the regulator noted. The markets watchdog is inviting bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against HBN Dairies & Allied Ltd and its directors. Sebi said the auction will be conducted online on August 13 from 11 am to 1 pm. The company had illegally mobilised Rs 1,136 crore from gullible investors through schemes involving purchase of cattle to earn huge returns from the sale of ghee. By indulging in these activities, HBN Dairies & Allied had flouted the regulatory norms.

Budget needs to take steps to address lower than expected growth in consumption: CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government needs to take steps such as reviewing personal income tax slabs in the upcoming Union Budget to drive private consumption, which in turn will drive private investment, Godrej & Boyce Executive Director & CEO, Anil G Verma said on Thursday. He also expressed optimism that the government will build upon the solid foundation laid by the interim budget, which

focused on boosting infrastructure development, maintaining fiscal prudence, and laid progressive emphasis on women, youth, farmers, and the underprivileged through skilling, welfare measures and financial assistance. "The important area that needs to be addressed now, amongst others, is the continued lower-than-expected growth in private consumption," Verma said in a statement. Asserting that private consumption drives private



investment, he said, "Therefore, I am hopeful that the GoI (government of India) will take steps that boost consumption through a slew of measures that could include optimising GST rates, reviewing of personal income tax slabs and reassessment of the interest rates to provide EMI relief to the large masses whose purchases of assets such as homes and consumer durables are through loans." These steps will not only provide tailwinds to the

consumer durables industry but also have a multiplier effect on the industries that serve them, through increased capacity utilisation and hence also pave the way for private investments to flow in at a faster pace, Verma said. Looking ahead, he said, "I hope that the upcoming budget continues to prioritise these areas while also introducing policies that promote innovation, production-linked incentives (PLIs), and sustainable practices.

Procurement through GeM crosses ₹1.24 lakh cr in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the procurement of goods and services through government's portal GeM crossing Rs 1.24 lakh crore in first quarter of 2024-25, the platform will become world's largest by the end of this fiscal, a senior official said on Thursday. The Government e-Market (GeM) portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchases of goods and services by all central government ministries and departments. "GeM has clocked a gross merchandise value of Rs 1,24,761 lakh crore at the end of first quarter, representing a quarter-on-quarter growth of 136 per cent over last year's Rs 52,670 crore," GeM CEO Prashant Kumar Singh told reporters here. He said that going by this pace, it will become the world's largest platform. South Korea's KONEPS is the largest such platform in the world. GeM stands at the second position. It is followed by Singapore's GeBIZ. He added that the procurement by central ministries including CPSEs surpassed Rs 1 lakh crore



milestone in this period with ministries of coal, defence and petroleum and gas emerging as the top procurers in this quarter. "Of this Rs 1 lakh crore, CPSEs share accounted for more than Rs 91,000 crore," Singh said, adding during the first quarter, services segment has been the prime mover. Services buying crossed Rs 80,500 during the quarter. In 2023-24, the procurement from this portal had crossed Rs 4 lakh crore. Talking about the initiatives of the portal, Singh said that carrying forward its vision of reaching out to the last mile sellers and with an aim to

procurement, they are planning to roll out 'GeM SAHAYAK' programme which aims at creating a pan-India network of 6,000-7,000 trained and certified accredited trainers. The Sahayaks, he said, would offer their services to potential and existing GeM sellers in navigating on the portal and enhancing business opportunities. Buyers too will benefit from their services in terms of creation of bids and other value-added services, Singh said. To further promote ease of doing business, he said the platform has drastically reduced transaction charges leviable on sellers.

As per the new revenue policy of GeM, the sellers/service providers will be charged only 0.30 per cent of the order value (previously 0.45 per cent) on orders worth more than Rs 5 lakh. He added that these transaction charges would be capped at Rs 3 lakh as against Rs 72.50 lakh being changed earlier. "This reduction in transaction charges levied on the GeM platform by almost 33 per cent to 96 per cent would greatly benefit our sellers and is likely to make their offerings more competitive in the marketplace," Singh said. To promote the government's initiative of "vocal for local," the platform has added a page of 'The Aabhar Collection'. It showcases over 120 exquisite and hand-crafted gift items and hampers, featuring select products from One District One Product (ODOP) and Geographical Indication (GI) categories with prices ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 25,000 to be used by government buyers for all their official events/ceremonies. Further, he said, to maintain its pole position in the public procurement space, GeM is all

set to deploy its generative AI-based chat bot — GeMAI — in the coming quarter. The AI tool has been trained to provide solutions based on a nuanced analysis of queries raised by buyers and sellers through various complaint and feedback mechanisms. "Conversational analytics and business intelligence using generative AI are also being harnessed to build a robust AI-powered chat bot," he said. GeM has over 1.5 lakh government buyers and over 62 lakh sellers and service providers offering a wide range of products and services. Currently, government departments, ministries, public sector units, state governments, and central armed police forces are allowed to carry out transactions through this portal. The portal provides a wide range of products from office stationery to vehicles. Automobiles, computers and office furniture are some of the major product categories. Services, including transportation, hiring of helicopter services, logistics, waste management, webcasting and analytical, are listed on the portal.

REC Limited avails green loan facility

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

In a significant step towards sustainable development in India, REC Limited, a leader in the Indian power sector, has successfully availed a green loan of JPY 31.96 Billion (equivalent to USD 200 million) to finance eligible green projects in India. This strategic investment reinforces REC's commitment to foster sustainable growth, in alignment with the Company's Green Finance Framework. This green facility is a first of its kind successful collaboration between an Indian government entity and Deutsche Bank AG, GIFT City branch. This facility sets a benchmark in the Indian public sector landscape for similar green financing transactions, highlighting a growing commitment to sustainable financing. The facility also marks one of the first JPY-denominated green loan transaction for Deutsche Bank AG, GIFT City.

MSME can play role in making India leading electronic manufacturing hub: Secretary, MeitY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Manufacturing will play a major role in the structural transformation of the Indian economy and electronics will be an important sector driving this transition, according to S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India. "We should enhance domestic value-add in electronics from 18-20 per cent to 35-40 per cent within the next five years. MSMEs will play a crucial role in this effort and have a huge role to play in electronics components manufacturing," he said, during his address at the CII MSME Growth Summit in New Delhi.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee settled for the day 5 paise lower at 83.56 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by a weak tone in domestic markets and a recovery in crude oil prices. Forex traders said rupee traded with a slight negative bias on profit booking in the domestic market, which may result in foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.49, but lost ground and touched an intraday low of 83.59 against the American currency during the session. It finally settled at 83.56 (provisional) against the



dollar, 5 paise lower than its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee stayed range-bound and settled 2 paise lower at 83.51 against the US dollar. "Elevated crude oil prices may also weigh on the rupee. However, soft US Dollar and positive Asian currencies may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may take cues from inflation and weekly unemployment claims data

from the US. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.35 to Rs 83.80," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.16 per cent lower at 104.87. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.24 per cent higher at

USD 85.28 per barrel. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day 27.43 points, or 0.03 per cent, lower at 79,897.34 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 8.50 points, or 0.03 per cent, down at 24,315.95 points. "The domestic indices fell for the second consecutive session after hitting record highs on Tuesday. However, FII inflows and a soft tone in the US Dollar cushioned the downside," Choudhary said. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Wednesday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 583.96 crore, according to exchange data.

Auto component industry to see moderate growth this fiscal: ICRA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Red Sea crisis is likely to impact the margins of the auto component industry over the next few quarters amid higher container rates and shipping time, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Thursday, projecting a moderate growth for the industry this fiscal. Close to two-thirds of the auto component exports are made to North America and Europe, and one-third of the imports is made from these regions, as per the ratings agency. "The disruption along the Red Sea route has resulted in a surge in container rates by 2-3 times in YTD (year-to-date) this calendar year compared to CY2023, while shipping time has also increased by around

two weeks," ICRA said. The operating margins are set for a year-on-year improvement of around 50 basis-points in FY2025, benefitting from better operating leverage, higher content per vehicle, and value additions, while remaining exposed to any sharp volatility in commodity prices and foreign exchange rates, it said. Also, the industry's liquidity position, according to ICRA, remains comfortable, especially across tier-I players supported by stable cash flows and earnings. ICRA said it expects the growth in revenues of the Indian auto component industry to ease to 5-7 per cent this fiscal, from the highs of around 14 per cent in FY 2023-24. "Demand from domestic

original equipment manufacturers (OEM) constitutes over 50 per cent of sales for the Indian auto component industry and the pace of growth in the segment is expected to moderate in FY2025," said Details, Vinutaa S, Vice President and Sector Head for corporate ratings at ICRA Limited. The ratings agency said these growth projections are based on the sample of 46 auto ancillaries with aggregate annual revenues of over Rs 3,00,000 crore in FY2024. The aging of vehicles and increased sales of used vehicles in global markets are also expected to aid in the export of components for the replacement segment in overseas markets, according to the ratings agency.

PARIS IS MY FOURTH AND PROBABLY LAST OLYMPICS: MANPREET

PTI ■ BENGALURU

He has no plans to retire anytime soon but former Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh very well knows that the Paris Games will be his fourth and last Olympics, and wants to give his best one last time at the world's biggest sporting extravaganza.

Manpreet, 32, was the captain of the Indian team that broke a 41-year-old Olympic medal drought in Tokyo by bagging the bronze.

Besides, he has been a member of the team that won 2014 and 2022 Asian Games gold medals.

"I never thought that I would be able to play four Olympics. It is every player's dream to play in the Olympics and win medals. I consider myself very lucky that this is my fourth Olympics," Manpreet told PTI Bhasha.

"I am going to Paris thinking as if it is my last Olympics and I have to give my best. I haven't thought about quitting the game yet and my complete focus is on the Paris Games," the experienced midfielder, who made his debut for India in 2011 at the age of just 19, said.

But the journey from Mithapur village in Jalandhar to Paris has not been a smooth sailing for Manpreet. He had to fight poverty, false allegations and witness mother's struggles to make a mark in his career.



After the Tokyo Olympics, Manpreet had to endure the worst phase of his career when former coach Sjoerd Marijne levelled serious allegations against him. Marijne accused that Manpreet asked a player to underperform so that his friends could get in the team during 2018 Commonwealth Games, an allegation which both the men and women's teams jointly denied, stating that the Dutchman did so to publicise his book.

"That was the most difficult phase for me. I could never even think of such things. I was broken and lost faith in everyone. I told (PR) Sreejesh with whom I share everything. My mother also encouraged me to keep playing to fulfil my father's dream and my whole team supported me," said Manpreet. "In bad times, the

support of the family and team is very important because at that time the player finds himself very lonely. When the team stands together, it gives a lot of encouragement and also helps in making a comeback. We have also seen Hardik Pandya making a great comeback recently."

"When I look back now, it seems like a dream. I come from a humble background where we have seen struggles for the basic needs. "Father used to work as a carpenter in Dubai but had returned from there due to medical reasons. My mother struggled a lot and both my brothers also played hockey but they left due to financial problems," said Manpreet, who was the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent at Tokyo Olympics along with boxing legend MC Mary Kom.

Manpreet is no longer captain of the side with Harmanpreet Singh taking over the responsibility, but the star mid-fielder knows his role in the team as one of the senior-most member.

"Even if I am not the captain now, it does not make any difference. Every player has his own role in hockey. The effort is to take everyone along. Being a senior, we have to inspire the youngsters," he said. Manpreet, who idolises Pargat Singh, who too hails from Mithapur, said they followed the same process which they did during Tokyo in terms of preparation for Paris Games.

"Before the Tokyo Olympics, we spent maximum time together due to COVID that resulted in excellent team bonding. We will continue the same because 11 players are the same who were in Tokyo. We are sharing our experiences with the five debutants," he said. India have been placed in tough pool in the Paris Olympics along side Australia, Belgium, Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland.

"Our pool is tough and we cannot take any team lightly. New Zealand has defeated us in the World Cup and Ireland has recently defeated Belgium. Our focus is on ourselves as to how we can execute our strategy," he said. "We get less chances against good teams but converting 50-50 chances is the mark of a champion. We are well prepared to do that in Paris."

With a late goal fit for a king, England reaches another Euro final by beating Netherlands 2-1

AP ■ DORTMUND

England is into another European Championship final after its latest dramatic, come-from-behind win that even took King Charles III on a roller coaster ride.

Ollie Watkins, who came on for captain Harry Kane in a bold call by England coach Gareth Southgate, scored in the first minute of stoppage time to earn England a 2-1 win over the Netherlands on Wednesday and a shot at Spain in the title match.

In the knockout stage at Euro 2024, England has scored a stoppage-time equalizer through Jude Bellingham before edging past Slovakia in the last 16 and needed a penalty-shootout to see off Switzerland in the quarterfinals. The English are keeping their supporters back home on the edge of their seats as the men's team moves closer to a first title since the 1966 World Cup - and that includes its monarch.

"If I may encourage you to secure victory before the need for any last minute wonder-goals or another penalties drama, I am sure the stresses on the nation's collective heart rate and blood pressure would be greatly alleviated!" the king said in a congratulatory message soon after the game in Dortmund.

Watkins' goal was fit for a king. He had only made one



previous appearance at Euro 2024 - as a substitute in the group game against Denmark - so it was a surprise when he was introduced by Southgate in the 80th minute in England's biggest match so far. The gamble paid off. Fed by another substitute in Cole Palmer, Watkins took a touch with his back to goal just inside the area and, from a tight angle, smashed a fierce shot into the bottom corner. "Unbelievable - I've been waiting for that moment for weeks," said Watkins, the Aston Villa striker who was the fourth-equal top scorer in the Premier League last season. "It's taken a lot of hard work to get to where I am today. I got the opportunity and took it with both hands."

It was painful for Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman. "I had a feeling toward the end of the match that maybe we could score," Koeman said, "and for sure in extra time I'd have put money on us."

England will play Lamine Yamal and Spain in Sunday's final in Berlin. It will be the nation's first title match on foreign soil, having won the World Cup in 1966 and lost to Italy in the Euro 2020 final - both times at Wembley Stadium. "It's going to be unbelievably tough - a really difficult game," Kane said of the title match, with Spain widely regarded as the best team at the tournament. "One more game to make history."

The sea of orange in the giant South Stand at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion fell silent for the first time after Watkins' late goal. It housed the most vocal of the Dutch supporters who dominated the city center before marching in their thousands to the stadium ahead of the game. Police reported three separate clashes between fans from both countries in the city.

It gave the occasion the feeling of a home match for the Dutch and England was up against it even more after the 21-year-old Xavi Simons became the second youngest scorer for the Netherlands at a Euros. The Paris Saint-Germain midfielder dispossessed Declan Rice about 40 meters (yards) out, drove forward and unleashed a shot into the far corner from outside the area.

Compared to the 16-year-old Yamal, Spain's new superstar, Simons is a soccer veteran but this was another case of a young player shining on the big stage at the Euros. Kane has had plenty of big moments at major tournaments and he had another when he slotted home a penalty after Denzel Dumfries' outstretched leg made contact with Kane's foot as the England striker attempted a shot.

Kane became the sixth player to be on three goals for the tournament. An open first half, which saw Dumfries and England's Phil Foden hit the goal frame, made way for a tight and tense second half that had a huge two-minute spell when Bukayo Saka had a goal disallowed before Kane and Foden were taken off. It might rank as Southgate's best call in his eight-year England tenure. And that the goal was set up by Palmer, who entered as a substitute the same time as Watkins, will have made it even sweeter.

Sindhu's smash speed, Jena's throw celebrated in Mumbai ahead of Olympics



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ace badminton player PV Sindhu, javelin thrower Kishore Jena and hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh are some of the athletes whose feats are being celebrated in the city in leadup to the Paris Olympics, starting July 26. An outdoor campaign was

launched here on Thursday to celebrate the 'champions of the game' by sports goods manufacturing company Puma, which has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as their official footwear partner for the Olympics. A total of 45 Indian athletes bound for the Olympics will

represent the German company, whose 'See the Game Like We Do' campaign aims to celebrate the feats of the sportspersons here.

"(The) double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu's powerful smash, Olympic bronze medalist and hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh's ability to stop the fastest balls with

ease with a series of larger-than-life outdoor spectacles across Mumbai, as it shows Asian Games medalist Kishore Jena's throw, equivalent to the height of a skyscraper," Puma said in a release. "Sindhu's speed of a smash at 349 kmph is 3x the speed of Mumbai's iconic Central Line route. Her exemplary achievement is visualised across the coaches with imagery splashed across coaches of the local train on this route," it added. Jena's best throw at 87.54m will be commemorated with his image on the facade of a similar sized structure in Prabhadevi.

Sreejesh been illustrated on a digital billboard on the Eastern Express Highway (EEH) serving the cities of Mumbai and Thane. Over 100 Indian athletes will receive podium and travel footwear, trolleys, backpacks, sippers, yoga mats, headbands, wristbands, socks and towels, designed to maximise their training and comfort during the Paris Olympics.

AXIS BANK LIMITED						Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Outstanding Amount (₹)	Date of Recall Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Public Notice for - Auction of Pledged assets being Gold Ornaments						GAWLI PALASIA [M.P.]					
The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are here buy notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch. The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the Axis Bank Limited against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/ Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/ Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/ Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on 22-07-2024 at 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis". Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount.						Aajam Sheikh	XXXXXXXXXXXX2060	103517.59	15-02-2024	27.700	27.000
						Viraj Mukati	XXXXXXXXXXXX5750	35334	07-06-2024	10.600	9.500
						SELDIA [M.P.]					
						Deepak Singh	XXXXXXXXXXXX5782	54365	15-02-2024	15.700	15.500
						Sanjay Malgaya	XXXXXXXXXXXX4994	161452	15-02-2024	49.500	42.400
						AWALDAMAN [M.P.]					
						Rameshwar Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX1768	145542	15-02-2024	43.000	42.000
						SUKHALIYA, INDO IND [M.P.]					
						Rafiq Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX6776	108733	15-02-2024	27.730	26.290
						Ravikant Gupta	XXXXXXXXXXXX3781	58080	07-06-2024	13.500	13.400
						DEWAS [M.P.]					
						Ali Shaikh	XXXXXXXXXXXX9025	45437	15-02-2024	10.600	10.400
						NOWGONG [M.P.]					
						Sujan Singh Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX1413	55910	15-02-2024	18.800	14.500
						Asharam Sen	XXXXXXXXXXXX4440	50979	15-02-2024	18.100	15.600
						BARWANI [M.P.]					
						Jagdish Chouhan	XXXXXXXXXXXX2746	36138	15-02-2024	9.000	8.800
						Manojkumar Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX1650	44504	15-02-2024	11.080	11.000
						SHIVPURI [M.P.]					
						Shivdayal Dhakad	XXXXXXXXXXXX0767	46443.76	15-02-2024	15.700	15.000
						Shishupal Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX5308	126967	28-02-2024	32.500	32.000
						Ravi Kumar Adiwasi	XXXXXXXXXXXX5274	61724	07-06-2024	29.700	19.700
						ANJAD, BARWANI AJD [M.P.]					
						Rahul Kisan	XXXXXXXXXXXX0075	51151	15-02-2024	12.800	12.500
						MAUGANJ [M.P.]					
						Sumit Kumar Vishwakarma	XXXXXXXXXXXX6070	50831	15-02-2024	16.060	14.160
						Sangeeta Devi Sahu	XXXXXXXXXXXX6607	45987	07-06-2024	15.410	13.100
						SEONI MALWA [M.P.]					
						Gyaprasad	XXXXXXXXXXXX2661	45930	15-02-2024	18.800	11.300
						ANNAPORNA, INDORE [M.P.]					
						Rahul	XXXXXXXXXXXX2627	113362	10-10-2023	28.100	25.100
						MHOW [M.P.]					
						Deepak Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX8691	74760	27-03-2024	18.700	18.300
						Arti Gound	XXXXXXXXXXXX9827	26894	15-02-2024	7.300	6.900
						DABRA GLR [M.P.]					
						Karan Singh Parihar	XXXXXXXXXXXX7185	108478	15-02-2024	25.400	24.000
						Nikil Parihar	XXXXXXXXXXXX6728	45979	07-06-2024	14.300	11.900
						BUDHWADA [M.P.]					
						Arjun Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX8906	63081	15-02-2024	20.500	17.300
						CHHATARPUR [M.P.]					
						Chandra Prakash Rawat	XXXXXXXXXXXX9459	67958	02-04-2024	20.940	20.500
						Radha Devi Patel	XXXXXXXXXXXX8317	74894	28-02-2024	31.780	22.000
						Jay Prakash Patel	XXXXXXXXXXXX3320	83909	15-02-2024	28.040	24.000
						Radha Devi Patel	XXXXXXXXXXXX0408	49040	02-04-2024	14.650	13.100
						NEEMUCH [M.P.]					
						Komal Sikoda	XXXXXXXXXXXX9874	64075	15-02-2024	19.020	18.400
						KHARGONE [M.P.]					
						Pankaj Chouhan	XXXXXXXXXXXX4258	99934	15-02-2024	25.500	25.000
						INDORE [M.P.]					
						Pankaj Hansapuriya	XXXXXXXXXXXX5990	103606	22-03-2024	30.600	30.400
						SHAJAPUR [M.P.]					
						Ashiq Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX2754	44194	15-02-2024	11.900	11.600
						MANDSAUR [M.P.]					
						Vinod Kumar	XXXXXXXXXXXX4860	50500	28-02-2024	14.700	13.900
						SATNA MARKET [M.P.]					
						Khusaboo Varma	XXXXXXXXXXXX9878	66688	15-02-2024	20.100	19.900
						KHANDWA [M.P.]					
						Pawan Mourya	XXXXXXXXXXXX2696	48654	02-04-2024	12.700	12.400
						Shubham Dubey	XXXXXXXXXXXX7690	64674	15-02-2024	16.800	16.600
						SHAMGARH MSR [M.P.]					
						Ishvarlal Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX2338	56900	15-02-2024	15.600	14.000
						SAPNA SANGITA ROAD, INDORE [M.P.]					
						Durgesh Chouhan	XXXXXXXXXXXX3632	41132	07-06-2024	12.000	11.400
						SIHORA [M.P.]					
						Bhola Ram Lodhi	XXXXXXXXXXXX9773	77633	22-03-2024	17.000	16.300
						KANTHAL, UJJAIN [M.P.]					
						Pradeep Sargra	XXXXXXXXXXXX0745	111905	15-02-2024	27.800	27.100
						PALSIKAR COLONY INDORE [M.P.]					
						Asma Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX3814	52153	07-06-2024	13.450	12.850
						SEONI [M.P.]					
						Adarsh Bharadwaj	XXXXXXXXXXXX4649	144623	07-06-2024	40.200	39.200
						Adarsh Bharadwaj	XXXXXXXXXXXX6789	106165	07-06-2024	29.000	28.800
						JABALPUR [M.P.]					
						Kajal Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX9826	146401	07-06-2024	38.200	37.500
						Indal Sonkar	XXXXXXXXXXXX3550	97236	07-06-2024	25.900	25.000
						VIDISHA [M.P.]					
						Akbar Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX2913	45212	07-06-2024	11.500	11.100
						RAGHOGARR-VIJAY GNA [M.P.]					
						Lalu Banjara	XXXXXXXXXXXX3861	45014	07-06-2024	13.600	10.500
						GWALIOR [M.P.]					
						Govind Singh Kushwah	XXXXXXXXXXXX1212	110650	07-06-2024	31.800	30.200
						KANNOO [M.P.]					
						Govind	XXXXXXXXXXXX8066	119796	07-06-2024	28.390	28.000
						DONGAR PARASIA CHW [M.P.]					
						Riyajuddin Ansari	XXXXXXXXXXXX7275	87556	07-06-2024	23.100	22.500
						PITHAMPUR [M.P.]					
						Shanu Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX1787	85582	07-06-2024	21.400	21.000
						SHAHDOL [M.P.]					
						Ankita Shukla	XXXXXXXXXXXX4745	58336	07-06-2024	17.000	13.600
						Rama Pandey	XXXXXXXXXXXX0064	102946	07-06-2024	27.100	24.100
						DHAR [M.P.]					
						Sunita Padiyar	XXXXXXXXXXXX6602	92592	07-06-2024	21.900	21.400
						KOTMA [M.P.]					
						Laxmi Singh Kanwar	XXXXXXXXXXXX1571	69535	07-06-2024	18.400	18.100
						SEHORE [M.P.]					
						Naved Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX4726	99883	07-06-2024	27.890	24.390
						SEHORE [M.P.]					
						Sonali Maheshwari	XXXXXXXXXXXX3235	74166	07-06-2024	17.500	17.300
						PITGARA BDN [M.P.]					
						Radha	XXXXXXXXXXXX3834	28600	07-06-2024	7.800	7.000
						Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in between 12.30 pm to 3.30pm.					
						For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in					
						Place : Madhya Pradesh			Authorized Officer - Axis Bank LTD.		

STARC EXPRESSES DISPLEASURE AT BEING DROPPED FOR T20 WC GAME AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc has expressed his displeasure at being dropped for the crucial T20 World Cup Super Eights match against Afghanistan in the Caribbean, saying he was not one bit amused by the team management's decision. The 2021 T20 World Cup champions suffered a shocking 21-run loss to Afghanistan, which dealt a massive blow to Australia's chances of entering the semifinals. Australia had replaced Starc with Ashton Agar for the match but the left-arm spinner, despite tying down the Afghanistan batters, could not take any wickets. "No -- two World Cups in a row," Starc was quoted as saying by Sydney Morning Herald on Willow Talk podcast when quizzed about his omission and whether he was amused by the decision. "Just the match-up, they (team management) saw previous games on that ground in St Vincent with spin playing a part and obviously Ash (Ashton) and the left-armers enticing them to make a change," he added. This was the second occasion in a row where the Australian pacer was dropped for a T20 World Cup match against Afghanistan, with the previous one being in Adelaide in 2022 where also the hosts failed to reach the last four stage. Agar and the two Australian



pace spearheads, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, were unable to break the partnership between openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and

Ibrahim Zadran, who ended up making 118 runs. "I think Ash bowled pretty well in the powerplay. They probably played the spin quite

well and batting first probably assessed the conditions a little bit better than we did, and had a couple of stumbles that in the end cost us the game," said

Starc. "It was probably the fielding that cost us again that game. That meant we had to win against India and we fell short

there as well." Australia then went on to lose to India in Super Eights and were later eliminated from the competition. Starc also expressed his displeasure with the scheduling of the tournament and pre seeding that saw them advance to the pre determined group despite topping the group stage. "We finished ahead of England (in the group stage) and end up where we were pre-seeded as the second side. All of a sudden, you're in a different group." "The argument was it was because it was so hard to get around the West Indies, so fans knew where your team was playing. "So then why don't you have the chock-a-block tournament at the front... And then spread it out at the back end? We had the two night games and the third was a day game, so it wasn't the best preparation. We had a delayed flight out of St Vincent, it was a 90-minute drive from the airport to the hotel in St Lucia, and then we had a 10 o'clock toss. He added that the travelling between venues in the West Indies is always difficult. "I think that was probably maybe a misread [by organisers], the fact that the front half of the tournament was more spread out, and then you hit the super eights and ... travel around the West Indies is probably not the easiest thing to do, certainly not to travel home from."



Shocked by that amazing catch: Avesh on Bishnoi's wonder grab in India's win against Zimbabwe

PTI ■ HARARE

Ravi Bishnoi's fielding has always had a touch of athleticism but he took it to a different plane in the third T20I against Zimbabwe when he leapt to pluck a screamer off Avesh Khan to dismiss Brian Bennett, leaving his India teammate in awe. India defeated Zimbabwe by 23 runs on Wednesday to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series but the talk in the dressing room was Bishnoi's astonishing catch to dismiss the Zimbabwe top-order batter, reducing the hosts to 19 for 3 in the fourth over. The pacer said he was left "shocked" for a moment. "When he took the catch, I don't think he got the reaction time. I also did not get the reaction time (to see what happened). I was, in fact, shocked how he took that catch," said Avesh, who took two wickets as India restricted Zimbabwe to 159/6 in the chase of 182. Avesh added that the wicket

should be credited to Bishnoi's account for the sheer effort. "He is a good fielder, works a lot on his fielding. The catch that he took, the scoreboard will show that it was taken by me, but it should be credited in his (Bishnoi's) account," added Avesh in a video posted by BCCI. India skipper Shubman Gill said it was a truly amazing effort from Bishnoi and showed that the leg-spinner was enjoying his fielding. "Very happy with the team's win to go 2-1 up in the series and the catch that Bishi (Bishnoi) took was absolutely remarkable. It was truly delightful to watch. "Cricket is definitely a team sport and it's more so a team sport when you're fielding. So, it's very important to have fun when you are fielding. If you are having fun then you are always in the game," added the captain. Washington Sundar said he had the best view of the catch as he was positioned at mid-on.



I could have done better in tennis than badminton, says Saina

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traillblazing Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal feels she would have perhaps excelled more as a sportsperson if she had picked a tennis racquet instead of playing badminton. Nehwal has an impressive resume as a badminton player. Not only she became the first Indian woman shuttler to be ranked No. 1 in the world, she was the first woman athlete from the country to win an Olympic medal. "Sometimes I feel that it would have been good if my parents had put me in tennis," Saina said during her "Her Story-My Story" talk at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. "There is more money and I had more strength I think. I could have done better in tennis than badminton," she

added. While Saina has inspired many to take up badminton, the 34-year-old herself didn't have anyone to look up to when she picked the racquet at the age of 8. "When I started, I didn't have any role models to look up to. No one to look up to and say 'I want to be world number one, or be an Olympic medallist,' I hadn't seen anyone do that in badminton before me," Saina said. Beside the London Olympics bronze, Nehwal also won a bronze and a silver at the World Championships and multiple Commonwealth Games gold, including two in the women's singles. She urged the youngsters present to explore a career in sports. "I always tell children to

concentrate on games. China wins 60-70 medals, We only get 3-4. There are so many doctors and engineers, their names don't come in newspapers," she said. "I want girls to especially to come forward and start getting fit and get into sports. Now we are there for the children, there are world number ones, Olympic champions and so many medallist to look up to," she added. Reflecting on her career, she said her hard work compensated for the lack of talent. "I loved hard work, I was not the most talented person, I need to practice a lot. If a talented player is doing something 100 times I had to do it 1000 times. But I like hard work. My coaches like my never give up attitude."

Indian Racing Festival: Ganguly buys Kolkata Royal Tigers team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was on Thursday unveiled as the owner of the Kolkata Royal Tigers ahead of the Indian Racing Festival 2024, scheduled between August and September this year. Apart from the debutant Kolkata racing team, the event will see participation from seven other outfits based at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Kochi, and Ahmedabad. The racing festival encompasses two main championships — Indian

Racing League (IRL) and the Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC). Expressing his enthusiasm for the association, Ganguly, the former BCCI president said: "I am truly excited to embark on this journey with the Kolkata team in the Indian Racing Festival. "Motorsports has always been a passion of mine and together with the Kolkata Royal Tigers, we aim to build a strong legacy in the Indian Racing Festival and inspire a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts." Akhilesh Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director of



Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), welcomed Ganguly to the racing fold. "We are thrilled to announce Sourav Ganguly as the owner of the Kolkata franchise. His visionary leadership and commitment to excellence, shaped by years of legendary cricketing success, brings unparalleled dynamism to the Indian Racing Festival," he said. It may be recalled that veteran India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has recently acquired stables in American Gambits, a team that will take part in the second edition of the Global Chess League.

Mumbai City FC ropes in Greek striker Nikolaos Karelis

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC on Thursday announced roping in Greek striker Nikolaos Karelis ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League season. The 32-year-old, also known as Nikos Karelis, is set for his maiden stint in India. He began his youth career with Ergotelis and made his senior professional debut with them in 2007. Karelis has played for seven more clubs including stints in Russia (Amkar Perm), Belgium (Genk), England (Brentford) and the

Netherlands (ADO Den Haag). Mumbai City FC will be his eighth club. Karelis has netted 103 goals in 361 professional matches along with 29 assists, while his best performance at a club came for Panathinaikos, for whom he scored 36 goals in 114 competitive games. The 2014-15 season was his standout when Karelis scored 19 goals in 50 contests. He won the Greek Cup with Panathinaikos in 2013-14. Later, he also won two titles with the Greek club PAOK in 2018-19 (Super League Greece and Greek Cup). Karelis was last associated with



another Greek club Panetolikos, where he was adjudged its player of the season in 2022-23. "The team has achieved significant success over the past few years, and I am eager to contribute to its continued success in the upcoming season," Karelis said in a release. MCFC head coach Petr Kratky said, "Nikos is a highly talented player who perfectly matches the requirements we expect from our forwards. He has experience playing in various European countries and has consistently proven his calibre in different leagues."

Carlos faces Daniil and Novak plays Lorenzo in Wimbledon's semis

AP ■ LONDON

Carlos Alcaraz's ability to hit any type of shot, from any position on the court, on any surface, keeps fans on the edge of their seats. Keeps other players guessing, too. Alcaraz delights in all of that - he loves putting on a show just as much as he enjoys knowing he makes the guys on the other side of the net uncomfortable - and figures it can only help him in the Wimbledon semifinals against Daniil Medvedev on Friday. It's beneficial, Alcaraz said, that opponents need to focus on whether he'll be "able to be back (in) the point or ... Able to hit an unbelievable shot." "For me," he said, "it's great that they're thinking about it." Alcaraz, the No. 3 seed, is seeking a second consecutive trophy at the All England Club and fourth Grand Slam title overall. His triumph last month at the French Open made him, at 21, the youngest man to collect a major trophy on hard, grass and clay courts.

Medvedev, who is seeded No. 5 and defeated No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinals, won the 2021 U.S. Open but is just 1-5 in major finals. The other match Friday will be No. 2 Novak Djokovic, who has won seven of his men's-record 24 Slam championships at Wimbledon, against No. 25 Lorenzo Musetti, making his debut in a major semifinal. "Against him, you are probably more stressed, because he's probably the best player ever - or one of the best players ever," said the 22-year-old Musetti, who beat Taylor Fritz in five sets on Wednesday, while Djokovic got the day off because his foe, Alex de Minaur, withdrew with an injured hip. "You walk on court with a different mentality," said Musetti, whose 1-5 record against Djokovic includes a five-set loss at this year's French Open that ended at after 3 a.M. "If I play in a certain way, I could have my shot in the next round."



Alcaraz vs. Medvedev is a rematch from last year's semifinals, when Alcaraz won in straight sets before getting past Djokovic in the final.

It also offers a contrast between a talented attacker (Alcaraz) and a consummate defender (Medvedev). "The most difficult thing

about facing Daniil, or the most special thing about him, is he can reach every ball," Alcaraz said. "Well, he is like a wall. Every ball bounces back."

Asked what Alcaraz's best quality is, Medvedev began this way: "To be honest, everything." That sounds like an

exaggeration. Might not be. "That's where it's tough to play against him, because you know whatever shot you hit,

he can hit a winner from there. So you try to make his life difficult. You try to hit the shot as good as you can. Maybe he goes for it and he cannot make it," said Medvedev, who has won just two of their previous six encounters. "Carlos can do whatever, from any position," Medvedev said, "and that's not easy to play against." Tommy Paul, the 12th-seeded American who lost to Alcaraz in the quarterfinals, put something else on the lengthy list of the Spaniard's attributes. "He moves unbelievably well. He's probably the quickest player. It's very hard to get the ball by him," Paul said. "Grass suits him. He moves incredible on the grass. It's not easy to change direction the way that he does. He stays pretty low. Yeah, I mean, it's not easy." And then, in a nod to the sort of highlight-reel material Alcaraz regularly produces, Paul added: "Half of the job when you're out there is not to let him win one of those crazy points - because when he does, he kind of gets on a roll."