OPINION 6

THE TALIBAN'S WAR ON

WORLD 9

TEEN HELD AFTER UK GURDWARA

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Late City Vol.160 Issue 188 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

AFGHAN WOMEN ATTACK WITH 'BLADED WEAPON' RECORD HIGH LUCKNOW, SATURDAY JULY 13, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the pioneer

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SPAIN MEET **ENGLAND IN** EURO 2024 FINAL

1 SPORTS

June 25: Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Narendra Modi Government on Friday decided, through a Gazette notification, to observe June 25 — the day the Emergency was declared in 1975 by then Prime Minister Índira Gandhi — as "Samvidhaan Diwas" Hatva commemorate the "massive contributions" of those who

endured the inhuman pains

of that period. Announcing this, Home Minister Amit Shah said the observance of "Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas" will help keep eternal flame individual freedom and the defence of the democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing "dictatorial forces" like the Congress

"repeating from those horrors".

Photo Credit: BCCL

The gazette notification issued on Friday by the Union Home Ministry notes that Emergency was declared "dictatorial on June 25, 1975, following which there was "gross abuse



It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a **Congress unleashed dark phase of Indian history**

— Narendra Modi

of power by the Government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will serve as a reminder of what happened when the

trampled over. "It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a Congress unleashed dark phase of Indian history," said Modi. The people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy, it said. "Therefore, Government of India declares June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the period of Emergency to recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power, in

Constitution was

future," said the notification. Continued on Page 8 Procedure(CrPC) and the

"It was passed when a large number of MPs were suspended. We do not support Emergency....(but) charity begins at home," she asserted. Another Opposition leader and a Ràjya Sabha MP



SC grants relief to Kejriwal in ED case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Friday granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case lodged by the ED in the alleged excise policy scam but he will remain in jail as the CBI had later arrested him in a related matter.

The top court said it is up to Kejriwal to decide if he Kejriwal has suffered incarceration for over 90

It also referred the questions pertaining to legality of his arrest in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case to a larger bench. The court said since the matter is concerned with the right to life and the period. issue of arrest has been

referred to a larger bench, Kejriwal be released on interim bail.

The Supreme Court on

should continue as Chief Minister. "We are conscious of the fact that Arvind Kejriwal is an elected leader," a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said while also noting that

The top court framed three questions related to power, necessity of arrest under section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and policy of arrest by the ED. İt said Kejriwal will be released on interim bail in terms of the conditions in the order of May 10.

While releasing Kejriwal on interim bail on May 10 for electioneering during the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the top court had imposed conditions on him that he will not visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat during the tenure of his interim bail. Besides imposing slew of conditions, it had asked Kejriwal to not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction during the 21-day interim bail

Continued on Page 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Taking a swipe at the Centre's decision on "Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas", the Congress said from now on, every year on November 8, the day when demonetisation was announced in 2016, the people of India will celebrate "Aajivika Hatya Diwas" and a gazette notification will also be issued soon.

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the move Diwas. is yet another headline

Congress calls for 'Aajivika Hatya Diwas'

grabbing exercise by the nonwho has imposed an undeclared Emergency for ten long years before the people of India handed him a decisive personal, political, and moral defeat on June 4, 2024 — which will go down in history as ModiMukti

"This is a non-biological PM

Three recent laws biological Prime Minister were passed when a large number of MPs were suspended. We **Emergency....(but)** charity begins at home.

Mamata Banerjee

who has subjected the democracy means only Constitution of India and its demo-kursi," the Congress principles, values, and institutions to systematic assault. This is a non-biological PM whose ideological parivar had rejected the Constitution of India in November 1949 on the grounds that it did not the grounds that it d the grounds that it did not derive inspiration from Manusmriti. This is a non-

leader said. West Bengal Chief

one was consulted when "the three recent laws replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), biological PM for whom Code

Priyanka Chaturvedi sought to know from Home Minister Amit Shah whether he is aware that emergency was applied on basis of a constitutional availability of the clause to declare Criminal emergency.

Indian Evidence Act".



Ex-Andhra CM Jagan booked in attempt to murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh police registered an "attempt to murder" case against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, two senior IPS officers and two retired officials, following a complaint lodged by a TDP MLA, an official said on Friday.

The complaint was lodged by the ruling party's Undi MLA K Raghurama Krishna Raju, who was a YSRCP Lok Sabha MP between 2019 and 2024 but had a fallout with Reddy

at an early stage.
Besides Reddy, police booked senior IPS officers PV Sunil Kumar and Sitaramanjaneyulu

retired police officer R Vijay Paul and former Guntur Government General Hospital superintendent G Prabhavati, the official said. Vijay Paul and Prabhavati have superannuated. Raju, a former MP, also alleged that he was subjected to "custodial torture," the official added. Police booked the five

accused persons under IPC Sections 120 B, 166, 167, 197, 307, 326, 465 and 506 read with 34. Police invoked the Indian

Penal Code (IPC) as the case is three years old. The case was booked at Nagarampalem police station in Guntur. TDP leader Raju's 2021 arrest

case came to the fore in Andhra Pradesh after he lodged a complaint against Reddy and some officials over it on June 10. He accused the former CM and the senior officials of "plotting" a criminal "conspiracy" against

IAS officer tantrums spark row, faces probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre has initiated a thorough probe into the induction of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who is at the centre of a controversy over alleged misuse of power and privileges. that her services may be terminated. They said all documents presented by her to secure her candidature in the Civil Services examination and then for selection in the service will be re-examined by a single-member committee constituted by the Centre

on Thursday.
"The officer may be terminated from the service if found guilty. She may face criminal charges also in case she is found to have misrepresented a fact or done any sort of manipulation in documents relied upon for her selection," sources said.

Khedkar, a 2023 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is under probation and currently posted in her home cadre Maharashtra.

The 34-year-old officer is in the eye of storm over for allegedly misusing the disability and Other Backward Class quota to secure a position in the IAS.

single-member The single-member probe committee of Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been asked to submit its report within two weeks, the sources said.

In the meantime, Khedkar had on Thursday assumed her new role as Assistant Collector at the Washim District Collectorate in the Vidarbha region after being transferred from



Probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar

Pune where she allegedly bullied everyone around and also placed a red beacon atop her private Audi (a luxurv sedan) car.

Khedkar has been under intense scrutiny for allegedly manipulating benefits under the physical disabilities category and OBC quota to secure her position in the Indian Administrative Service.

The controversial officer was shunted out to Washim after Pune District Collector Suhas Diwase wrote to State Additional Chief Secretary Nitin Gadre requesting him to consider giving a posting to Khedkar in another district to avoid "administrative complications".

Diwase had sought action against Khedkar for her behaviour, including alleged aggressive treatment of junior staff, illegal occupation of the alleged aggressive treatment of junior staff, illegal occupation of the ante-chamber of Additional Collector Ajay More, and violations pertaining to sporting a red beacon increatening other farmers as well. She visited my plot along with some security guards and started threatening us while holding a firearm in her hand," Pasalkar alleged.

on the Audi and flashing it during

the day, among others.
Also, a video showing Khedkar's mother threatening a group of men with a gun has gone viral has added to the woes of the controversial bureaucrat. A Pune Rural police official later in the evening said a probe would begin to ascertain facts, including if she possessed a licence for the firearm.

An official said the incident in the video was about a land parcel bought by Puja's father Dilip khedkar, a retired Maharashtra Government officer, in Dhadwali village in Pune's Mulshi tehsil. Locals had claimed the Khedkars had encroached on the

land of neighbouring farmers. The two-minute video shows Khedkar's mother Manorama Khedkar, accompanied by her security guards, engaged in a heated argument with the neighbours. Manorama can be seen yelling at a man with a pistol in her hand. She walks up to him and waves the gun in his face before concealing it in her

hand. "We have taken cognisance of the video that is circulating on social media platforms. Once facts are ascertained, we will start a probe. We will investigate if Manorama has a licence for the firearm," a senior

Pune Rural police official said. In connection with the episode, farmer Kuldeep Pasalkar claimed Manorama was forcefully trying to usurp his land. "She has been threatening other farmers as well.



Modi announces projects bonanza for Mumbai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Mumbai on Saturday and launch, dedicate to the nation and lay foundation stone for multiple projects worth more than ₹29, 400 crore. The projects are related to road, railways and ports sector, it was announced here on Friday. Giving details, officials said Modi will lay the foundation stone for Thane Borivali Tunnel Project worth ₹16,600 crore. This Twin Tube Tunnel between Thane and Borivali alignment will be passing below Sanjay Gandhi National Park which will create direct connection between Western Express Highway at Borivali side and Thane Ghodbander Road at Thane side.

Total length of the project is 11.8 km. It will reduce the journey from Thane to Borivali by 12 km with a saving of about 1 hour in travel time.

Modi will lay the foundation stone for tunnel work at Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) Project worth over Rs. 6,300 crore. The GMLR envisages road connectivity from Western Express Highway at Goregaon to Eastern Express Highway at Mulund. The total length of the GMLR is approximately 6.65 km and will provide direct connectivity for Western suburbs with the New proposed airport at Navi Mumbai and Pune Mumbai Expressway.
The Prime Minister will also

lay the foundation stone for Kalyan Yard Remodelling and Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal at Turbhe in Navi Mumbai. Kalyan Yard will help in the segregation of long distance and suburban

Continued on Page 8

LoP Rahul Gandhi calls US Veep Harris

eader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha LRahul Gandhi and US Vice President Kamala Harris had a telephonic conversation on Thursday, sources said Though the specifics of the conversation were not known, this comes in the runup to the US presidential polls later this

There is talk in Democratic party circles that Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, could step in as a challenger to Donald Trump as questions remain over whether President Joe Biden should continue as the

nominee for the November presidential election. A defiant Biden has

insisted that he is "determined" and fit to seek reelection and defeat

his Republican rival Trump. Harris, 59, is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as US Vice

President in 2020. Meanwhile, Biden on Thursday said his deputy, Harris, is "qualified" to lead the country. At a high-stake Press conference country. At a high-stake Press conference here on Thursday, Biden said, "From the very beginning, I made no bones about that. She is qualified to be the president. That's why I picked her."

When asked about the reasons for this,

he said "Firstly because of the way she's handled the issue of freedom of women's bodies, to have control of their bodies and secondly, her ability to handle almost any issue on the board."

(EMIM.BF4),

60 passengers who are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a landslide and pushed into a swollen river in Nepal early Friday, officials said.

The two buses carrying 65

Chief District Officer of Chitwan, Indradev Yadav, confirmed the incident.



According to Yadav, the Kathmandu-bound Angel bus 3:30 am. Twenty-four people were onboard the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police said.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI $S_{\text{queen of textiles}}^{\text{ilk industry}} - \text{the Indian}$

embracing a transformative towards friendliness! researchers have for the first time identified eco-friendly solvents to replace the hazardous chemicals traditionally used in silk protein extraction processes that not only promises to revolutionise silk production but also addresses pressing concerns related to environmental impact and human health associated with conventional methods.

eco-Indian

Traditionally, chemicals such as sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, sulfuric acid, and lithium bromide have been

integral to the extraction of silk proteins from raw silk fibers. However, these chemicals not only are health hazardous for those involved in the process but also contribute to carbon emissions and environmental pollution as the chemicals are released in the water.

In response to these challenges, the research team led by Dr Kamatchi Sankaranarayan at Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) Guwahati, an autonomous institute of Department of Science & Technology explored Ionic Liquids (ILs) as sustainable alternatives. Ionic Liquids are salts that remain in a liquid state at relatively low temperatures



and are known for their low four ILs that effectively extract toxicity and ability to dissolve a wide range of materials. silk proteins from both mulberry (Bombyx mori) and This study, published in Chemistry Select by Wiley non-mulberry silks such as Muga (Antheraea assamensis) Publishers, marks and Eri (Philosamia ricini), significant advancement in which are native to Northeast sustainable silk processing. India. Among these ILs, 1-The researchers identified Butyl-3-methylimidazolium

Tetraethylammonium bromide (TEAB) showed particularly promising results. TEAB, in particular, demonstrated the ability to efficiently destabilise sericin proteins while preserving the integrity of silk fibroin, essential for maintaining the quality and strength of the silk fibers. said Sankaranarayan. breakthrough not only aligns with global efforts to combat climate change but also highlights India's commitment to sustainable development in its industrial

chloride (BMIM.Cl), 1-ethyl-

3-methylimidazolium

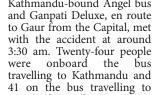
tetrafluoroborate

Continued on Page 8

Seven Indians missing after landslide in Nepal **PTI** ■ KATHMANDU

At least seven Indian nationals are among over

passengers went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district, myRepublica news portal reported quoting officials.



UP will export 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan, Malaysia: Yogi

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday that Uttar Pradesh would export 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia this year. He also noted that, for the first time in 160 years, the famous Dussehri mangoes from Lucknow were being exported to the United States. exported to the United States.
Inaugurating the 'Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2024' at Awadh Shilp Gram here in Lucknow, the CM said: "While the price of Dussehri mangoes" in India ranges between Rs 60 and Rs 100 per kg, their price in the US market has risen to Rs 900 per kg. Considering duties, cargo, and airfare costs, sending one kg of mangoes to America could cost up to Rs Rs 250-300. Even then, farmers and gardeners would save around Rs 600 per kg."

The chief minister emphasised that the state government had been organising the mango festival for the past 7-8 years to honour progressive farmers and gardeners. The government aims to ensure that mangoes from Uttar Pradesh reach not only the domestic market but also the global market. "You all know that the fruit

known as 'aam' in our common language is accessible to everyone. It is simple and said: "This accounts for 25 to 30 per



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath checks out a mango at the UP Aam Mahotsav on Friday

beneficial for all. 'Jo aam hoga wahi raja bhi hoga, which is why we consider mango the 'king of fruits," Yogi said.
Highlighting that the orchards

of Uttar Pradesh produce 58 lakh MT of mangoes on just 3.15 lakh hectares of land, Yogi

cent of India's total mango production. Last year, the Horticulture department team visited Moscow, accompanied by farmers from Lucknow and Amroha. They organised a mango festival there, which resulted in orders for the farmers. In collaboration with the Government of India, the state

has established four pack houses in Saharanpur, Amroha, Lucknow, and Varanasi to support the farm-

The CM emphasised that Uttar Pradesh leads the country in mango production, but maintaining both quantity and quality in response to a growing population is essential. The knowledge gained from such festivals must be utilised to enhance the global popularity of Uttar Pradesh's mangoes. He stressed the importance of identifying potential export markets and expanding reach to those countries. Yogi assured that the state

Lucknow (PNS): The 'Aam the introduction of 'Ambika' Lucknow (PNS): The 'Aam Mahotsav 2024' featured a significant presence of red-coloured mango varieties. The Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) had a display of over 200 mango varieties, including several rare hybrids and an and 'Arunika' hybrids. Both garnered considerable attention from visitors for their unique characteristics and potential to revolutionise mango farming," he said. The festival also showcased an innovative fruit bagging tech-

Red-coloured varieties steal the show

nique, adopted by numerous farmers. This method enhances the presentation of mangoes by transforming their increased number of redcoloured varieties, reflecting a growing interest among farmers in cultivating these visually appealing fruits.

Among the highlights were the rare Maliabadi varieties, typically not found in farmers' greenish hue into an attractive, sparkling golden yellow peel. "The bagging technique has notably enhanced the appearance of our mangoes," a participating farmer remarked. orchards but preserved meticulously in the CISH field gene

CISH former director Dr Shailedra Rajan, who was one of the judges at the festival, spoke about their technological advances in mango cultiva-tion. "The most significant contributions this year include

several rare hybrids and an

government, in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies, is fully committed to the interests of farmers, gardeners, and livestock

Yogi also inaugurated an exhibition showcasing 120 varieties of special mangoes and their products. He also flagged off

However, some farmers struggled to achieve the desired red colour using this technique, highlighting the need for further education and support. This year's event saw an increase in the number of

a mango truck destined for export to various countries, honoured progressive mango farmers, and released a mango souvenir.

coloured variety exhibits. "This

The festival, from July 12-14, features a mango-eating competition and a training semi-

The festival features over 700

est among farmers in cultivat-ing red-coloured mango varieties, which are increasingly popular in the market. The availability of these varieties at the festival, previously only displayed by government insti-tutions and nurserymen, was a welcome sight for many attendees," Rajan said.

For the first time, red-coloured varieties were available for sale at the festival. Previously, these varieties were primarily displayed by government insti-tutions and nurserymen. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase attractive varieties such as 'Ambika', 'Arunika', 'Sensation', and 'Tommy Atkins', which were available in good numbers. Additionally, several varieties from Thailand were on display, resulting from planting material collected from West Bengal.

varieties of mangoes. The three-day event has attracted mango farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan. Additionally, representatives of the orchard owners and mango farming experts from various states are participating in the festival.

Forced for marriage by fiancée, lab technician ends life

PNS LUCKNOW

A lab technician allegedly administered a poisonous injection to himself in Lucknow in front of his fiancée in Chinhat. The incident came to light after the brother of the deceased, identified as Sachin Mishra from Lakhimpur, filed a complaint in this connection.

He alleged the involvement of the woman, who is also a lab technician like Sachin. Sachin had been staying in a rented accommodation in Chinhat for the last two years.

The deceased's brother, Vipin, said he received a call from Sachin's girlfriend, who informed him that Sachin had fallen seriously ill. Vipin, who also lives in Lucknow, rushed was pronounced dead," he

Alleging that Sachin's girl-friend either murdered his son or provoking him to commit suicide, the deceased's father demanded a thorough



NOTICE

I am Anil Kumar Singh son of Shri Gyan Singh, Add:-36, Hata ram das sadar cantt. Lucknow. Father of Sheersh kumar, My Name is Wrongly written in the school record as Anil Kumar whereas the Correct name is Anil Kumar Singh

NOTICE

I have changed my name Menka Verma to Menka in future I shell be known menka.D/o Daya Shanker Nagar, Lakhanpur, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I have lost my original Sale deed dt.30.3.1993 Sr. No.1974 of my property Arazi No.99, Village Rooma, Kanpur Nagar, it's use will be illegal, Sandeep Gupta S/o Krishna Kumar Gupta R/o 667, Safipur first, Harjinder Nagar Kanpur

में जैनब परवीन पत्नी मोहम्मद नदीम मैंने अपनी पुत्री Zoya का नाम बदलकर Zoya Nadeem रख लिया है, Zoya Nadeem R/o 130/345,Babu Purwa, kanpur

NOTICE

Allotment Letter House No.EWS-128 & EWS-129 Phase - 2 & Possession Letter House No.EWS-128, & Archana Verma Original Chain deed of house no.EWS- 129 Phase -2 Maharishi Dayanand Vihar Kalyanpur, Kanpur, Have really been lost some where, Any use of which will be illegal, Dinesh Kumar Pal S/o Sone Lal Pal, 128- EWS- Phase - 2 Maharishi Dayanand Kalyanpur Kanpur

pressurising Sachin to marry her, warning her of repercussions if he refused. "Sachin was a responsible person and wasn't in a hurry to marry her due to his obligations towards his family. He took this step to prove his sincerity to her and his commitment to us," the deceased's father said. The police have sent the body for autopsy and started an investi-

investigation into the case. He

stated that the accused was

gations. Meanwhile, a 27-year old LLM girl student ended her life at her house in Sushant Golf City police station area on Friday. As per reports, Abhivyakti Tripathi of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar locked herself in a room and did not open the door despite being requested by to the scene. "Sachin was taken to a hospital where he to a hospital where he to the scene." Taken to the scene. "Sachin was taken to a hospital where he to the scene." Taken to the scene. "Sachin was taken to a hospital where he to the scene." The scene is the sce only to find Abhivyakti hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck. Her father Jagdish Tripathi said Abhivyakti was pursuing LLM from Kurukshetra University and was staying in a hostel there. She had visited the city recently. Police sent the body for autopsy and started inves-



tigations.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE inform that my client Indian Overseas ink, Lucknow, intends to provide a finance te of its clients Smt. Manorama Rastogi W one of its clients Smt. Manorama Rastogi W/o Sri Raja Kumar Rastogi against the property of ri Abhilash Kumar Srivastava S/o Late Chandra Mohan Lal, their property being House No. 645A/1269 constructed on Plot No. 20, being portion on Khasra No. 311, situated at-Madiyaon, Ward-Jankipuram & District Lucknow & in chain of title being original sale deed dated 23.09.2009 in favouring its exowner Smt. Pushpa W/o Sri Harish Chandra Singh vide document No. 6713, is allegedly lost and misplaced. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within 7 days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be fill be received within the said period it will b resumed that the property in question is fre from all encumbrances and any claim espect thereof against purchaser shall be vo

Arun Prakash Srivastava, Advocate, Mobile: 6389096294, Office: Near Old Campus of High Court Masjid, Civil Court, Lucknow.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be inform that my client Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited intends to provide a finance to one of its clients M/s. DNR Infra Developers Private Limited, Mr. Utkarsh Rai, Mr. Subodh Kumar Rai, Mrs. Nisha Rai & Mr. Shaktidhar Rai against their property being house with land built over part of plot Nos. C-4 & 5, admeasuring 870 sq. fts. i.e. 80. 855 sq. mtr. Only being portion of Khasra No. 298min, situated at Village-Kanchanpur Matiyan, Ward-Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Lucknow. In chain of title, the exowners Smt. Beena Rajan, for self and as natural guardian of Sanzi Rajan (minor) & Ms. Lini Rajan sold the said property to Sri Jitendra Kumar Dwivedi through a sale-deed dated 21.05.2014 & through a sale-deed dated 01.05.2021 (vide document No. 5240). If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within 10 days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect threed gainst purchaser shall be void and ineffective. (Tarun Prakash Srivastava)

(Tarun Prakash Srivastava) Advocate, Mob.: 9335914262 Office: Room No. 111, Citi Hotel, 24

Metro services till 10:30 pm from July 15

Lucknow (PNS): In a move aimed at enhancing passenger convenience, Lucknow Metro has announced the extension of its operational hours. From July 15 onwards, Lucknow Metro train services will be available from 6 am to 10:30 pm. This extension from the previous close ing time of 10 pm will allow commuters more flexibility in their travel schedules. "The last metro train will

depart from both terminals — Munshipulia and CCS Airport — at 10:30 pm, ensuring that passengers have ample time to reach their destinations comfortably. This extension reflects Lucknow Metro's commitment of providing efficient and reliable transportation services to the citizens of Lucknow," a UPMRC official said.

Lucknow (PNS): The Bundelkhand region,

rich in history, mythology, and spirituali-

ty, offers numerous heritage sites that

immerse tourists in its historical legacy. The

State Museum of Jhansi, now fully

revamped and digitalised, preserves

Bundelkhand's rich heritage with state-of-

The historical information in digital form

attracts tourists, especially youth and chil-

dren, and the entire museum is dedicated

"The Uttar Pradesh Culture and Tourism

department is striving to attract tourists and

introduce the new generation to history, with the revamped State Museum of Jhansi

being a prime example. The museum's

gallery has been transformed with modern

technology and digital media, offering

detailed insights into the history of Jhansi

Lucknow (PNS): To strengthen and

activate the party organisation in Uttar Pradesh, Janata Dal (United)

state president Anoop Singh Patel is

reorganising the party's state and dis-

Patel on Friday appointed Lucknow's

woman leader Poonam Singh as the

state president of party's women

wing, Barabanki district resident

youth leader Prashant Singh as the

state president of youth wing,

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

(NABARD), Uttar Pradesh Regional Office, celebrated its 43rd

Foundation Day on Friday under the theme 'Empowerment

through Cooperation. The event underscored the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders in driving sustain-

able rural development and transforming the agricultural sec-

tor. Minister for Cooperation, UP, JPS Rathore was the chief

guest. Chief General Manager, NABARD UPRO, SK Dora wel-

comed the minister and elaborated how they had touched mil-

lions of rural hearts and how its initial experimentation with

CITYBRIEFS

the-art features.

to 'Jhansi Ki Rani'.

trict units.

and Bundelkhand, and drawing a growing

number of visitors," a tourism official said.

He said that to educate today's youth about

the region's glorious past, the museum has

implemented several modern features,

including virtual reality (VR) technology.

This allows visitors to experience ancient

battles first hand, creating an immersive

battlefield environment. Digital boards pro-

vide historical information with a simple

touch, enhancing the interactive experience.

The museum's most captivating feature is

a large interactive book, distinct from ordi-

nary books, which uses a projector and sen-

sors to 'speak' to children as they touch it.

This innovative approach presents history in a unique way. The museum also show-

cases the history of coins through holo-

grams, displaying rotating coins and their

historical contexts. Another highlight is a

Lucknow resident and advocate Diwakar Singh as the state spokesper-

son of the party and Ghazipur district

resident senior leader of Purvanchal

Vineet Tiwari as the state spokesper-

son of the party.
Patel expressed hope that the newly-

appointed office-bearers will give

their valuable contribution in

strengthening and activating the

party's state organisation and the

party's support base will increase in

SHG-BLP to

link around

500 SHGs of

poor to the

formal finan-

cial institu-

tions during

the year 1992-

93 had been

transformed

into largest

microfinance

programme of

the world.

tor of an infrastructure company dealing in construction of bridges, railway bridges and state highways has filed a com-plaint against bank officials and director/promoter of his company, alleging a Rs 30-crore bank loan fraud. The complaint was filed in

Gomti Nagar police station. In his complaint, Shiv Sewak Singh of Vishal Khand alleged that director of the company named VIL, Naushad Ahmad, in connivance with credit officer Amit Garg and MD/CEO Amitabh Chaudhari of a bank forged his signature and received loan even when he was not on the board of directors.

Singh said he had resigned from the post of director in 2011 following differences with Naushad. "I and Naushad had established a company which later became a public sector company and its name was changed to VIL with a Delhi address. Naushad took a loan of

Anoop Patel revamps JD(U

Firm ex-director alleges ₹30-cr loan fraud

Lucknow (PNS): Former direc
Rs 30 crore - Rs 5 crore as cash plaint suspecting one of his credit and Rs 25 crore as bank guarantee - in 2008. I signed as guarantee - in 2006. Fighted as a personal guarantor. In September 2011, I resigned from the post of director following the differences with Naushad. Later the company was declared insolvent and CIRP was initiated for settling the issue. I requested to remove my name from the list of guarantors but they did not. I never signed any document or endorsed guarantee but still they sent me a loan recovery notice as a personal guarantor," he said. Singh said he came to know that Naushad, in connivance with bank officials, presented documents signed by him at the time of renewal of loan and letter of continuity bearing his signature in 2012 while he had resigned in 2011. Meanwhile, a trolley bag containing Rs 58 lakh was stolen from the office of a transporter in Sarojininagar police station area. The owner of the bag, Ghanshyam, lodged a com-

staff members, Pravesh Tiwari, who was supposed to receive the cash. According to reports, Ghanshyam's father runs the Ghanshyams rather runs the cargo transport office in Transport Nagar. On July 9, Ghanshyam received the bag which he was supposed to hand over to Tiwari the next day. "I had given over Rs 16.39 lakh to Tiwari, who told me he would collect the remaining Rs 58 lakh from me the following day. I placed the trolley bag in my office, which Tiwari saw," he Ghanshyam later found the lock

on the office gate missing and the trolley bag stolen. "I had placed the bag in the office on July 9 night. At that time, Tiwari and other staff members, including Lali, Ankit, Ajay, Sharmaji, and a driver, were present. Except for Tiwari, none of them knew the bag contained money. Some staff members saw Tiwari taking money from the bag," he alleged.

Revamped Jhansi museum brings B'khand history to life virtual helicopter that intrigues children and youth alike, offering a simulated flight experience while educating them about the city's main attractions and history," he

> added. In the museum, there is a 'Knowledge Fountain' that allows visitors to test their knowledge of Bundelkhand's history. Utilising modern technology, this feature has been well-received, making learning about Jhansi and Bundelkhand both fun and informative. On March 12 last, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath virtually inaugurated three fully digitalised galleries in the museum. Deputy director of the State Museum Dr Manoj Kumar Gautam highlighted that the Jhansi Development Authority (JDA) renovated the museum at a cost of Rs 10 crore under the Smart City scheme.

units in

the state. Senior party leaders

Manendra Singh, Dr Bharat Gangwar,

Awadhesh Singh, Sanjay Singh Patel,

Prashant Singh, Anand Kumar Singh,

Poonam Singh, Mamta Singh,

Shailendra Verma, Subhash Pathak,

Bhaiya Harishankar Patel, DM Singh

Gaharwar, Dev Kumar Saket, Patel

Abhishek Chaudhary, Sanjay Kumar

Singh, Diwakar Singh and several

other were present on this

occasion.

A state-of-the-art digital library was inaugurated by Canara

Bank at Chandrabali Singh Inter College in Ayodhya. This

initiative, part of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility

(CSR) programme, aims to enhance educational resources

library was inaugurated by General Manager of Canara Bank

and opportunities for students in the region. The digital

Head Office, Bengaluru, Ravi Prakash Jaiswal.

Rly committed to providing facilities to loco pilots: DRM

PNS LUCKNOW

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of North Eastern Railways (NER), Lucknow division, Aditya Kumar emphasised their commitment to providing facilities to loco pilots, who are crucial for safety. Talking to mediapersons during a visit to the crew and train manager, Awadh Running Room at Lucknow Junction, on Friday, he highlighted that the entire responsibility of operating thousands of passenger and goods trains daily in the Indian Railways rests on the shoulders of the loco pilots. "In every season, 24/7, loco pilots continuously carry out their responsibilities and contribute to rail operations with full vigilance," he said.

The DRM mentioned that for the safe operation of rail services in the Lucknow Division of Northeast Railway, 1,784 posts of loco pilots, assistant loco pilots, and running staff had been sanctioned, and currently, 1,449 running personnel are working. "The recruitment process for the remaining 335 posts is ongoing at various stages through the Railway Recruitment Board and departmental examinations," he informed.

Bahraich, Nanpara, and Nautanwa, while running rooms have been constructed in

The project was built under the guidance of Northeast Railway General Manager Saumva Mathur. Kumar noted that a total of eight crew lobbies and five running rooms have been built for the running staff in the Lucknow Division of Northeast Railway. Crew lobbies have been established in Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow, Sitapur, Mailani,

Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow, Sitapur, and Mailani.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby informed that Sahyog Jankalyan Samiti had been made an agreement to purchase of Arazi No 497/1, 492/2, 491Mi, 490Mi and Arazi No. 492/1Mi, 497/2Mi, 499Mi Village-Bhauti Pratappur Tehsil- Kanpur Sadar District-Kanpur Nagar Vide Book No. 1 of Volume No. 13210 from pages 305 to 330 Serial No. 4099 dated 19.04.2024, a contract has been signed with Shri Vivek Tandon Director and Shri Maihar Tandon Director, Propene Products Limited Registered Office: E-10 Panki Industrial Area, Kanpur Nagar. The original documents (registry) of the above land which was purchased in the name of Propene Products Pvt.

Registered Office- 117/H-1/315 Model Town, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur. Mob.-9415134594 **PUBLICATION** FORM No. 1 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of

Ltd. have been lost. Therefore, if

anyone has any interest in the said

property or has any objection, then he

should submit a written objection to

the undersigned within 15 days of this

publication, otherwise the said

property will be purchased by the

undersigned and then the objection

Prakash Narayan Gupta

Sahyog Jankalyan Samiti,

will not be valid.

Uttar Pradesh) 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007 DRC NO. 391/2023 NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBT DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993.

ICICI BANK LTD.

Vs MR RAJ BABU YADAV & OTHERS 1. Mr. Raj Babu Yadav S/o. Ram Prasad Yadav

R/o. Umar Bahri IIM Lucknow- 226013. 2. Mr. Ram Prasad Yadav S/o. Sheeta Prasad Yadav

R/o. Chhuiya Purwa Jankipuram Lucknow -226021 ...Defendants Lucknow -226021 ...Defendants
This is to notify that a sum of Rs.
40,63,091.10/- (Rupees Forty Lacs
Sixty Three Thousand Ninety One
Rupees Ten Paise Only) together
with pendentelite and future
interest @ 8.00% per annum with
monthly rest from the date of filling.
16-05-2019 Original Application
till the loan is the fully liquidated
and cost succeeds and with the
jointly severally till its realization is
made has become due from you as

made has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No.391/2023 dated 16-07-2022 in Original Application No. 841/2019 passed against you by the D.R.T. Lucknow.

Lucknow.

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

3. You are bereby ordered to

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or Before 13/08/2024
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 13/08/2024 at 10:30 A.M. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay the following Costs.

Details of costs: Application fee Advocate fees

authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 18.07.2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the applicant shall be heard and decided in your absence. Debts Recovery Tribunal, Luckno

(Summons to Defendants under Section 19(3) of the recovery of debts due to Bank's and financial institutions act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the debts recovery, tribunal (procedure rules, 1993)

INDIAN BANK ERSTWHILEAPPLICANT

M/S PARAMHANS PRIVATE LIMITED

1. M/s Paramhans private limited add plot no-17-B Maharishi Nagar, IIM Road, Lucknow Shri Suresh Jaiswal R/o 537F/140, plot no 7-B, Indra Pu

537F/140, plot no 7-B, Indra Puri Colony, Lucknow

in paper book from in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly

Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow-22600 (Area of jurisdiction part of Uttar Pradesh) SUMMOUNS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATIO O.A. NO/164/2024

ALLAHABAD BANK

Colony, Lucknow. Smt. Manju Jaiswal W/o Shri Suresh Jaiswal R/o

Shri Rajat Jaiswal S/o Shri Suresh Jaiswal R/o 537F/140 plot no 7-B, Indra Puri Colony, Lucknow. n the above noted application, you are required to file reply

Advocate fees Rs. Publication charges Rs. Miscellaneous Expenses Rs. Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 03rd day of July, 2024.

Recovery Officer Debts Recovery Lucknov

CM reinforces commitment to public safety, prosperity

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, held a Janata Darshan at his official residence in Lucknow and addressed the grievances of hundreds of people from various districts.

The chief minister instructed officials to carefully listen to complaints, communicate effectively with complainants and take appropriate action. During this, citizens presented a range of issues, including problems with the police, land encroachments and transfer

Chief Minister Yogi listened to each complaint and assured the attendees that their concerns would be addressed promptly. He emphasised the importance of satisfying the com-



plainants in all valid cases. teacher who requested a trans-Among the attendees was a fer due to personal issues. The

application to the Directorate of Education for necessary

Another petitioner sought a iob under the deceased dependent quota, and Chief Minister Yogi assured him that the application would be sent to the department concerned for relevant action.

The chief minister personally reached out to each attendee, listened to the complaint, and handed over the application to the officials for further action. He also directed officials from the respective districts to take action on issues related to the police and land encroachments, reinforcing his commitment to addressing public grievances and ensuring their safety, prosperity and happiness

UP strengthens technical measures to prevent illegal mining & transportation

PNS LUCKNOW

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken a strong stance on complaints about illegal mining in the state. Following his directives, the Geology and Mining Department is preparing to use technology on a largescale to effectively control illegal mining.

Satellite monitoring will be used to watch over areas where illegal mining occurs, and vehicles involved in illegal mining will be tracked using a vehicle in the geo-fenced mining area.

tracking system (VTS). Additionally, brick kilns will be identified through remote sensing. According to department officials, several proposals have been prepared to strengthen the technical measures to prevent illegal mining and transportation. The most important among these are the VTS and remote sensing. VTS will enable real-time tracking of vehicles transporting minerals. It will also ensure that an e-Abhivahan permit is issued

only when the vehicle is present

Proposals to implement the VTŜ system have been received Uttar Pradesh from Development Systems Corporation Ltd. (UPDESCO), and proposals have also been requested from other technical institutions.

Remote sensing will also be used to prevent illegal mining and transportation. A remote sensing lab has already been established at the directorate level, which will prepare satellite imagery to identify new mining areas and mark illegal mining activities. Brick kilns

will also be identified using remote sensing. There are 15,444 registered brick kilns in the state. Drone surveys will be conducted to survey mining areas and monitor approved mining zones. The department is also planning to increase the number of vehicles used for enforcement. Currently, only 55 districts have vehicles approved for enforcement actions. A proposal to approve vehicles for all districts will be sent soon. Additionally, employees will wear uniforms during enforcement actions.

MAHA KUMBH 2025

UP govt to deploy AI-equipped attendance system for staff

With only six months left until Maha Kumbh commences on January 14, 2025, the Yogi Adityanath government is mobilising a substantial number of government employees and officials from across Uttar Pradesh to assist the millions of devotees expected from around the world. To ensure efficient management and real-time monitoring of their daily attendance, the government plans to take the help of artificial intel-

Yogi's vision, a digital attendance system will be developed for the employees and officials serving at the Maha Kumbh 2025, which will operate through a facial recognitionbased mobile app. This app will be developed to work on both Android and iOS formats. This plan will be implemented for an 8-month project period, for which the Uttar Pradesh phase, the design, develop-Development

SCO) has started preparations following the needs of the Prayagraj Mela Authority.

UPDESCO has initiated the development process of an AIbased mobile app for the regular attendance of employees and officials from various government departments serving at the Maha Kumbh 2025. A short-term notice has been issued by UPDESCO to complete this process. Companies already empanelled with UPDESCO will be allocated the ligence. selected tasks, following which According to Chief Minister they will need to complete the system and app development, testing, operation and maintenance processes. This process will be completed in four phas-

> In the first phase, the kick-off presentation and team mobilisation process will be completed. The process must be completed within seven days after task allocation. In the second System ment, implementation, con-

figuration and application testing processes will be completed. A 15-day target has been set to complete this task. This phase will include the completion of the inception report, project plan, software requirement specification (SRS), capacity building plan, case testing, configuration report. deployment, testing and com-

After the development of the mobile app, the deployment, testing and commissioning processes will be completed. The app will be rolled out once the go-live report and user acceptance testing (UAT) process are finished. A deadline of 25 days from the task allocation has been set for the designated agency to complete this process. Following this, the fourth phase will involve the regular operation and maintenance process, which will be carried out monthly or as needed. Additionally, a fortnightly

progress report will be pre-

pared. Actions will also be taken based on issue logging and resolution reports. Customized MIS reports, attendance monitoring reports, and notification and alert reports will also be completed.

The process of developing a system for real-time assessment of staff/supervisors from various fair/governmen departments by UPDESCO on behalf of the Prayagraj Mela Authority is underway. This process involves installing a mobile app on mobile phones to register attendance and mark their presence.

For the Maha Kumbh Mela, an AI-equipped attendance system will utilise features extracted from pre-existing databases to automatically identify and verify individuals in real-time environments compared to selected facial features. Each department will appoint a nodal officer to monitor the officers and employees of their respective departments.

Nadda to address BJP state executive meet on July 14

Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda will address the opening session of the first state executive meeting of the party here on July 14 after the less than expected results in the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address the closing session.

The meeting will see the participation of around 3,600 delegates, said to be the biggest contingent and 10 times more than the previous such party conclave. "Usually around 300 to 400 delegates attend the state executive meeting. But this time, around 3,000 delethis time, around 3,000 delegates will participate in the Lucknow. According to the that the party lost.

arising out of the party's per-formance in the Lok Sabha polls in the state," a BJP leader said. The party's below par performance in Uttar Pradesh is one of the reasons for the BJP failing to reach the 272-mark in the Lok Sabha on its own.

Along with the BJP's sitting MLAs and MPs, all Lok Sabha candidates who lost the poll have also been invited to the meeting. Besides MLCs, zila panchayat and nagar palika chairpersons, district presidents, and all office-bearers of the party will also attend the meeting at the auditorium of the Ram Manohar Lohia

meeting due to circumstances arising out of the party's performance in the Lok Sabha

BJP leader, one or two political proposals will be passed at the meeting. In addition, issues relating to farmers and women and membership drive will also be discussed at the daylong state executive meeting. The party's programmes for the vear ahead will also be discussed along with by-elections to 10 assembly seats in the state. This will be the BJP national president's first visit after the formation of the National Democratic Alliance government 0.3 at the Centre.

After the poll results, the BJP had constituted 40 teams of two members each, which visited all 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in UP with a focus on those seats

Mayawati welcomes DU's decision to reject proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students

Lucknow (PTI): BSP chief rejected. "Strong opposition to Mayawati on Friday welcomed the decision of the Delhi University to reject the proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students. Delhi Univeristy Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh had on Thursday said that suggestions to teach 'Manusmriti' (Laws of Manu) to law students of the university have been

the proposal to teach Manusmriti in the Law Department of Delhi University, which went against dignity and honour of the Indian Constitution and its egalitarian and welfare objectives, is natural and the decision to cancel this proposal is a welcome step," Mayawati said in a post on X.

"The most revered Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar created the universally accepted Indian Constitution, keeping in mind self-respect and self-esteem of the neglected and women as well as humanism and secularism, which does not match Manusmriti at all. Therefore, any such attempt is not at all appropriate," the former UP CM said.

people to refrain from insulting Irani, others

Rahul asks

Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday took to 'X' and urged people to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards former Union minister Smriti Irani or any other leader.

Following her loss to Congress candidate Kishori Lal Sharma in the Lok Sabha polls, Smriti Irani vacated her official residence. Rahul Gandhi's remarks came as some people took a dig at Irani as she moved out of the bungalow. "Winning and losing happen in life. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smt Smriti Irani or any other leader for that matter," Rahul Gandhi said

"Humiliating and insulting people is a sign of weakness, not strength," the Congress leader added. Weeks after her defeat in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi Lok Sabha constituencv. Irani moved out of her official residence at 28 Tughlak Crescent in Lutyens' Delhi.

'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' initiative to strengthen Indian democracy: Yogi

On the announcement of the Central government declaring June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised the decision, calling it 'commendable".

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for this historic move, he remarked that the horrific memories of the Emergency remain a blot on our democracy. He added that this day would always keep the flame of respect and faith in democratic values alive in the minds of

AKY slams

pre-budget

show of

NDA govt

Lucknow (PNS): A day after

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with senior NITI Aayog officials and leading

economists as part of the wider

consultations in the run-up to

the Union Budget 2024-25,

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav slammed the

National Democratic Alliance

government on the pre-budget

show. The Modi government 3.0 will present its first full budget on

July 23. "The show of pre-budget

meetings is just an illusion. They

pretend to consult when there is

arbitrariness to cheat the public.

Most of the ministries in the gov-

ernment have become 'man-

traalay' (mind trials). When the

ministers have not changed then

how will there be changes in the budget? This period of econom-

ic crisis will continue to push peo-

ple into the quagmire of prob-lems and inflation," he said.



every citizen. It is noteworthy that Union Home Minister Amit Shah shared this decision on social media on Friday, informing that the Central government had issued an offi-

cial notification. Chief Minister Yogi posted on social media platform 'X' with the hashtag #SamvidhaanHatyaDiwas, stating, "The Government of India's decision, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to observe June 25 every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' is commendable. On this day in 1975, then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had tried to kill Indian democracy by strangling our great Constitution and imposing 'Emergency' on the country." He further expressed, "Democracy was restored in the country through the sacrifices of countless satva-

grahis, but even today, the horrific memories of the Emergency are present like a blot on our democracy. 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' is an effort to keep every Indian alert and cautious about the malicious intentions and conspiracies against the Constitution and democracy by authoritarian, dictatorial parties like Congress. This initiative will strengthen Indian democracy and keep the spirit of respect and faith in democratic values alive in every citizen. Heartfelt gratitude to the prime minister and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah ji for this historic decision. Jai Hind."

Bank of India Relationship Beyond Banking

128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004 POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule 8 (1)

Zonal Office

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices to below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest at other charges with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the below mentioned properties in exercise of power conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower/ guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India. The borrowers/guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of

ion 13 of the Act, in respect of time av	ailable, to redeem the	secured assets.		
Name of the	Demand Notice Dt.	Possession Date	Description	
Borrower/Guarantor	Amount as per Demand		Mortgaged/Owner	
Jhansi Branch, Plot No. 3 P.P. Plaza, First Floor, Pri				
wer: M/s New Rudra Hotel gh its partners- a). Shri Janardan		Possession Date 08.07.2024	Equitable mortgage of situated at part of Ara	
v S/o Shri Ram Bachan Yadav Shri Rajpal Yadav S/o Late Shri Kur Das, Indra Nagar, Opposite ., Khailar, Jhansi- Uttar Pradesh- 20	Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen and Paise Fifty Four Only)		Khailar Abadi Indra M District Jhansi, Name Yadav S/o Lt. Thakur Yadav S/o Shri Ram 1250 Sq Ft. or 116.1	

Shri Ram Bachan Yadav H. No. 325 ii). Shri Rajpal Yadav S/o Late Shri Thakur Das, ISAI Chowki, Khailar, BHEL,

Date: 13.07.2024

azi No. 1478/1, Mouza Nagar, BHEL, Tehsil & e of Owner: Shri Rajpa Bachan Yadav, Area 7 Sq Mtr., Boundaries of the property as per Sale deed: East 1478/2, Property of owner (Proposed seller) followed by Shri Ram Colony 8 Mandir, West: Jhansi Babina Main road North: Property of Kaptan Singh, South: hop of Rajendra Ghanhotra

of Properties

armshala,

and interest thereon

from 06.05.2024

er of the Properties

Place: Kanpur Authorised Office: Bank of India



सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India

"CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Under Security and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security, Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the Powers conferred under section 13(12) and read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice as detailed here in below with our Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrowers/guarantors having failed to pay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the

property and any dealing will be subject to charge of Central Bank of India. The borrowers attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Possession Date of Demand Notice Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors Notice Date Amt. Outstanding (Rs.) 1. Borrower/Guarantor: Sushil Kumar S/O Vijay Bahadur, Permanent Address: 09.07.2024 06.05.2024 Rs. 2.77.785.00

Vikrampur, P.O. Patna, Erwa Katra, Janpad Auraiya-206252, Present Address: 147-2 Ashok Nagar, Nai Basti Goa Garden, Kalyanpur Kanpur, Co-Borrower/Guarantor: Mrs Jyoti Choudhary w/o Susheel Kumar, Permanent Address: Vikrampur, P.O. Patna, Erwa Katra, Janpad Auraiya-206252, Present Address: 147-2 Ashok Nagar, Nai Basti Goa Garden, Kalyanpur Kanpur

Description of the Immovable Admeasuring Area 50.00 Sqare Metre.

Property Situated at: Plot No 70 LIG, Mandakini Enclave, Shatabdi Nagar, Phase 5 Kanpur Nagar.

Admeasuring Area 50.00 Sqare Metre. Date: 13.07.2024 Place: Kanpur Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office Lucknow, New Building, 2nd Floor, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Ph. 0522-2286272, 2287283, Fax: 0522-2288033, E-mail id: zolucknow@indianbank.co.in NOTICE OF SALE E-AUCTION

Notice in intended sale under rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) had taken constructive possession of the following property / ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same of "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upto failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act platform provided by the Service Provider contact & detail for Symbolic Possession of property is available at present. Dt. of Demand Notice a) Reserve Price Date for

Sr. No.	Borrower(s)/Proprietor/Partners/	Description of the Immovable Property mortgaged	Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Notice Out.Amt. as per Demand Notice	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money c) Account Details for EMD d) Incremental Bid Amt.	Date for submission of EMD Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	Granch: Takrohi Bazar, Lucknow 1. Smt. Aish Jahan W/O Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan (Borrower/Legal Heir), R/O 46 Shalimar Colony Phsae 1 Behind Bright Career College, New Haider Ganj Campwell Road Lucknow-226003 2. Ms Sadiya D/O Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan (Legal Heir of Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan), R/O 46 Shalimar Colony Phsae 1 Behind Bright Career College, new Haider ganj Campwell Road Lucknow-226003 3. Ms Nazia D/O Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan (Legal Heir of Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan), R/O 46 Shalimar Colony Phsae 1 Behind Bright Career College, new Haider ganj Campwell Road Lucknow-226003 4. Ms Sumeya D/O Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan (Legal Heir of Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan), R/O 46 Shalimar Colony Phsae 1 Behind Bright Career College, new Haider ganj Campwell Road Lucknow-26003 5. Sri Ausaf S/O Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan (Legal Heir of Late Sri Ansar Hussain Khan), R/O 46 Shalimar Colony Phsae 1 Behind Bright Career College, new Haider ganj Campwell Road Lucknow-226003	All that part and parcel of Shop No. 2 on ground floor having total covered area 22.513 Sq Mtr. Situated at Anant Modern Enclave H No. 158/75, old no.210 Ganga Prasad Road, Lucknow, Bounded by:-North:FlatAjay Vishwakarma, South: House Road and Ganga Prasad Road, East: Road Anant Modern Enclave, West: Flat Mohd Salam 2. All that part and parcel of Shop No. 4 on ground floor having total covered area 15.05 Sq Mtr. Situated at Anant Modern Enclave H No. 158/75, old no. 210 Ganga Prasad Road, Lucknow, Bounded	20.09.2023 18.12.2023 Rs. 21,34,769.00 as on 20.09.2023 with further Interest Cost other Charges & expenses thereon	a) Rs. 19,69,200/- b) Rs. 1,96,920/- c) 6127853725 IFSC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch d) Rs. 10,000/- a) Rs. 13,16,700/- b) Rs. 1,31,670/- c) 6127853725 IFSC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch	Till 30.07.2024 31.07.2024
	 Sri Vinod Gupta S/O Late Sri Pal Krishna Gupta (Guarantor), Add-1: R/o 7 Sadar Bazar Lucknow Pin-226002 Add-2: R/O 133/139 Fatehganj Aminabad Lucknow Pin-226018 Mohd Rafiq Azad S/o Mohd Mubeen (Guarantor), R/O 49 	by:- North: Property Seller, South: Property Sri Rohit Kumar Jaiswal, East: Common Passage, West: Property Shri Rama Shankar Advocate		d) Rs. 10,000/-	

B Bhadewan Haiderganj Lucknow Pin-226001 For verification about be document, property & inspection thereof, the intending bidders may contact Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank), above mentioned Branch, Lucknow during office hours before on 29.07.2024 and for auction related query intending bidders may

For downloading further details and Terms & conditions, please visit : (1) http://www.ibapi.in (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com THE BORROWER(S)/GUARANTOR(S) ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED ABOUT THE SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Place : Lucknow, Date : 13.07.2024

INDIAN BANK (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Ensure repair of Panchkoshi Marg before Shravan: Jaiswal

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Registration Fees Ravindra Jaiswal directed the PWD engineers to get the Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg completely repaired before the start of the month of Shravan. He was holding a meeting with the officials in the Circuit House Auditorium here on Friday. The minister also directed the Nagar Nigam officers to ensure adequate and proper lighting as well as proper cleaning arrangements on the Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg so that the devotees did not have to face any kind of problem. He especially emphasised that the state government had given Rs 100 crore for the repair and construction of Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg of Varanasi, but the condition of the road is still not satisfactory. Expressing displeasure over this, he gave strict instructions that the roads should be repaired immediately. During the meeting, the PWD engi-



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal reviewing repair work of Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg in Varanasi on Friday.

neers informed that L&T has dug up roads at many places during its work. On which the minister expressed deep displeasure and directed to register an FIR against L&T for causing damage to govern-

ment property.
The PWD engineers also informed that despite writing several letters, an FIR has not been registered against L&T till now. In reply, Jaiswal expressed displeasure and said that after talking to the district magistrate in this regard, it will be ensured that an FIR is registered soon.

members. "Abha ID is like a

health account, which contains

the details of the entire health

of the person", he said, direct-

ing all the health workers to

monitor and review the cam-

paign daily. According to him,

100 per cent reporting of the

entire campaign should be done on the eKavach portal. All departments will work

together to prevent communi-

cable diseases. Also, under the

'Stop Diarrhoea Campaign',

Asha workers should distrib-

tablets to prevent diarrhoea

said anti-larvicide spraying, fogging and cleanliness should

supervision in the previously identified hot spot (high risk)

areas of rural and urban areas.

He asked the vector surveil-

He expressed displeasure over the roads not being repaired till now despite the department paying for the repair after the digging of roads in Kamala Market located at Bharlai of Shivpur on Panchkosi Parikrama Marg and directed the officers concerned to get the road repaired immediately. He said the roads under construction should not be painted during the rainy season as this affects the quality and misuses government money. He clearly instructed the PWD engineers that the roads under

repaired during the rainy sea-son but patch work etc should be done as per the need. He also instructed the officials to get the encroachments done by local goons vacated on many dharamshalas of the different paraos (shelters) on the Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg and to form a committee of local people for its maintenance. Earlier, during the inspection of the Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg, he inspected the excavation work done on the roads for strong water drainage near Uday Pratap College Marg and Gillet Bazaar. While instructing the officials of the implementing agency present on the spot to complete the work immediately, he also instructed the PWD engineers to complete the road repair work within two days.

ELECTED: Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and four time corporator from Dashashwamedh (ward number 96) has been elected (Deputy Upsabhapati Chairman) of Nagar Nigam for third time.

Dastak Abhiyan' begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The health department is taking action at every level to prevent mosquito and waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases. In this direction, 'Dastak Abhiyan' was started from Thursday under the special communicable disease control month. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that in the Dastak Abhiyan, ASHA workers will go door-todoor and take information about the health of all the family members. "Along with fever, people suffering from

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar **Tender Notice Reference** No. GNDU/Gen/53/2024

The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsa invites online bids for the following: Sr. No. 1

Item: Hiring of Fully dedicated secure Server Quantity: 02

vww.eproc.punjab.gov.in Note:- Any corrigendum(s) he above website only

Assistant Registrar (General) Guru Nanak Dev University

NA/12/24086/2023/35582 Dated CHD :- 7/12/2024

dengue, malaria, filariasis, dition, the patients should be kala-azar, TB, leprosy and referred to the nearest hospitals and CHCs/PHCs", he said, water-borne diseases will be asking the health workers to identified and their list will be prepared", the CMO said, ensure preventive action in adding that the ASHA workers will motivate the patients testing and treatment. In the campaign, special emphasis will also be given on creating Abha ID of all the family

Nodal Officer and ACMO Dr SS Kanaujia said that ASHA workers should identify potential patients as well as provide detailed information about the symptoms, causes, tests, treatment and prevention of vector, water, rodent, pig-borne diseases. Stickers, posters etc should be pasted to create awareness about prevention of these diseases. Anganwadi workers of the area will provide full support to ASHA workers for all these works. Through this campaign, emphasis will be laid on spreading the message of health education and behaviour change in every house and family in the village ute ORS packets and zinc and city, he added. District Malaria Officer Sharat Chand Pandey said that more than during home visits. The CMO 2,600 ASHA workers have been trained for the campaign, who will go door-to-door and identify potential patients and mark them. As be done by doing intensive many as 16 teams have been prepared for vector and larva lance teams to continuously surveillance and 19 supervimonitor mosquito-borne sors have been deployed for random larva checking in sources. "If a positive patient is found in any area, the Rapid Response Team should go urban areas apart from 11 malaria inspectors for superthere and provide proper treat-vision and 11 personnel for ment. In case of serious con-regular spraying, he said.

IDFC FIRST

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

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PUBLIC NOTICE GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The Below mentioned borrower has been issued notices to pay the outstanding amount towards the credit facility against Gold ornament savailed by him from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Since the borrower has failed to repay the dues under the facility. We are constrained to conduct an auction of the pledged Gold ornaments on 23/07/2024. In the event any surplus amount is realized from this auction, the same will be returned to the concerned borrower and if there is any deficit post the auction, the balance amount shall be recovered from the borrower through appropriate legal proceedings. IDFC FIRST Bank has the authority to remove the following account from the auction without prior intimation. Further IDFC FIRST Bank reserves the right to change the Auction

Date without any prior notice.				
Loan Account Number	Customer Name	Branch Name		
100116855	IITENDRA KUMAR GURTA	ALIGARH SASNI GATE MRI		

Auction will be conducted online through https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 23/07/2024 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm By way of this publication the concerned borrower are hereby given final notice and last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount, with all interest and charges before the schedule auction date failing which the jewellery will be auctioned Please note that, if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to time limit the bank will re auction the pledged gold ornaments within next 7 days on the same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to his legal heirs. Date: 13/07/2024 Place: ALIGARH SASNI GATE MBL

	SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. (Notice Inviting Tender	www.verka.coo			
- tenders are hereby Invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-					
Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty			
1.	For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Regarding water proofing treatment of roofs of various sections at Verka Mohali Dairy.	03 Months			
2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Thermoforming Machine for Vacuum Packing of Paneer.	01 No.			
3.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy Hiring of commercial insulated/ refrigerated vehicles for transportation of packed milk and fresh milk products.	1.7 Ton- 2 No's 3.0 Ton- 6 No's 4.0 Ton- 4 No's			
4.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy Outsourcing of various activities of city supply dispatch dock.	One Year			
5.	For Verka Patiala Dairy Hiring of :- a) 03 MT, 4.5 MT, 7.5 MT, 09 MT vehicles for transportation of Pio, Ghee and cheese etc for different stations. b) 1.5 MT Insulated vehicle for transportation of fresh milk and fresh milk products at Mandi Gobindgarh Area. c) 04 MT insulated vehicle for transportation of fresh Milk and Milk products at Army Area Patiala. d) 7.5 MT and 09 MT Refrigerator vehicle for Ahmedabad and Delhi area.	Annual			

NA/12/24088/2023/35586 Dated CHD :- 7/12/2024

Formulate strategy

to prevent



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager (GM) of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) Abhay Bakre directed the officers of the departments concerned to formulate a strategy for effective spraying, fogging, cleaning etc for prevention of dengue at the beginning of the monsoon itself. He was presiding over a meeting here on Friday which was attended by the officials of BLW's Central Hospital, Civil and other related departments along with representatives of district health department, including District Malaria Officer Dr Sharad Chandra Pandey and ACMO Dr SS

The Health department officers said since it is the transition period a large number of dengue patients are found in this area.

They said that in the rainy season, favourable conditions are created for the breeding of mosquitoes, due to which dengue starts spreading.

Earlier, the general manager inaugurated the synthetic court in the badminton hall in BLW by cutting the ribbon. First of all, the inaugural match was played between BLW GM Abhay Bakre and Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) SK Srivastava. Speaking at the function there, the general manager said that due to the installation of synthetic layer, the badminton court has now become of international level. "The players will now have less chances of sports injuries than before and due to the effect of the synthetic layer, there will be less pressure on the knees of the players, which will improve their performances and also improve the game a lot", he said, motivating the budding children of the Badminton Academy as well as the other shuttlers. On the occasion, PCEE and

president of Sports Association SK Srivastava, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Subrata Nath, Chief Financial Advisor Neeraj Verma, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Janardan Singh, Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME/Production) and General Secretary of Sports Association Sunil Kumar, Deputy General Manager Anui Katiyar, Deputy Chief Materials Manager and Badminton secretary Bhupendra Kumar, Senior Sports Officer Bahadur Prasad, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar, Joint Secretary of Staff's Council Shrikant Yadav, members Sanjay Kumar, Santosh Yadav, Amit Kumar, Manish Kumar Singh, trainers, players and employees were also present.

Progress of Maha Kumbh projects reviewed can reach Sangam from the airport in just 40 minutes. After PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ this, he also inspected the six-

Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Abhijat reviewed the progress of Maha Kumbh projects in the Gandhi Auditorium of the Divisional Commissioner here on Friday. The Principal Secretary arrived here on a two-day visit. He saw the reality from Airport Road to Hanuman Temple Corridor at Sangam on Thursday night. After reaching here on Thursday night, the principal secretary went straight to see the Airport Road. He asked the officers about its progress being built by the PWD to connect

Sangam. Kumbh Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand gave information about the plan to rejuvenate the Airport Road. He said after the construction of this road one

lane bridge. The officers gave detailed information about the steel bridge to be built there. The principal secretary saw the work of expansion and beautification of the Nagvasuki tem-ple on behalf of the Tourism Department. From here he reached Dashashwamedh Ghat. There the officers of the Irrigation Department informed him about the progress of the ghat. The principal secretary said that there will be no compromise on quality and gave instructions to complete all the works within time. After this he also inspected the Qilaghat Hanuman Temple Corridor at Sangam. During the inspection, he instructed to get the material used tested and keep the documents in order to ensure quality. He directed to prepare a signage plan to reach the major places and temples of the

NABBED: A joint team of SOG Yamunanagar and Naini police claimed to have nabbed three miscreants of an interstate gang and recovered 10 automatic pistols and six cartridges from their possession.

The Naini police said that in the order to become they became arms smugglers and started bringing pistols from Bihar, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and selling them in UP and other states.

The Prayagraj police started getting inputs about arms smuggling. Police teams started looking for clues. The SOG and surveillance caught the smugglers. Police interroga-tion made it clear that these

vouths left their studies and got into the arms business. DCP (Yamuna Nagar) Shraddha Narendra Pandey while talking to journalists said on being tipped off by an informer, the joint team of Naini Police and SOG arrested interstate gang members Shivam Pandey alias Kunal of Aura Barot village under Handia police station, Ramprasad Pandey of Meja and Wasi Mohammad of Manda.

Legal action is being taken by registering a case against the accused.

The illegal arms suppliers of the inter-state gang caught by the Naini police and SOG team used to sell pistols in the district for Rs 25000 to Rs 30,000. Ram Prasad and Wasi Mohammad used to sell the arms to others for a higher

DM inspects construction site of ropeway project

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam inspected the site of the construction work of the ambitious ropeway project near Girjaghar crossing here on Friday and gave necessary instructions to the officials of the working agency, Jalkal, Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and Police department. He directed the circle officer (CO) and the police station in charges concerned to run the traffic system smoothly. The DM also directed the

Jalkal and Electricity departments to shift the existing utilities within the ropeway corridor before the start of auspicious Shravan month to ensure that devotees did not face any inconvenience during the festival. He also asked the VDA to provide the necessary land for the construction of towers T23 and T25 so that the ropeway construction work can be completed without any delay.



District Magistrate S Rajalingam inspecting progress of ropeway project at Girjaghar crossing in Varanasi on Friday.

Meanwhile, Rajalingam inaugurated the Vidya Shakti Project at Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls School in Shivpur during the day. Through this project, children will be given online education through digital smart class. He, along with Chief Development Officer (CDO)

Himanshu Nagpal, sat with the children and saw the ongoing online class and took information from them about the studies.

The DM said that digital smart class is a commendable initiative to make the children of government schools competitive. "When government and

creating awareness about caus-

es of environmental pollution

private schools are compared such a facility gap is found. Keeping these points in mind, special attention is being given to smart classes. Our effort is to have a smart class system in all government schools so that the quality of education increases and the children of government schools can also become more competitive by getting better math and science education", he said, adding that this technology has been developed by IIT Madras.

He further said that such schools are declared Nipun Vidyalayas by the government. On the occasion the DM honoured the block education officers (BEOs) and coordinators who did better work under Vidya Shakti by giving them certificates and symbols. Stationery was provided to the children entering from class V to class VI for reading and writing. On the occasion BEOs, school teachers and children along with others were also pre-

Man strangles wife



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

man allegedly strangled Ahis wife in Kalyanpur police station area late on Thursday night. Police have arrested the accused and started a probe in the matter. The man allegedly had illicit relations with a woman which his wife was often opposed.

According to a report, Jitendra Kashyap of Kashyap Nagar, Kalyanpur, is an e-rickshaw operator. On Thursday night he had an argument with his wife Vineeta (27) which soon turned into scuffle in presence of his children who also started crying. Jitendra strangled Vineeta with a saree. On Friday morning Jitendra informed neighbours that Vineeta had died after falling from the roof. Her mother Ram Dulari rushed to spot. Shani, son of the deceased, informed that his father had strangled his mother. The police sent the body of the victim for an autopsy. Ram Dulari alleged that Jitendra had illicit relations with another woman which was opposed by Vineeta.

Kalyanpur inspector said the accused had been arrested and was being quizzed. On receipt of complaint, further action will be initiated in the matter.

Meanwhile a clerk in KESCo Vinay Kumar Mehrotra (54) of Lajpat Nagar, committed suicide by jumping in front of a speeding train at the Nazirabad el crossing on Friday morning. On Friday morning he left the house without telling anything to anybody and took this extreme step. POSSESSION HANDED

OVER: In compliance with the High Court orders, naib tehsildar and lekhpal tehsil Sadar handed over the possession of 16 biswa land in Wazidpur, Jajmau, to the officials of Development Kanpur Authority (KDA) in the presence of police force on Thursday. During the process, tehsildar, Land Bank Zone-1; junior engineer, Engineering Department, Zone-1, junior engineer/supervisor, Enforcement Section, Zone-1 and force of Jajmau police station, applicants and defendants were present. The estimated cost of this land is approximately ₹4 crore. The Sadar tehsil team handed over the possession to the Engineering department after carrying out fencing/boundary wall around the land area meant for onward planning/sale displayed on a board installed there. **ENVIRONMENT PROTEC-**

TION: A newly set up NGO, 'Just For Environment,' aims at

and efforts required to be made to combat the situation which is moving from bad to worse. Addressing mediapersons, Patron Prof Narendra Mohan (former director, NSI), said this 'not for profit' organisation will work for the protection of environment on ground level. Beginning from a tree planta tion drive and competition on environment among students up to class X at the Kasturba Gandhi School, Vishnupuri, on July 16, the organisation will organise a seminar with people of sugar industry to resolve issues relating to prevention of industrial pollution on July 26. He said around 250 persons, including experts in various fields of environment protection, had so far been roped in to the organisation. President Anita Agarwal said, "we will create awareness in all the segments of the society through special campaigns for conserving natural resources, controlling waste generation, its management and following practices which are conducive for the environment. Our target would be educating the students and younger genera-tion, in particular, for which we would conduct programmes in schools, colleges, institutes and universities. However, industry and industrial pollution shall also remain high on agenda". Secretary Dr Jahar Singh, Vice President BK Singhal and treasurer SC

Bar Assn calls off strike PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Allahabad HC

The Allahabad High Court Bar Association on Friday evening called off their strike and announced that they will now postpone further boycott This decision was taken after the meeting of the Bar Association here on Friday evening. President of Allahabad Bar Association Anil Tiwari said the Chief Justice of the High Court has assured the Bar Association regarding the demands and problems. In such a situation, the strike is postponed. President Anil Tiwari said now the executive meeting will be held on July 29 and further decision will be taken on this matter.

President Anil Tiwari and other office-bearers have also requested the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court not to propose the name of any advocate as a Justice who is not a member of the High Court Bar Association or the Awadh Bar Association.

Prof Dubey honoured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The prestigious South Asian Research Excellence Award

in Anaesthesiology has been conferred upon Prof Rajeev Kumar Dubey at the 5th Bharat-Bhutan Friendship Summit, held in Thimphu, Bhutan recently. This honour recognises Prof Dubey's significant contribution in the field of anaesthesiology and his relentless pursuit of excellence in medical teaching and research. He is working in the department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care at Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) The summit highlighted various aspects of the enduring partnership between India and Bhutan, with a special focus on healthcare, education and cultural exchange. It was presided by Foreign Minister of Bhutan DN Dhungyel. The summit, a cornerstone event for fostering bilateral ties and collaboration between India and Bhutan, provided a fitting backdrop for this accolade. Dignitaries from both nations, including prominent figures from the medical, political, and academic spheres, attended the ceremony.

Four miscreants arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Bilhaur police arrested four SUV-borne miscreants escaping after looting mobile phones from three persons on Gadariyanpurwa Road, Aliapur, late on Thursday night. Police have recovered the looted mobile phones and other goods from their possession. According to inspector Keshav Kumar Tewari, late on Thursday night, Dr Shiva Tomar of Danshah under Sahar police station, Auraiya, and two accompanying persons complained about loot of their mobile phone on Aliapur Gadariyanpurwa road by the miscreants. Immediately, after lodging FIR, three police teams were deputed to nail the miscreants. With the help of surveillance team and a tip off, police cornered the miscreants

at Kakwan trisection and arrested them. They were identified as Pratik alias Anshu Yadav of Nizamuddinpur, Tathia, Kannauj, Diipak alias Dipu Yadav and Avaneesh alias Akash Yadav of Khiriya, Kakwan, Ghanshyam alias Ramkhilawan Pal of Gadariyanpurwa, Rasoolabad, Kanpur Dehat.

On the other hand, the Panki police arrested two criminals in an encounter with them on Sheoli road on Friday morning. They were involved in looting mobile phone from a woman a few days ago. During the exchange of fire, one of the criminals sustained bullet injury on his limb. After both fell on the floor with their bike, police arrested them. DCP (West) Vijay Dhul said a few days ago bike-borne youths had looted mobile

He had deputed police teams in plain under Operation Prahri in parks and other spots to nail the robbers. On Friday morning, police spotted two youths riding a bike with-out a number plate in suspicious condition on Sheoli road. On being chased one of them opened fire on police party. During the exchange of firing, one of them sustained bullet injury in his limb and both fell from the bike and were arrested. They were identified as Anshu Gupta alias Chhote of Om Nagar, Chaubepur, and Rahul alias Kariya of Old Sheoli Road, Kanpur dehat. Police have recovered country-made pistol and the looted mobile phone from them. Injured Anshu Gupta was admitted to LLR (Hallet) hospital for treatment, he said.

Verma were also present.

phone from a woman in Panki.

People demand accountability after Lok Sabha polls: Kharge

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi "used PR"to keep the Government away from basic issues but people were now demanding accountability after the June Lok Sabha poll results.

Kharge took a swipe at the Prime Minister, saying that while he is holding meetings under the shadow of cameras for the upcoming Budget, he must pay attention to the basic economic issues of the country. In a social media post in Hindi, the Congress president said, "Narendra Modi ji, Your government has ruined the lives of crores of people by pushing them into the pit of unemployment, inflation and

Listing the "failures" of the government, Kharge said that due to the unemployment rate of 9.2 per cent, the future of the youth is staring at naught. "For people aged 20-24 years, the unemployment rate has



risen to 40%, highlighting the serious crisis in the job market among the youth,"Kharge

The promise of doubling the income of farmers and MSP of cost plus 50 per cent has turned out to be false, he said. Recently, on the MSP of 14 Kharif crops, the Modi government has again proved that

ommendation of the Swaminathan report only as an "election gimmick", he claimed.The Congress leader said, "3.84 lakh government jobs have been lost in the 7 PSUs in which the majority of government stake has been sold! This has also led to the loss of jobs for SC, ST, OBC,

EWS reserved posts". He said 1.25 lakh people have lost government jobs in the 20 top PSUs in which the Modi government has sold a small

since Manufacturing as a percentage of GDP has fallen from 16.5 per cent during the UPA regime to 14.5 per cent during the Modi government, he

Private investment has also fallen drastically in the last 10 years. New private investment plans, which are an important part of GDP, fell to a 20-year low of only Rs 44,300 crore between April and June. Last year, private investment of Rs 7.9 lakh crore was made during this period,"he said.
Kharge also alleged that the havoc of inflation is at its

The prices of flour, pulses, rice, milk, sugar, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, and all

essential food items are skyrocketing, he noted. The result is that the household savings of families are at the lowest level in 50 years, he added.Kharge said economic inequality is the highest in 100 years, while wage growth in rural India is negative. 'Unemployment increased significantly in rural areas and it has now increased from 6.3% in May to 9.3%. The average number of days of

workers employed in MNRE-

GA has decreased," he said.

Be mindful of climate change, President tells MES recruits



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dresident Droupadi Murmu no Friday asked a group of Military Engineering Service (MES) probationers to take into account adaptation and mitigation related to climate change while building infra-

Addressing the officers, who had called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she said MES is one of the important units associated with the country's security as it not only serves the three services of the Indian Army, but also provides its services to many other units of the Ministry of Defence. The president told the

MES officers that while building infrastructure, they also have to take into account adaptation and mitigation related to climate change.

She said the carbon footprint of the work they will be doing should be minimal.

She was happy to note that MES is making efforts in this direction,"according to a statement issued by the president's

President Murmu said the aim of the MES is to ensure that "our defense forces continue to have strong infrastructure and good facilities.

Therefore, the test of MES officers' success will be the infrastructure or facilities they

provide to meet the standards of reliability and quality." She advised the MES officers to

always remain vigilant. President Murmu said they have to earn their respect by maintaining the highest quality in their services.

The president said the responsibility of MES officers is not only technical, but also ethical and managerial.

They should have the resolve that in their every work, there should be an efficient and effective use of the country's

resources,"she said. President Murmu said their

efficiency and morality will strengthen the security of the

Karnataka Govt diverting SC/ST welfare fund, alleges BJP

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he BJP on Friday charged}}_{\text{the Congress Government}}$ in Karnataka with diverting the fund meant for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to fulfil the guarantees promised by Rahul Gandhi during the state elections.Addressing a press con-ference, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said what the Congress gGovernment is doing in Karnataka is in violation of the Constitution and demanded action." People are being deceived in Karnataka,"he said, claiming that Gandhi's double standards have been exposed. On the one hand Rahul Gandhi is moving around carrying a copy of the Constitution. Constitutional values are being

violated in the state, he said. over Rs 14,730 crore out of Rs 39,121 crore meant for the SC and ST welfare has been diverted to implements various sops the Congress has promised under its guarantees during

the 2023 assembly polls. Meghwal accused the Congress of spreading a fake narrative during the recent Lok Sabha polls, an apparent reference to the opposition's charge that the Modi Government wanted to change the Constitution by seeking a big mandate.

They might have succeeded in winning a few seats but can never win people's hearts,"he said. Asked about the Supreme Court's recent verdict which said a divorced Muslim woman has the right to seek maintenance from her husband, he said the apex court's judgment should be respected by every-

SC clears names for appointment of eight High Court CJs

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has recommended the appointment of chief justices for the high courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Meghalaya.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai made the recommendations after considering the names of judges from different high courts by taking into account their seniority and performance, and the need to provide representation in the different high courts.Justice Manmohan, who is is the acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, has been recommended as the chief justice of the court.

"He was appointed as a Judge March 13, 2008, and is due to retire on December 16, 2024. Justice Manmohan ranks at Sl No 3 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges.

Bearing in mind the Memorandum of Procedure, Mr Justice Manmohan can be appointed as the Chief Justice of his parent High Court, at this

The Collegium, therefore, recommends that Mr Justice Manmohan be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi," a resolution passed by the collegium said.

The collegium recommended the name of Justice Rajiv Shakdher for appointment as the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. "On the transfer of Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao, Chief Justice of the High Court of



Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand, consequent upon the retirement of Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi on July 19, 2024, there would be a vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court, it said. "Mr Justice Rajiv Shakdher was appointed as a Judge of the High Court on 11 April, 2008 and ranks at Sl No 4 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges. He is one of the senior-most Judges in the country,"the resolution said.

"The Collegium, therefore, recommends that Mr Justice Rajiv Shakdher be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao to the High Court of Jharkhand, consequent upon the retirement of

Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi,"it said. By a separate resolution, the collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court as a judge of the Supreme Court.

"On his appointment, there would be a vacancy in the office Himachal Pradesh as Chief of Chief Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Mr Justice Suresh

Kumar Kait is a senior Judge of

the High Court of Delhi, who

was appointed on 5 September

2008. He belongs to the

Scheduled Caste category,"the collegium said. "Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait ranks at Sl No 5 in the All India Seniority list of High Court He is due to retire on May 23, 2025. The Judges of the High Court of Delhi who are senior to Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait are due to retire in the near future,"it said.

Bearing in mind the position of Mr Justice Kait in the All India Seniority list, the collegium is of the view that he should be recommended for appointment as the chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, the collegium said. The collegium recommended the name of Justice G S Sandhawalia as the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, noting that he is the senior-most puisne judge of the high court. The name of Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar has been recommended as the chief justice of the Kerala High Court and Justice Tashi Rabstan as the chief justice of the Meghalaya High Court. "Justice Tashi Rabstan is the senior-most puisne Judge of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. He was appointed as a Judge on 8 March 2013 and is due to

retire on April 9, 2025. He hails from Ladakh. Mr Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, who is presently serving as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, was appointed as a Judge of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh,"the collegium said.

Bearing in mind that Mr Justice Tashi Rabstan would be the first Chief Justice from the region of Ladakh which has otherwise little or no representation among the Judges of the High Court and no representation at all so far in the office of Chief Justice, the collegium recommends his appointment as Chief Justice of High Court of Megh on the retirement of Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan, Chief Justice of that High Court, who is due to retire on August 16, 2024,"it said. The collegium noted that there is a vacancy in the office of the chief justice of the Madras High Court after the retirement of Justice Sanjay V Gangapurwala on May 23, 2024, and recommended name of Justice K R Shriram as its

chief justice. "Justice K R Shriram is the second senior-most puisne Judge of the High Court of Bombay. He was appointed on June 21, 2013. Bearing in mind that Mr Justice K R Sȟriram is a senior Judge of the High Court of Bombay with experience on the judicial and administrative side, the Collegium recommends his appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Madras,"it said.

SC agrees to consider **PIL** for court-monitored electoral bonds probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider listing a public interest litigation that urged a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme. The PIL, filed by NGOs

Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), alleges an "apparent quid pro quo"between political parties, corporations, and investiga-

tive agencies. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGOs, that despite his several visits to the apex court registry in the last few months, the pleas

"Please send an email,"the CJI said. Bhushan said he has sent emails as well.

"Send it today. It will be listed,"the CJI said.

Terming it as a "scam", the plea sought a direction to the authorities to investigate the source of funding of "shell companies and loss-making companies"which made donations to various political parties, as has been disclosed by the data released by the Election Commission (ÉC). The petition has also sought a

direction to the authorities to recover the money donated by companies as part of "quid pro quo arrangements where these are found to be proceeds of crime".

A five-judge Constitution bench had on February 15 scrapped the electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political



funding introduced by the BJP government.

Following the top court's judgement, the State Bank of India, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, had shared the data with the EC, which later made it public. The electoral bonds scheme, ernment on January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of its efforts

political funding. The electoral bond scam has a money trail unlike the 2G scam or the coal scam, where allocations of spectrum and coal mining leases were arbitrarily made, but there was no Yet this court ordered courtmonitored investigations in both those cases, appointed special public prosecutors and

to bring in transparency in

evidence of a money trail. formed special courts to deal with those cases,"the plea said. It claimed that several firms which were under investigation by these agencies have donated large sums of money to the ruling party, to potentially influence the outcome of probes.

Centre sanctions ₹493 cr to build roads, bridges in North East

PNS NEW DELHI

Tn a bid to strengthen rural Lconnectivity in the northeastern region, the central government on Friday sanctioned the construction of roads and bridges in Assam and Tripura with an estimated investment of ₹493 crore, the Rural Development Ministry said. In a statement, the ministry said 78 roads measuring 563.67 km and 14 bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)- III got the government's approval in Assam, with an estimated investment of Rs. 378.68 crore.

The government sanctioned 42 roads measuring 118.75 km in Tripura under the connectivity component of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JAN-MAN), with an estimated The construction of roads will improve access to essential services, enhance connectivity in rural areas, bridging the gap between remote villages and urban centres, and foster economic development, trade, and commerce in the region, the ministry said. In Tripura, the roads will pro-

vide all weather road connectivity to 47 PVTG (particularly vulnerable tribal groups) habitations in the state, it said. The ministry said the projects under the third phase of PMGSY and the PM-JANMAN will have a transformative impact on the region, contributing to its growth and prosperity.It will cement the government's commitment to inclusive development, and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the tribal groups, the ministry added.

DEPwD inks MoU to advance training programmes on accessibility

PNS NEW DELHI

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has inked an MoU with a Gujaratbased NGO to advance training programmes on accessibility in an effort to create more inclusive spaces for those suffering from disabilities. The MoU between the department and the NGO EnableMe Access Association (EMA) was signed on July 9.

A copy of the MoU, shared with PTI, outlines two initial training programs: "Advanced Training in Accessibility" for empanelled accessibility auditors and Central Public Works Department engineers.

These programs aim to educate participants on Indian accessibility standards, universal design perspectives, and the National Building Code and Harmonized Guidelines and



Space Standards (HGSS). Training will be conducted in offline, online, and hybrid formats, featuring instructors with disabilities to offer first hand insights and foster empathy. To support these training initiatives, DEPwD and EMA will develop and maintain software tools for accessibility education. These tools will play a critical

role in capacity building across

multiple stakeholders, inte-

grating seamlessly with the

Accessible India Campaign 2.0 and enhancing the functionality of the Sugamya Bharat Application.

The EMA will also lend its expertise to bolster the Accessible India Campaign 2.0. This support includes creating action plans to improve the accessibility of both existing and new infrastructure, advising on app enhancements to streamline data collection and complaint resolution, and conducting accessibility assessments on establishments flagged through the Sugamya Bharat App.

Effectiveness of the training programs will be evaluated through various metrics such as participant satisfaction, increased knowledge and skills related to accessibility standards, and a reduction in unresolved accessibility complaints. Periodic reviews will ensure continuous improvement and adaptability of the training initiatives.

DEPwD will provide logistical support for the training programs, including accessible venues, internet connectivity, and other necessary facilities. The EMA will cover the costs of training facilitation and expert feedback, funded through corporate social responsibility initiatives, individual donations, or collabo-

Modi reaffirms India's commitment to BIMSTEC PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reaffirmed India's commitment to sevennation grouping BIMSTEC and stressed on its role as an engine for economic and social growth. The foreign ministers of the BIMSTEC member states made a joint call on Modi on the second and final day of their retreat in Delhi. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), brings together seven countries of South and Southeast Asia for multifaceted cooperation. Besides India, the BIMSTEC

comprises Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. 'Glad to meet BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers. Discussed ways to strengthen regional cooperation, including connectivity, energy, trade, health, agriculture, science, security and people-to-people exchanges. Conveyed full support to Thailand for a successful

Summit,"Modi said in a social



"The PM had fruitful discussions with the group of ministers on further strengthening the regional cooperation in diverse areas including connectivity, energy, trade, health, agriculture, science, security and people to

SAGAR vision.

people exchanges,"it said. He stressed on the role of BIMSTEC as an engine for economic and social growth,"the readout noted.

It said Modi expressed India's full support to Thailand for the upcoming BIMSTEC Summit to be held in September.

"India hosted the BIMSTEC foreign ministers' retreat to review various initiatives to expand cooperation among the grouping's member nations. In his inaugural address at the retreat, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on the grouping to infuse new energies, resources and a fresh commitment to bolster cooperation. "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.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION----

Do Democrats have a Plan B?

With Biden increasingly under attack for his lacklustre performance, Democrats must be exploring alternatives

he Democratic Party have to take a make-or-break decision— to continue with Joe Biden as presidential candidate or find an alternative. Both choices are difficult and have their pros and cons. Biden's age and performance might push the party to consider a Plan B. But the time is running out for Democrats and so are the options. It all began much earlier but the presidential debate was the proverbial last straw when Biden performed below par. However, Despite the challenges, there are strong arguments for sticking with Biden. He has overseen a period of significant legislative achievements, including the passage of a massive infrastructure bill, ambitious climate change initiatives, and a robust COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Biden's administration has also navigated complex international relations, working to rebuild alliances and address global threats, especially China and Russia. His centrist approach has aimed to unify a deeply divided nation, seeking to appeal to both progressive and moderate Democrats, as well



as independents and even some Republicans. However, concerns about Biden's age and cognitive abilities persist. At 81, he is the oldest president in US history, and questions about his stamina and mental acuity have been fodder for both political opponents and media speculation. Polls indicate a significant portion of the electorate is uneasy about his capacity to serve another four-year term. Furthermore, his handling of certain issues, such as the withdrawal from Afghanistan and ongoing economic challenges, has drawn criticism from both sides of the political spec-

These controversies have fueled speculation about whether Biden is the best candidate to lead the Democrats to victory in 2024. But with elections barely four months away Democrats would find a replacement rather hard. Even invoking the 25th Amendment, which allows for the removal of a president deemed unfit to serve, remains an extreme and unlikely scenario. Given the potential political fallout and the necessity for clear, indisputable evidence of incapacity, this route is rather a precarious one. If the Democrats decide to explore alternatives, several high-profile figures could emerge as potential contenders. As the sitting vice president, Kamala Harris is the most obvious choice. Her historic candidacy as the first female, first Black, and first South Asian vice president offers a compelling narrative, but her leadership and policy effectiveness will be under intense scrutiny. Next in line would be Pete Buttigieg, the Secretary of Transportation and former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. His youth, eloquence, and policy acumen make him a viable candidate. Then of course you have Gavin Newsom, the governor of California has been a vocal advocate for progressive policies and has shown resilience in the face of political challenges. The Democrats are caught between the devil and the deep sea. Ultimately, the decision will hinge on the party's assessment of Biden's ability to lead effectively and win re-election.

PICTALK



sts of Shiva Temple perform 'pooja' at the reception of container ship San Fernando, in Thiruvananthapuram

The Taliban's war on Afghan women



Despite denials by Taliban officials, the bravery of Afghan women coming forward underscores the severe and dehumanising treatment they endure

piece in *The* Guardian, bylined Zahra Joya, Chris McGreal, Khodadad Poladi, Annie Kelly and Tom Levitt, datelined July 6, 2024, and published under the heading "Video appears to show gang-rape of Afghan woman in Taliban jail," makes horrifying reading. According to the report, the video recording, seen by The Guardian and Rukhsana Media, an online news agency focused on covering issues affecting women in Afghanistan, shows a young woman, a human rights activist, being gang-raped and tortured in a Taliban jail by armed men. It shows her being told to take off her clothes and then raped multiple times by two men. She is seen as standing naked, her face visible, and is identifiable during the attacks. The report cites the woman as saying that she was arrested for participating in a public protest against the Taliban and was raped in a Taliban prison. The video was sent to her after she

had fled Afghanistan and spoken out against the Taliban, with the threat that it would be shown to her family and released on social media if she spoke against the Islamic Emirate in public. It also cites other examples of sexual abuse, beatings, and torture, including by electric shocks, of not only those protesting against the Taliban's squelching of women's rights but of young women and teenagers accused of violating hijab rules. Zabihullah Mujahid, Chief Spokesman and Deputy Minister of Information and Culture of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has, according to *The Guardian* report, denied the allegations of widespread sexual assaults on incarcerated women. While he could not have done otherwise, one can hardly doubt the women's versions, given the stigma attached to victims of sexual violence in countries like Afghanistan It takes a massive amount of courage and resolve for a woman, or her relatives, to state that she had been raped or molested in custody. Even the UN has commented on the arrests and detentions. Under the heading "Permanent Darkness," Ajit



the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATPOR, Volume 22, Number 18) dated March 11, 2024, that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) had expressed grave concern over the arrest and detention of women and girls for alleged non-compliance with the Islamic dress code.

He has quoted Roza Otunbayeva, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of UNAMA, as observing that enforcement measures and physical violence were "especially demeaning and dangerous for Afghan women." Detention, she continued, carried "an enormous stigma that put Afghan women at even greater risk."The Taliban's war on women--perhaps the most diabolical feature of their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001—continues in their second innings with rape and molestation as a part of it. The process started in September 2021 when the Taliban removed the signboard of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Kabul and replaced it with that of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the earlier incarnation of which had



IT TAKES A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF COURAGE AND RESOLVE FOR A WOMAN, OR HER RELATIVES. TO STATE THAT SHE HAD BEEN RAPED OR MOLESTED IN CUSTODY earned widespread notoriety during their first stint in power, for arbitrary and savage enforcement -- with particular harshness towards women--of the government's obscurantist diktats.A series of measures has followed.

Women are not allowed to $travel\ more\ than\ 70\ kilometres$ without a male escort who is her husband or a mahram, a close blood relative—father, son brother, grandfather, greatgrandfather, nephew with whom marriage is prohibited and, in whose presence, she need not wear a hijab. They are to wear "proper" hijabs, loose black garments, covering their bodies and faces, in public places and their male relatives have been made responsible under pain of punishment. They are excluded from education above the primary level and virtually every kind of message broadcast by Afghanistan's state television Taliban's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada had said, "We will flog the women ... we will stone them to death in public [for adultery]."The Taliban had started flogging women even before the announcement, administer"offences" like using cell phones, talking to men or being in love or relationships. All this was not unexpected given the Taliban's obscurantist beliefs and record in power during its first coming from 1996 to 2001.

What is surprising is the silence—to say nothing of the absence of effective action--of the rest of the world, even the Western democracies, in the matter. The UN too seems to be falling in line. This is suggested by its surrender in the case of the recent conference of global envoys, held in Doha, Qatar, and attended by envoys of 25 countries including the US, Russia, China and the European Union. The conference, to promote engagement with the Taliban on a variety of issues, was the third of its kind. The Taliban, which had not attended the earlier two, employment. Worse, in a voice attended it only after the organisers accepted their condition that women would not on March 23, 2024, the attendit. The UN's capitulation has been widely condemned by human rights organisations which rightly believe it would encourage the Taliban to further trample on women's rights. But who cares?

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Young philanthropists ushering in new age of giving in India



With a burgeoning startup ecosystem, India is witnessing a new generation of wealth creators who are passionate about funding impactful projects

Young philanthropists are playing a catalytic role in ushering in a new age of giving that underscores the need for scalable change and longterm impact. Having the third-largest startup ecosystem, and being home to 100 unicorns, India has given rise to a new generation of wealth creators who are young, techdriven, and passionate about change. These 'new-age' philanthropists are transforming the country's infrastructure and bringing about long-lasting growth. Their efforts are not just about giving back; they are about driving systemic and sustainable impact across communities. For instance, initiatives like the Karnataka Model School Pathways Programme are redefining India's education system. In a world where socioeconomic challenges are pervasive, these young change-makers are bringing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to philanthropy, making it not only a trend but also a powerful force for social change. Moving away from the traditional approach of philanthropy being seen as a postretirement task, this genera-

tion of philanthropists is starting early, leveraging their wealth, influence, and technological savvy to drive mean-

ingful change within their life-Instead of adhering to traditional models of charity, young philanthropists are adopting a more entrepreneurial approach, seeking out innovative solutions and investing in new focus areas like climate change, mental health, sports for development, etc. The India Philanthropy Report 2024 shows how emerging issues like climate change and Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) have become the top three areas of interest apart from traditional causes for this new cohort Nikhil Kamath, CEO of Zerodha and one of the efforts. Collective philan-

youngest philanthropists is a strong advocate of climate approach to otherwise tradichange. A founder of YIPP which brings together young entrepreneurs to address pressing societal issues collectively, Kamath had started investing in environmental problems way back in 2019 with the launch of Rainmatter invested in a charity that combats climate change in India. These new age givers are using technology to tackle some of India's most pressing problems, combining data-driven insights with a deep understanding of social issues to create long-term, scalable impact. Their approach has been guided by a blend of head and heart making their philanthropy more strategic and forwardthinking. Their willingness to collaborate and pool time, talent and treasure for collective impact is another characteristic of this new generation of philanthropists. Recognizing the complexity of social challenges and the need for coordinated action, they are forging partnerships with likeof young entrepreneurs. minded individuals and organizations to amplify their

tional models of philanthropy, opening avenues for innovative solutions to India's unique problems. This spirit of collaboration is exemplified by initiatives such as the YIPP which was started in 2021 to bring together young change Foundation and recently makers below the age of 45 to create new-age solutions collectively. With a clear focus on accountability and scalability, this 15-member group aims to make their giving more structured, bold and innovative. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, experiences and philanthropic aspirations, they are collectively a motivated force keen to showcase the power of collaboration and strength in working together towards a set common goal. With their entrepreneurial spirit, technological acumen, and commitment to collective action, they are leading the charge towards a brighter tomorrow for India and the world.

(The writer is founding member, Young India Philanthropic Pledge and chief inspiration officer, Yuva Unstoppable; views are personal)

FARMERS TO REIGNITE PROTESTS

Madam — The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), India's largest farmers' organization that led the historic 2020-21 protests, has announced plans to resume their agitation against the BJP-led NDA government to push for their pending demands. These demands include a guaranteed MSP law, loan waivers, and pensions for farmers and farmworkers. The General Body has decided to restart the agitation, demanding the implementation of the agreement signed on December 9, 2021, by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and other key demands affecting farmers' livelihoods.

The SKM plans to campaign against the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections and intends to expose, oppose, and punish the party. The farmers' movement has significantly impacted Lok Sabha elections, defeating the BJP in 38 rural seats across Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. Clearly, all is not well for

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

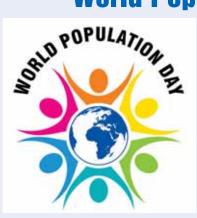
PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam — Madam, This is in reference to the report, "Namami Ganga: Rs211 Crore Splash to Keep Maha Kumbh Eco-Friendly" (July 10). Whether the state government spends money on the Maha Kumbh Mela (MKM) at Prayag or not, the Modi government at the Centre is ready to pour money into the coffers of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government months ahead of the function. The Government of India, which delayed the payment of flood relief money to Tamil Nadu for many months and finally released a small amount with great reluctance coinciding with the Lok Sabha elections, has now 'splashed' Rs211 crore to the UP government quickly for the Mela scheduled for January-February 2025. This money is intended for preserving the purity of the Ganga river and ensuring cleanliness throughout the mega event. Just a week ago,

World Population Day

THE EDITOR

ing at least 30 strokes for



various programs aimed at achieving overall population control worldwide. and India is no exception. The focal theme

orld Population Day is observed with

ISKCON organization in Odisha. It was also a mega Hindu festival, but the Centre did not choose to fund this festival. However, the core issue I wish to point out is the fate of the Clean Ganga project introduced by the BJP government in its first tenure, for which Rs 5,000 crore was allocated. It is not known if the cleaning project was completed, as no report was presented in Parliament. It is unclear whether sustained maintenance is regularly done by the UP government, whether a system has been put in place to guard against the misuse and overcrowding of the Ganga river, and whether steps are taken to prohibit the immersion and floating of dead bodies in the river. Protecting the holiness and purity of the Ganga river is the foremost duty of both the Centre and the UP government.

Manoharan Muthuswamy | Ramnad

SUPREME COURT'S ALIMONY VERDICT

Madam — The Supreme Court's decision on alimony for divorced Muslim women another annual global event, the Puri is significant. The court determined that Jagannath Rath Yatra, was celebrated by the every woman, regardless of faith, has the

emphasises family planning to significantly improve the health of mothers and children. However, in India, discussions about controlling the population of over 1.35 billion people often meet with resistance from both the public and political leaders. Given the current growth rate, India is expected to surpass

China's population by 2025, ahead of the ear-

lier projection for 2028. This year's World Population Day on July 11 coincides with the anticipated birth of the Earth's eight billionth inhabitant. While this milestone celebrates our diversity and advancements in health that have extended lifespans and reduced maternal and child mortality rates, the uncontrolled population increase poses a significant threat. The situation demands urgent attention and action to avoid potential dangers.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

right to alimony. Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustin George Masih, though making independent decisions, ultimately reached the same conclusion. Both indicated that a divorced Muslim woman could file a lawsuit against her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC to receive alimo-

The Supreme Court's ruling is admirable and consistent with the duties of a welfare state. This verdict mirrors the one handed down in the Shah Bano case on April 23, 1985. Previously, alimony for divorced women was determined by Muslim Personal Law, which allowed alimony only during the Iddat period. However, the Supreme Court declared that Section 125 of the Indian Penal Code is equally applicable to all women, allowing them to claim alimony even after Iddat. Many divorced Muslim women do not remarry, and receiving alimony only during the Iddat period does not resolve their issues.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

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FIRST COLUMN

BALANCING EMPATHY AND PROFESSIONALISM

While layoffs are challenging, there is room for improving how they are managed



RACHNA LAKHPATI

Layoffs are never easy. The impact on the affected employees will be deep and most often devastating; it is a turning point in their professional and personal lives—a stressful one, of course. But what the majority of people are not aware of is that those tasked to deliver the message—the HR professionals—also carry an emotional burden. It may be the senior leadership making tough decisions, but HR bears the heart-wrenching job of communicating them. HR professionals are often the stoic face of the company during these times. But behind the professionalism of that stone exterior is a very real understanding of the weight of their actions. They, too, are humans.

They also carry the burden of those decisions. The difference lies in their need to balance empathy with the requirement of upholding company policies and procedures, often concealing their feelings in the process. When an HR professional sits down with an employee to discuss a layoff, how complicated the emotions in that moment can be is beyond measure. They know they are delivering news that will change a life. However, how that news is conveved does indeed have an impact.

There are no ideal words to cushion the blow, but compassion can help ease the transition. Difficult situations present an opportunity for HR professionals to think of effective strategies. They can understand and relate to the challenges faced by their staff, while also providing a positive outlook and potential for growth. They could say, "I do appreciate that this job may be a priority to you, but on the other hand, this could be one of those opportunities for upskilling to do something you are passionate about." I mean, such words, though they don't diminish the hardship-can usher in a glimmer

This compassionate attitude toward the situation epitomises how such initiatives can give hope and dignity to the employees during this painful process of transition. It is important to keep in mind that neither the employee nor the organisation wants to end their



relationship on a sour note. By approaching layoffs with professionalism laced with humanity, HR can help ensure a transition to be as respectful and supportive as possible, even while it remains

That being said, while layoffs can be one of the more challenging aspects of corporate life, there is certainly room for improvement in how these transitions are handled. Showing empathy, fostering clear communication, and providing support can greatly improve the experience for those undergoing layoffs. In times of uncertainty and change, it's important to remember that even small acts of kindness can make a difference.

Moreover, providing outplacement services, career counseling, and job search assistance can help laid-off employees find new opportunities more quickly. Encouraging networking and offering workshops on resume writing and interview skills can also make a significant difference. HR departments can collaborate with local businesses and employment agencies to create a support network for those affected.

By taking these extra steps, companies can demonstrate a genuine commitment to the well-being of their employees, even in difficult times. This holistic approach not only aids in the immediate transition but also helps maintain a positive company reputation in the long term.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

NATO: A legacy of conflict and controversy-



As the alliance celebrates its 75th milestone, it faces scrutiny for its violations of international law and its failure to protect civilians in numerous conflicts

he North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), widely regarded as the most notorious and venomous military alliance in history, celebrated its 75th anniversary in Washington this week, amidst claims of establishing global peace. However, NATO's actions have often spread war across continents in pursuit of supremacy. Following a disastrous performance in the presidential debate, President Joe Biden unsurprisingly announced increased military aid to Ukraine, targeting their 'designated enemy' at the expense of this small European nation. NATO's ambitions are clear: to weaken Russia through proxy wars and to provoke China into potential conflict in

However, finding examples where NATO has truly ensured peaceful lives for ordinary people, rather than pursuing its broader goal of supremacy through alliances with enemies of its enemies, remains challenging.NATO must be held accountable for its violations of international law and its failure to protect unarmed civilians in nearly every conflict it has engaged in since its inception. While NATO celebrated its 75th anniversary, mainstream media barely acknowledged the 25th anniversary of NATO's intervention in Yugoslavia—a glaring failure of this war-oriented alliance. June 10 marks the 25th anniversary of the end of NATO's bombing campaign in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, initiated without UN Security Council approval and lasting 78 days. NATO dropped 22,000 tonnes of bombs, including 15 tonnes of depleted uranium, resulting in over 2,500 deaths, including 79 children, and displacing over a million residents. The aftermath included long-term health and environmental impacts from depleted uranium munitions. In the decade following the bombing, approximately 30,000 people in Serbia developed cancer, with over 10,000 deaths. Studies indicate increased cancer rates and other serious health issues among children born after 1999. Three thousand victims have filed lawsuits against NATO, despite the alliance claiming immunity based on agreements with Serbia and Montenegro.

Serbian experts dispute this, stating that no agreements grant NATO immunity for past war crimes. NATO's attempts to evade accountability only accentuate its war crimes and the suffering it caused. Since its establishment, NATO's military operations have frequently resulted in chaos and trauma rather than peace and stability. From April 1992 to December 1995, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina erupted among its three main ethnic groups over their future and territorial divisions. Shortly before the outbreak of war in Bosnia, NATO hastily recognised Bosnia and Herzegovina's independence, exacerbating ethnic conflicts in the region. NATO launched extensive airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs, eventually compelling the three ethnic groups to sign the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a consequence, 278,000 civilians perished, over 2 million people became refugees, and the war inflicted more than £5.1 billion in direct economic losses, with the majority of economic facilities destroyed. The Kosovo War, ignited by ethnic tensions and led by the US-backed NATO without UN authorisation, lasted from March 24, 1999, to June 10, 1999. The three-month bombing campaign caused 1,800 civilian deaths, 6,000 injuries, and sub-



tionism and expansionism.

NATO's actions violated international law, including the UN Charter and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, through the use of force against Belgrade. Despite this, no NATO member has been fully held accountable for their actions, in stark contrast to incidents involving their erstwhile 'puppets,' such as the swift hanging of Saddam Hussein of Iraq by Western forces or the extrajudicial killing of Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, famously remarked on by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with, 'We came, we saw, he died.'In Afghanistan, the US-led NATO coalition launched a war against al-Qaida and the Taliban on October 7, 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks.

The two-decade-long conflict ended abruptly with the withdrawal of US FACES THE and NATO forces in May 2021, resulting in 241,000 deaths, including 71,000 civilians, and displacing

The war generated significant economic losses, averaging approximately £45 million per day, and led to social disorder in Afghanistan, with 72% of the population living below the poverty line and 3.5 million children deprived of education. A new report issued this Monday by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) revealed shocking statistics: over 24% of Afghan children OBJECTIVES aged 5-17 experience anxiety, while 15% suffer from depression in this war-torn country.

This is the legacy left behind by those who claimed they could guarantee a peaceful life under a rulebased system founded on democratic norms. During this period, terrorist networks such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and Al-Qaeda expanded, worsening regional instability. This pattern of devastation persisted in Iraq and Libya, where NATO interventions

resulted in substantial civilian casualties and prolonged instability. NATO's actions consistently undermined peace and security, earning it a reputation as a war machine rather than a force for peace. However, in Ukraine, NATO finds itself in disarray, having underestimated Russia's determination to defend its interests while overestimating its ability to expand its military alliance to Moscow's doorstep.

The strategy of flooding Ukraine

with weaponry for swift victory has

backfired, with Russia proving resilient in defence. As the conflict drags on, NATO member states face escalating costs and inflationary debt, while Ukraine depletes its fighting-age soldiers. Western leaders, deeply invested in the conflict, encounter diminishing confidence in Ukraine's capacity to reclaim territories without escalating the conflict and potentially involving NATO troops— a move that lacks public support.In recent months, Russia has made incremen-

neighbourhood in ChasivYar.

Donetsk. However, the lack of significant progress has raised doubts about Russia's capabilities. While struggling to maintain the frontline, Ukraine has targeted Russian ships, energy depots, and border regions with drones, resulting in casualties. Two and a half years into the conflict, neither side appears capable of achieving a military solution. Ukraine faces substantial challenges in reclaiming captured territories, while Russia's aggression has bolstered NATO's resolve, which now pledges long-term support for Kyiv. A viable resolution entails bringing both parties to the negotiating table. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed support for dialogue. Russia's allies should urge President Vladimir Putin to cease hostilities and engage earnestly in negotiations, while Ukraine's supporters should encourage Kyiv to consider peace talks— although NATO vehemently opposes this idea.

With American elections looming, a Trump victory could pave the way for a negotiated settlement, whereas a Biden re-election might prolong the conflict, potentially transforming Ukraine into another Afghanistan or Vietnam. Meanwhile, Russia's economy has strengthened despite sanctions, buoyed by trade partnerships with China and India. Historians might view the US-led

NATO expansion as a strategic failure that catalysed the formation of an alliance among BRICS nations to counter NATO. President Xi Jinping perceives Putin as pivotal in opposing the United States and its allies, although a new Trump administration could potentially avert broader conflict and repair relations with adversaries. The summit's news report highlighted NATO and its Indo-Pacific partners— Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand launching four joint projects aimed tal territorial gains, advancing in the at deepening cooperation, Kharkiv Oblast and compelling announced by US National Security Ukrainian forces to retreat from a Advisor Jake Sullivan at the NATO Defence Industry Forum, Amidst the celebration of this military alliance, Asia faces the daunting task of safeguarding its position against a coalition adept at leveraging proxies to achieve its objectives. This historical pattern resonates with poignant examples throughout his-

> Asia's imperative now is to cultivate robust trade relationships and settle territorial disputes through constructive dialogue, preempting external interference. History presents a stark choice: yield to foreign ambitions, akin to the post-World War II tragedies and subsequent killing fields from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and West Asia to present-day conflicts in Afghanistan, Libva, and Syria, or thrive together in dignified coexistence. The path to a peaceful future hinges on a unified commitment to peace and saying no to NATO and its proxies. Better the devil you know than the

> > (The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)



CELEBRATION OF THIS MILITARY ALLIANCE, ASIA DAUNTING SAFEGUARDING COALITION ADEPT AT LEVERAGING

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angel you don't.

Modi-Putin summit revives India-Russia relations amid global tensions

The meeting underscored India's strategic balancing act between global powers while prioritising its own economic and security needs

rust when there was a growing perception that ties between India and Russia were losing momentum, even stagnating, the summit-level meeting between PM Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin should help impart a fresh impetus to bilateral relations.

Held after a gap of over two years, amid the ongoing geopolitical churn, the 22nd summit saw the two sides resolve to unlock the full potential of their strategic partnership. The summit's outcomes conveyed New Delhi's intent to continue to forge closer ties with Moscow, notwithstanding the widespread Western opprobrium Putin has drawn after Russia invaded Ukraine and the consequent sanctions slapped on make economic cooperation



PARUL CHANDRA

his country. With Putin preoccupied with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, now into its third year, the summit-level meetings had fallen by the wayside. The last summit was held in New Delhi in December 2021.

The summit indicated eagerness on the part of both sides to not just reinvigorate the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, but also

the lynchpin of the relationship. This was reflected in a separate joint statement spelling out nine key areas for economic cooperation, with a new bilateral trade target of \$ 100 billion being set for 2030. While the Modi-Putin Summit left Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressing "disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal", it's unlikely to hurt New Delhi's close ties with Kyiv. India may not have condemned the invasion, but Modi did tell Putin "there is no peace on the battlefield" while reiterating India's position on the need for dialogue. While Washington also expressed its displeasure over the Modi-

Putin meeting, it is unlikely that will allow this to impact the trajectory of its ties with Moscow, propelled as they are by India's strategic imperatives. One of them, of course, is the tightening Russia-China embrace. The thrust on closer ties with Russia will also help address Moscow's concerns over New Delhi's decidedly pronounced tilt towards Washington. India has so far managed to do a fine balancing act between the two geopolitical rivals and should continue to do so. India sees Russia as a time-test-

ed trusted partner. Much as the Western world would like to keep a sanctions-hit Russia isolated over the Ukraine war, India's push for broader and deeper economic linkages reflects its own strategic



needs.India's purchase of Russian oil despite the sanctions will not just continue but is expected to increase further. Crude imports from Russia have increased from 2.5 million tonnes in 2021 to 90 million tonnes in 2023, with India being clear this is vital for its energy security. Investments in the energy sector by both sides also remain a top prior-

ity. Fertilizer imports from Russia, too, are seen as vital for India's agriculture sector. Russian oil imports have helped push the bilateral trade figures to \$65.70 billion. But while Indian imports were worth \$61.44 billion, its exports accounted for a mere \$4.26 billion.

While happy to import Russian oil at discounted rates, New Delhi will need to address this trade imbalance by widening the trade basket with Russia. Among the major export items from India are pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, iron and steel and electrical machinery.

That the two sides agreed to look at the possibility of eliminating non-tariff trade barriers and the setting up of a

(EAEU)-India Free Trade Area shows the seriousness of intent to promote bilateral trade. The nudge to begin full negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the EAEU too should lend a fillip to trade ties.

Connectivity too remains a priority for both sides. It would mean access for Indian goods to the Eurasian markets. However, the proposed INSTC (International North-South Transport) Corridor is still a long way away from becoming a reality. While there is renewed interest between the two sides to establish a Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor, which was first mooted in 2019, it also remains to be seen whether it ers and the setting up of a will fructify. The summit, Eurasian Economic Union of course, also emphasized

eration in the defence sector, which is an important element of India's security paradigm. Russia remains India's biggest arms supplier despite New Delhi's continuing efforts to diversify by turning to others like the US, France and Israel to meet its requirements. India would have undoubtedly sought to address its concerns over the delays in the supply of Russian military hardware and spares owing to the Ukraine war.The Modi-Putin Summit may have left the West fulminating, but it's fairly obvious New Delhi will plough its furrow so long as it serves its strategic priorities. The writer is a senior journalist who writes on foreign affairs.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Exodus of students from Kerala to other countries increasing: Cong

 $T_{\text{CPI (M)}}^{\text{he claim}}$ by the ruling that Kerala is the country's knowledge hub and role model for other countries in the field of higher education fell like a pack of cards as the Congress-led Opposition churned out facts and figures in the Assembly exposing the hollowness behind the Government's stance.

Mathew Kuzhalnadan, a first time MLA of the Congress party while introducing a calling attention motion on the total failure of the State's higher education sector told the House that the exodus of students from Kerala to other countries is increasing by leaps and bounds. "The year 2016 saw 1.5 lakh students leaving the Kerala students leaving the Kerala shores to Europe, America and Australia while the figure shot up to 2,50,000 by 2023. This data was prepared by the Government's own Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA) and Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation and speaks a lot about the setback suffered by the institutes of higher learning in the State, said

a knockout punch by issuing an order as the Chancellor of the Universities asking the only because of 95 per cent of scientists and engineers working in it were from



surprising in students leaving for foreign countries

for their studies. Mahatma

Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru,

Indira Gandhi and Dr Ambedkar had their education in Great Britain

while Muslim League leader

Panakkadu Mohammed Ali

Shihab Thangal had his

higher education in Cairo,"

The legislative assembly debate was held in the backdrop of girl students in

Cochin University of Science and Technology

(CUSAT) complaining to

the University authorities and Police about sexual abuse by PK Baby, Students

Welfare Director and syndicate member. "The

ÚGC has not sanctioned any

post like student welfare

director but Baby was appointed to these posts

said the minister.

dismissed vice-chancellors Kerala. There is nothing who had challenged their removal in the High Court as well as Supreme Court to fight the cases with their money. The Governor also asked them to return Rs 1.13 crore spent by them from University funds as court expenses because "this has no justification of any kind". R Bindu, minister for higher education and spouse of CPI (M) polit bureau member A Vijayaraghavan, belittled Kuzhalnadan by alleging that the member was trying to make a mountain out of molehill. "Kerala's higher education sector is the best Kuzhalnadan. . in the country and is While the Congress leader was firing on all four cylinders. Governor Arif State. The Chandrayaan Mohammed Khan delivered mission became a success

powerful minister from Ernakulam who has set his eyes on the chair of chief minister," said RS Sasikumar, chairman, Save University Kuzhalnadan said the falling

standards of education in Kerala is because of the ideological outdated interagency. Neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are way ahead of Kerala even as our youth leave the state saying that any country is better than this state.

Persons qualification get Rs 5,05,000 per year as salary in Kerala while their counterparts in other states earn twice and thrice this amount. No purpose will be served by pushing these issues under the carpet," said the Congress leader.

While the minister told the Speaker that there was no need to discuss the matter as an urgent motion, Leader of the Opposition VD Satheeshan expressed his shock over the Government's refusal to discuss a report prepared by

its own departments. Sasikumar said that the marks awarded to SFI leaders, the granting of Ph D degrees for sub-standard thesis and the high handed behavior of CPI(M) youth wing have made the universities in the State a Augean stable.

Former BJP president Dilip mulls quitting party in WB?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Much like the Pradesh Congress there is turmoil in the Bengal State BJP too. As the leaders engage in passing the buck and blaming each other for the party's defeat at the hands of the Trinamool Congress in the recently concluded parliamentary elections there are rumours that senior leaders like former State BJP president Dilip Ghosh are looking for "more

honourable options."
Ghosh who is credited with building the BJP's organisation — almost from nothing — in Bengal which saw the saffron outfit climb to 18 seats in 2019 general elections up from two seats that it could manage in 2014 has recently dropped indications of quitting politics. However he will not take a knee-ierk decision

notwithstanding the alleged "humiliation" that he has been subjected to for the past several years, "particularly after he was removed from the post of State party chief and more particularly when he lost his place as a national vice president," his close confidants

Known for calling spade a spade in public often to the chagrin and even embarrassment of others including the party mates Ghosh said a few days ago, "I am not taking any decision immediately ... I will prefer to wait for some time ... may be a few months to see how things shape up ... and then I will decide ... because you don't take anything for final in

politics and you don't take decisions impromptu." Ghosh apparently referred to the organisational revamp that is in the offing after present State president Sukanta Majumdar was promoted to the rank of a Union Minister post polls.
Primarily an RSS recruit

Ghosh who was loaned by the Sangh to the BJP to build up the part is never known to have enjoyed good relationship with Majumdar and Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari both of whom came from the TMC. He was replaced by Sukanta Majumdar as state unit chief in 2021 almost at a time when Adhikari, then a powerful minister in Mamata Banerjee cabinet quit TMC to join the saffron outfit.

A 'cadre' to the hilt and a 'man of the masses', Ghosh who is travelling districts to gauge the mood public complained how he was not given given organisational programmes for the past several years.

"I have not been given organisational programmed ... nor I was called to meetings

... I was an MP and was on my own ... so I think if there is no work for me, it means the party doesn't need me anymore. There is no point in hanging around," he said. Regarded the crafter of the BIP in Bengal, Ghosh is also not happy with the way some other State leaders like Raju Banerjee and others have been

dealt with, insiders say.
Ghosh holds the present State leadership for his defeat at the hustings. "I was an MLA and an MP from Midnapore which is my home turf ... I was shifted for nothing from that area to Durgapur ... what happened as a result the Midnapore seat was lost ... same thing was done to Debashree Chowdhury who was shifted from Raiganj to South Kolkata," Ghosh said holding the "back-biting in the party responsible for the poor performance in the parliamentary elections."

Ghosh however is noncommittal about his joining the TMC or for that matter the Congress. "I have been brought up in the RSS ... have no financial interests or any craving for any post ... I am a free bird as I am not a people's representative now ... I love to be with the people and will continue to work for them," he

When asked about Ghosh's politics or the politics around Ghosh, senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said, "one should not talk about other parties ... but it is true that a leader of his stature and qualities should find respect everywhere ... he deserves a better dealing."

Videos of terror attack on gurdwara fake: Delhi Police



rhe Delhi Police on Friday I clarified that the two videos, claiming to be of a terror attack on a gurdwara, being circulated on social media are fake.

The videos are not from any religious place in Delhi, it said. Two videos of around two minutes each showed a pickup truck chasing people and hitting some of them outside what appears to be a gurdwara. Angry people at the spot are then seen beating up the driver of the vehicle.

An X user posted photos and said, "Terror attack outside Gurdwara Seesganj Sahib, New Delhi. Allegedly one "H" extremist ran over his SUV over numerous Sikh men, women & children."

Taking to X, Delhi Police on its official account said, "Some videos are being circulated on social media handles claiming that it was a terrorist attack at Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib. These videos are completely false and are being propagated with some malicious intent, on which legal action is being taken." A case may be registered for spreading fake news, a police officer said.

NIA chargesheets two including Libyan in Aurangabad terror plot

Libyan national is among Athe two accused named in the charge-sheet filed by the NIA in a Mumbai Special Court in the sensational ISIS terror conspiracy busted by it in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (erstwhile Aurangabad). In its charge-sheet filed before

the NIA special court, the central investigating agency conspiracy and the handlers central investigating agency named Mohammed Zoheb Khan of Maharashtra, who The NIA probe has already was arrested in February this revealed the web of anti-India and Libva-based Mohammed Shoeb Khan as the key conspirators in the terror plot linked with a module in Chhatrapati ISIS. They were also actively Sambhajinagar to the ISIS' global networks.

its secular ethos and culture,

governance," the NIA stated The investigations by the NIA its charge-sheet, alluding to have revealed that after findings in its investigations.

Together, Zoheb and Shoeb had conspired to recruit vulnerable youth to carry out terror attacks at sensitive installations across India.

The charge-sheet has exposed international linkages of ISIS/ IS.

activities involving Zoheb and Shoeb, who had taken 'bayath' involved in developing a website to promote extremist The accused persons had conspired to endanger the safety and security of India, and violent ideology of ISIS. They had also allegedly planned to attract youth from across the world into the ISIS and the democratic systems of fold through their website.

targeting India with a series of terror strikes, Zoheb and Shoeb had planned to flee to either Turkey or Afghanistan.

According to the investigations, Zoheb had already formed a WhatsApp group having more than 50 youth from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar with the intention to radicalise them further, recruit them and then further the ISIS' nefarious

activities in India. Both Zoheb and exchanging videos pertaining to manufacture of explosives and fabrication of IEDs for the planned terror strikes.

The duo had also prepared a detailed plan of action, which included planning, preparing and executing terror hits at multiple locations in India, and the follow-up action in the aftermath.

NDA Govt will not remain in power for long: Mamata

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Expressing serious concern Cover the stability of the Current NJP-led NDA Government at the Centre, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said here on Friday that the Narendra Modi dispensation would not remain in power for long. Talking to media persons after meeting former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhay Thackeray, Banerjee said: "This (central) government is not stable. It is not strong. It may not continue for long. My best wishes to them". Alluding to the fact that the winning margin in one of the Mumbai Lok Sabha in Mumbai (Mumbai North West) was mere 48 votes, "They (BJP-led NDA) have done like this in many other areas... otherwise this time (2024) they would not have returned to power. I am sure of

By adopting ILs, the silk

industry can move towards

greener production methods,

thereby promoting a cleaner and more sustainable future

for silk manufacturing, he

said.Moreover, the extraction

of sericin from non-mulberry

silks using ILs opens up new

possibilities for utilizing these

unique fibers in various

textiles, cosmetics, and

biomedical products, said the

The green solvents are answers

to the health menace for the

workers involved in the silk

processing. The chemical compounds create respiratory

issues and are carcinogenic to

humans, as indicated by

dermatitis, skin lesions, back aches, bronchial asthma,

coughs, gastrointestinal pains,

ulcers, throat infections,

thinning nails, dry skin, and

According to a study "Agrochemicals in sericulture

and silk industry, and their

effects on the human health

and environment" published

last year, "in addition to human concerns, persistent

chemicals endanger the ecosystem and contribute to

the overall chemicalization of

aquatic and terrestrial

environments. As a result,

whenever possible, the discharge of toxic compounds

into the natural environment

Unfortunately, in developing countries like India, where large quantities of these

chemicals are generated and dumped into the environment,

should be reduced."

hand and eye burning.

including

From Page 1

applications,

researchers.



the Jio World Convention Centre on Wednesday.

present at Thackerays' Bandra residence 'Matoshri'.

Banerjee, who is in Mumbai

(SP) president Sharad Pawar later in the evening, at the latter's 'Silver Oak' in south Mumbai.

Banerjee, who enjoys personal rapport with Pawar Sr. and Uddhav, makes it a point to meet both of them, whenever she visits Mumbai.

The Trinamool Congress, the NCP (SP) and the Shiv Sena (UBT) are constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc. Maharashtra,

Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) -- comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) -- won 30 of the Merchant, daughter of 48 Lok Sabha seats, handing a industrialist Viren Merchant, humiliating defeat to the ruling Mahayuti -- of which the ruling BJP, the Shiv Sena and the NCP are constituents. The MVA constituents are members of the INDIA bloc at the national level.

She is also likely to meet Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders who are expected to attend Anant Ambani's wedding later in the night.

'Samvidhaan

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Shah said on June 25, 1975, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in a "brazen display of a dictatorial mindset, strangled the soul of India's democracy by imposing the Emergency on the nation. Lakhs of people were thrown behind the bars for no fault of their own, and the voice of the media was silenced, he said."The Government of India has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas.' This day will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency," he said in a social media post.

Water levels in 150 main reservoirs low despite heavy rainfall: CWC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

s of the latest data, despite As of the latest data, despite heavy rains in various parts of the country recently, the water levels in 150 main reservoirs remain disturbingly lower at 46.311 billion cubic meters (BCM), compared to the same period last year when the live storage was 58.864 BCM, as per the Central Water Commission (CWC).This presents a critical concern, especially for a country heavily dependent on agriculture, providing livelihoods to millions and

vast population. The reservoirs being monitored have a combined total live storage capacity of 178.784 BCM, representing 69.35 per cent of the overall estimated live storage capacity

ensuring food security for its

in the country.

Despite the extensive storage capacity, the current figures reveal that the available storage is only 79 per cent of last year's levels and 90 per cent of the normal storage, which is calculated based on the average storage over the past 10 years.

In the Northern Region that includes states like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, the current storage of 5.979 BCM represents 30%

of the total capacity. This is notably lower than the 63% storage recorded last year and the normal level of 35%. The shortfall in storage

indicates potential implications for agriculture, particularly in states heavily reliant on irrigation from these reservoirs.

Similarly, in the Eastern Region, States such as Assam, Iharkhand, and West Bengal too face a current storage of 4.132 BCM, which is just 20 per cent of the total capacity. open it but regulate," Justice Comparatively, last year's storage was slightly higher at Bhuyan said after the counsel informed the bench about 22 per cent, while the normal level stands at 24 per cent. filing of the appeal in the apex

The lower storage levels highlight challenges for maintaining adequate water supply for agricultural and domestic needs.

States like Gujarat and Maharashtra, prominent States in Western Region, currently hold 9.398 BCM, representing 25% of their total capacity. This is a decrease from 32 per cent recorded last year and slightly below the normal storage level of 27 per cent. The region's reliance on reservoirs for irrigation and industrial purposes makes efficient water management crucial amid fluctuating rainfall patterns.

Central Region encompassing States like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have a current storage of 13.035 BCM, accounting for 27% of the total capacity.

This is lower than the 39% recorded last year and the normal storage level of 32%. The disparity underscores the region's vulnerability to water scarcity, affecting agricultural output and rural livelihoods dependent on irrigation.

The southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu show a mixed trend with a current storage of 13.767 BCM, which is 26 per cent of their total capacity. While this marks an improvement from 22 per cent last year, it remains below the normal storage level of 27 per cent. The region's diverse climate zones necessitate adaptive water management strategies to sustain agriculture and urban

Modi announces projects bonanza...

From Page 1

The remodelling will increase the yard's capacity to handle more trains, reducing congestion and improving the efficiency of train operations. The Gati Shakti MultiModal Cargo Terminal in Navi Mumbai will be built in an area of more than 32600 sq mtrs.

It will provide additional employment opportunities to the local people and will cater as an additional terminal for handling Cement and other commodities.

Modi will dedicate to the nation the New Platforms at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus and Extension of Platform no. 10 & 11 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus

The new longer platforms at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus can accommodate longer trains, allowing for more passengers per train and improving the station's capacity to handle increased traffic. Platform no. 10 & 11 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus newspaper industry in Mumbai.

Station have been extended by 382 meters with a cover shed and washable apron. It will help in augmentation of the trains up to 24 coaches thus increasing the number of passengers carried.

Prime Minister will also launch the Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana with an outlay of around Rs. 5,600

It is a transformative internship program aimed at addressing youth unemployment by providing opportunities for skill enhancement and industry exposure for youth aged 18 to 30 years.

Modi will also visit the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai to inaugurate the INS

The new building will fulfil the evolving needs of Members of INS for a modern and efficient office space in Mumbai, which would serve as the nerve centre for the

SC grants relief to Kejriwal...

From Page 1

On May 17, the top court he skipped repeated had reserved its verdict on summonses and refused to Kejriwal's plea challenging legality of his arrest by the ED on March 21 in the case. The apex court had on April 15 sought a response from the ED on Kejriwal's plea

challenging his arrest in the money laundering case.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief has challenged in the top court the April 9 order of the Delhi High Court that had upheld his arrest in the case.

The high court had upheld Kejriwal's arrest in the case, saying there was no illegality about it and that the ED was left with "little option" after application for interim skipped repeated

join the investigation. On June 20, he was granted bail by a trial court here on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh

in the case. the Delhi High Court the next day and contended that The plea challenging his the trial court's order granting bail to Kejriwal was "perverse", "one-sided" and "wrong-sided" and that the findings were based on

irrelevant facts. The high court, on June 21, imposed an interim stay on the trial court's bail order till passing of an order on ED's

relief. On June 25, the high court had passed a detailed order staying the trial court order.Kejriwal was also arrested by the CBI on June 26 in connection with the corruption case related to However, the ED had moved the alleged excise policy scam.

> arrest by the CBI is pending before the Delhi High Court. The matter relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which has now been scrapped.

Banerjee is in the city to attend

Ambani, the youngest son of Reliance Industries Limited Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani, and Radhika

At the meeting she had with Uddhav, the latter's wife Rashmi Thackeray and their sons Aditya and Tejas, were

for the first time after the Lok Sabha poll outcome, called on the wedding of Anant Nationalist Congress Party Textiles queen...

they are not properly managed because little is known about their potential risks and benefits if properly managed, said the study authors J Harishkumar , R. Ravi Kumara, MS Santhosh and K

Ravikumara from University of Mysore, Mysuru.

In fact, according to reports, scientists and innovators across the world are working towards creating a new generation of silk fabrics that can match the textile's positive attributes without harming the environment, according to the latest report from the Material Innovation Initiative (MII). India, as the second-largest producer of raw silk globally,

holds a unique position for its diverse silk production. The country stands out as the sole producer of five distinct types of silks worldwide. Mulberry silk, primarily cultivated in states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, dominates the production landscape, comprising nearly 70% of India's total silk output.
Karnataka leads the production of mulberry silks, underscoring its pivotal role in the national silk industry. Apart from mulberry silk, India boasts non-mulberry

varieties known as Vanya silk, including Tussar from states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal. The northeastern contributes region significantly with Muga silk from Assam and Eri silk from Meghalaya and Nagaland, each prized for their unique qualities and traditional

Remove barricades at Shambhu border, SC asks Haryana

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Haryana Government to clear the barricading at the Shambhu border near Ambala, where farmers have been camping since February 13, and questioned its authority to block the highway.

The Haryana government had set up barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan made the observation after the Haryana government counsel said the state is in the process of filing an appeal against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's July 10 order which had directed it to open the highway within seven days. "How can a State block a highway? It has a duty to regulate traffic. We are saying

'Determined to run in re-election, will defeat Trump'

AP WASHINGTON

A defiant US President Joe Biden has insisted that he is "determined" and fit to seek re-election and defeat his Republican rival Donald Trump in November, even as two excruciating gaffes marred his efforts to dismiss concerns over his age and fitness. During a high-stakes solo news conference on Thursday at the con-clusion of the NATO Summit here, Biden said that no poll or person is telling him that he can't win reelection currently. That is the only way he would consider ending his presidential bid.

"I'm determined to run," 81year-old Biden, the oldest sitting US President, said."The fact is that the consideration is that I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him (Trump) once, and I will beat him again. Secondly.. the idea that senators and congressmen are running for office worrying about the ticket is not unusual and I



might add, there were at least five presidents running or incumbent presidents who had lower numbers than I have now later in a campaign," Biden said.

"So there's a long way to go in this campaign, and so I'm just going to keep moving, keep

moving," he said.
Toward the beginning of the question-and-answer session, Biden mistakenly referred to Vice President Kamala Harris as former President Trump amid mounting questions sur-rounding his mental acuity.

He said Harris was qualified to be president as well, although he misnamed her in the

"I wouldn't have picked vice-

president Trump to be vice-president if she's not qualified to be president," Biden said. He måde a similar mistake earlier in the day, accidentally call-Ukraine President dymyr Zelensky Volodymyr 'President Putin" while introducing him during a NATO event. He continued to defy the pleas from a growing number of Democrats to step down from the Democratic ticket. Asked if he was determined to stay in the race despite the fears of some Democratic lawmakers, Biden said, "I'm determined on running, but I think it's important that I realise allay fears by seeing - let them see me out there. Let them see me out.

He said his campaign was strong and working hard in "toss-up states."

"..look, I got more work to do. We've got more work to finish.

We made so much progress. Think about where we are economically relative to the rest of the world. Name me a world leader who wouldn't world leader wno wouldn't want to trade places with our economy. We created over 800,000 manufacturing jobs,

...so things are moving. We've got more to go," the president

working-class people still need help. Corporate greed is still at large. Corporate profits have doubled since the pandemic. They're coming down and so I'm optimistic about where things are going," he asserted.

Biden added that he is seeking his re-election not for his lega-cy. "I'm in this to complete the cy. I'm in this to complete the job I started. As you recall, understandably, many of you and many economists thought my initial initiatives that I put forward can't do that because it's going to cause inflation. Things are going to skyrocket.
The debt's going to go up.
What are you hearing now from mainstream econo-

"Sixteen economic Nobel laureates said I've done a hell of a job, that under my plan so far

and what's going to happen in the future if I'm reelected, that the future if I m reelected, that things are going to get much better. Our economy is growing. I was determined when I got elected to stop the trickledown economic theory that if the wealthy did very well, everybody else would do well," the president said.

Biden refuted reports that he told his aides that he needed to go to bed earlier and end meetings around eight in the evening.

evening. "That's not true... what I said was, instead of my every day starting at seven and going to bed at midnight, it'd be smarter for me to pace myself a little more. And I said, for example, the 8:00, 7:00, 6:00 stuff, instead of starting the fundraiser at 9:00, start at 8:00. People get to go home by 10:00. That's get to go home by 10:00. That's what I'm talking about," he

When asked about what

changed his mind when in 2020 he said that he would be the bridge candidacy for a younger, fresher generation of Democratic leaders, Biden said: "What changed was the gravity of the situation I inherited in terms of the economy, our foreign policy and domestic division.

Biden also offered extensive remarks on thorny foreign policy issues, including competition with China and the Israel-Hamas war.

He said he had warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu away from an occu-

He said he was directly in contact with Chinese President Xi Jinping to warn him not to offer further support for Russia's war in Ukraine, but not with Vladimir Putin, whom he said: "I have no reason to speak to him right now." Biden said he was totally

opposed to the occupation and trying to unite Afghanistan. He said that the US should have left the coun-

try after killing Osama bin Laden."There's no need to occupy anywhere. Go after the people who did the job. You may recall I still get criticized for it, but I was totally opposed to the occupation and trying to unite Afghanistan," he told reporters at a news conference. "Once we got bin Laden, we should have

moved on because it was not in our — and no one's ever going to unite that country," he said "I've been over every inch of that — not every inch, the entirety from the poppy fields all the way to the north. I said don't make the same mistake

Don't think that's what you should be doing is doubling down," he said.

we made.

Meanwhile, three House Democrats — Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut, Scott Peters of California and Eric Sorensen of Illinois — on Thursday joined others to call on President Biden to step aside from the 2024 race following the news conference.

'Kamala Harris is qualified to be president'

Washington (PTI): US President Joe Biden on Thursday said his deputy, Vice President Kamala Harris, is "qualified" to lead the country. At a high-stake press conference here on Thursday, Biden said, "From the very beginning, I made no bones about that. She is qualified to be the president. That's why I picked her." When asked about the reasons for this, he said "Firstly because of the way she's handled the issue of freedom of women's bodies, to have control of their bodies and secondly, her ability to handle almost any issue on the board.

"This was a hell of a prosecutor. She was a first-rate person and in the Senate, she was really good. I wouldn't have picked her unless I thought she was qualified to be the president," Biden said.

Harris, 59, is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as US Vice President in 2020.

Biden's remarks on Harris came amidst growing calls for the 81-year-old to step aside from the race for the White House in November since he stumbled through a TV debate with his Republican rival Donald Trump last month.

The president mistakenly referred to Kamala Harris as former president Trump during the press conference. He said, "I wouldn't have picked Trump to be the vice president, did I think she was not qualified to be president...."
"The fact is that the consider-

ation is that I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him once and I will beat him again," Biden said.

"The idea that senators and congressmen are running for office worrying about the ticket is not unusual. And I might add, there were at least five presidents running or incumbent presidents who had lower numbers than I have now later

numbers than I have now later in a campaign," he said. So, there's a long way to go in this campaign and so I'm just going to keep moving, Biden, the presumptive candidate of the Democratic Party, said.

Emergency crews recover bodies in Gaza City as negotiations continue

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

Dozens of bodies collected throughout Gaza City's Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood arrived at Al-Ahli Hospital on Friday morning while civil defence workers said they continued to recover the dead from destroyed streets and buildings. Hospital streets and buildings. Hospital director Fadel Naem told The Associated Press that people both dead and wounded had been brought from Tel al-Hawa to the hospital less than a day after it resumed operations fol-lowing the evacuation earlier in the week due to the fighting in the area.

About 60 bodies have been recovered, including entire families who appeared to have been killed by artillery fire and aerial bombardment, Mahmoud Basal, the director of Civil Defense in Gaza said.

There are homes that we cannot reach, and there are those who were burned inside their homes," he said, noting many of those who were killed had left nearby shelters after being ordered to evacuate.

The Israeli military said it could not comment on Tel al-Hawa. The scenes mirror those in another Gaza City neighbour-hood, Shuja'iyyah, from which Israel's military has withdrawn in

On Thursday, civil defence workers found an additional 60 bodies in Shuja'iyyah under similar circumstances, with more believed to be buried under rubble. Basal said bodies in Tel al-Hawa were found decomposing or partially mauled by dogs. The latest announcements of casualties comes as the United Nations estimates that about 300,000 Palestinians were still in northern Gaza, as of earlier this week, despite being ordered to evacuate. Much of the population left earlier in the war. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people are now experiencing widespread hunger while crammed into

squalid tent camps. Israel launched the war in Gaza after Hamas' Oct 7 attack in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people

— mostly civilians — and abducted about 250. Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 38,300 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry. It does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

Meanwhile in Cairo, mediators continue to push to narrow gaps between Israel and Hamas over a proposal deal that would include a cease-fire and hostage release in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Thursday that Israel would send a delegation for fur-ther talks as US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators attempt to seal an agreement.

Obstacles remain, however as Hamas insists that talks continue until a permanent cease-fire is reached while Netanyahu says

Israel won't agree to any deal that would stop its military campaign before Hamas is eliminated. Netanyahu is under growing pressure both domestically and internationally. Large segments of the Israeli population are demanding an agreement to release the hostages after nine months of war, though Netanyahu has insisted that the offensive won't end until Israel achieves its goal of eliminating Hamas. Relatives of hostages are marching to Jerusalem to demand a deal and the release of their loved ones as Israeli politi-cians, including Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, call for a broad government investigation into the conduct of Israel's lead-

A risk of regional escalation remains. Israel's military said Friday one of its soldiers was killed in combat in northern Israel as the country's army and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah continue to trade cross-border fire.

'PTI eligible for reserved seats in Parl, provincial assemblies'

In a major legal victory for Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that his Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats for women and minorities in Parliament and in the provincial assemblies.

The Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) had filed a plea challenging the Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) move to deny its share in reserved seats in the National Assembly and provincial assemblies.

A 13-member full bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case and the ruling in the keenly awaited judgment is viewed as a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition. Candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-

X's blue checks deceptive, transparency

falls short under social media law



Insaf (PTI) party, who had contested and won the February 8 elections as independent's after their party was stripped of its election symbol, had joined the SIC to form a coalition of convenience.

The apex court on Friday annulled the decision of the PHC and also declared the decision of the election commission "null and void", terming it "against the

"[The] withdrawal of election symbol cannot disqualify a political party from elections," the court declared, referring to the election commission not allowing the PTI to use the cricket bat as its election sym-

"The PTI was and is a political party," the bench ruled. Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, founded the PTI in 1996.

Teen held after UK gurdwara attack with 'bladed weapon'

London (PTI): A 17-year-old boy remains in custody after two women were injured in a suspected religiously aggravated incident involving a "bladed weapon" at a gurdwara in Kent, south-east England, local police said on Friday. Kent Police said its officers were called to the Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara on Thursday evening to investigate reports that a male had entered the place of worship and attempted to assault members of the gathering. The gurdwara, among the largest in Europe, said that 'Guru Granth Sahib Ji' was not present in the Darbar Hall at the time of the incident. "It was reported that a male had entered the location and attempted to assault those in attendance whilst armed with a bladed weapon. Nobody was seriously injured during the incident but two women required medical attention for cuts and bruises," Kent Police said in a statement. The officers arrested the teenage boy on suspicion of attempted murder and a religiously aggravated public order offence and also recovered the bladed weapon from the scene. The police have described it as an "isolated incident" and nobody else is currently being sought in connection with the attack. "We understand the community's concerns in relation to the events at the gurdwara, however we are treating it as an isolated incisaid Detective dent." Superintendent Ian Dyball of Kent Police.

"Patrols will remain in the area for reassurance and we thank the community for their ongoing support and assistance," he said. According to the gurdwara's management team, the suspect was spotted by its security team and police were called immediately. "A person has been arrested by Kent Police on suspicion of attempted murder, after entering the gurdwara and creating an incident in one of the Darbar Halls. We can confirm that the incident happened after Sukhasan and Guru Granth Sahib Ji' was not present in the Darbar Hall," read a gurdwara

4 migrants die while attempting to cross **English Channel** Paris (AP). Four migrants have try to cross the busy English

died while trying to cross the English Channel on an inflatable boat from France to the UK, French authorities said on Friday. The migrants' vessel capsized and punctured off the coast of Boulogne-sur-Mer, in northern France, the prefecture responsible for the region said in a statement. Sixty-three people were rescued by the French coast guard.

A French navy patrol boat spotted the overcrowded vessel early Friday as it deflated off the French coast. Several people were "drifting in the water while others were still clinging to the broken rubber dingy", the statement said. Navy vessels, a fishing boat and a Navv helicopter joined the effort. Survivors were brought to the shore in Boulogne to receive medical attention and temporary shelter, the statement also said. Migrants trying to reach the UK risk drowning as they

Channel, often aboard crowded, unseaworthy boats.

French maritime officials responsible for the Channel and the North Sea warned anyone who plans to cross the Channel to reconsider due to the many risks involved in the perilous journey. The channel is one of the busiest waterways in the world, with more than 600 commercial ships sailing through it daily, and weather conditions are often difficult due to strong winds that pre-vail 120 days a year, their Friday statement said. "It's dangerous even when the sea seems calm," they said.

Friday's tragedy in the channel comes amid a continuing flow of people making the journey to the UK. The latest figures from Britain's Home Office, which deals with immigration issues, show that 62 people travelled across the Channel in one boat on Thursday, taking

The European Union said Friday that blue checkmarks from Elon Musk's X are

deceptive and that the online platform falls short on transparency and accountability requirements, the first charges against a tech company since the bloc's new social media regulations took effect. The European Commission outlined the preliminary findings from its investigation into X, formerly known as Twitter, under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Services Act. The rulebook, also known as

the DSA, is a sweeping set of regulations that requires platforms to take more responsibility for protecting users and cleaning up their sites, under threat of hefty fines.

Regulators took aim at X's blue checks, saying they constitute "dark patterns" that are not in line with industry best practice



and can be used by malicious

actors to deceive users. After Musk bought the site in 2022, it started issuing the verification marks to anyone who paid \$8 per month for one. Before Musk's acquisition, they mirrored verification badges common on social media and were largely reserved for celebrities, politicians and other influential accounts.

An email request for comment to X resulted in an automated response that said "Busy now, please check back later." Its main spokesman reportedly

"Back in the day, BlueChecks used to mean trustworthy sources of information," European Commissioner Thierry Breton said in a statement. "Now with X, our preliminary view is that they deceive users and infringe the DSA."

The commission also charged X with failing to comply with requirements on ad transparency. Under the DSA platforms must publish a database of all digital advertisements that they've carried, with details including who paid for them and the intended audience. But X's ad database has "design features and access barriers' that make it "unfit for its transparency purpose," the commission said.

The company also falls short when it comes to giving researchers access to public data, as required by the DSA, the commission said

Prachanda loses trust vote, Oli set to be new PM

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Friday lost a vote of confidence in Parliament after coalition partner CPN-UML withdrew its support to him, a development that will lead to the formation of a new government led by expremier K P Sharma Oli.

Prachanda received only 63 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives (HoR) and there were 194 votes against the motion. At least 138 votes are needed to win the vote of trust. A total of 258 HoR members participated in the voting while one member abstained.

Prachanda, 69, chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (CPN-MC), had survived four trust votes since he assumed the prime minister's post on December 25, 2022. He faced the same predicament yet another time because former prime minister Oli-led Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) with-drew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing deal with the largest

party in the House – the Nepali Congress (NC). Earlier, Speaker of the HoR Dev Raj Ghimire put Prachanda's Voté of Trust for voting according to Article 100 Clause 2 of the Constitution. After voting was completed, he announced that the Vote of Trust proposed by Prime Minister Prachanda was defeated with a majority vote. Speaker Ghimire will now inform President Ram Chandra Paudel, who in turn, will invite two or more political parties to stake a claim for the new government according to Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution.

This paves the way for the NC and the CPN-UML to form a new coalition government. The NC has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138



required for a majority in the lower house.

Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba has already endorsed Oli as the next prime minister. NC president Deuba and CPN-UML chairman Oli inked a 7-point deal on Monday to form a new coalition toppling Prachandaled government. According to the agreement, Oli and Deuba will share the premiership during the remaining period of the House of Representatives; in the first phase Oli will become the Prime Minister for one and a half years and then, Deuba will take the seat for the rest of the period.

Prachanda, whose party had 32 seats in the HoR, was elected the Prime Minister for the third time on December 25, 2022, with the backing of CPN-UML. Prachanda was elected the Prime Minister as per Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution of Nepal, which has a provision for electing a Prime Minister with the support of two or more parties. As the HoR session began in the early afternoon, embattled Prachanda sharply criticised

the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML for striking an alliance "out of fear" rather than shared principles and accused them of pushing the nation toward regression. Prachanda voiced concerns about potential regression and autocracy, asserting that the NC and the CPN-UML had joined forces as good governance began to take root in the

US, S Korea sign joint nuclear deterrence guidelines in face of N Korean threats

The US and South Korea I signed joint nuclear deterrence guidelines for the first time, a basic yet important step in their efforts to improve deterrence toward North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. Meeting Thursday on the sidelines of a NATÓ summit in Washington, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol commended what they called "the tremendous progress" that their countries' alliance have made a year after creating a joint Nuclear Consultative Group. The two leaders authorized "the US-ROK Guidelines for Nuclear Deterrence and Nuclear Operations on the Korean Peninsula" that was signed by their defense officials earlier

Thursday, according to South Korea's presidential office. ROK

stands for the Republic of Korea,

South Korea's official name.

Last year, the US and South Korea launched the consultative body to strengthen communication on nuclear operations and discuss how to integrate US nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons in various contingencies. The US has long promised to use all its capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to defend South Korea if it is attacked, but faced suspicions that it lacks plans on how it would exercise its extended deterrence for its Asian ally. The consultative body was estab-lished as North Korea has sharply accelerated its missile testing activities and openly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts. South Korea has no nuclear weapons. "The presidents underscored that the Guidelines document provides a solid foundation for enhancing US-ROK extended deterrence cooperation in an integrated manner," said a joint

statement by Biden and Yoon. Du Hyeogn Cha, an analyst at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said the guidelines mark substantial progress in deterrence plans, but the allies will still need to fill in the details and conduct military exercises to test them. Kim Tae-hyo, a deputy nation-

al security director in South Korea, told reporters that South Korea and the US will conduct joint military exercises to help implement the deterrence guidelines. He said the US would commit

specific nuclear assets to a role in deterrence plans, but experts added that this does not mean it would place nuclear weapons in South Korea. Specifics of the guidelines, which Seoul called confidential, were not available, though the US will certainly retain control of its nuclear weapons.

"The key is how to integrate South Korea's conventional

weapons and America's nuclear weapons to launch joint, massive retaliation to North Korea, when it carries out nuclear strikes on South Korea," said Kim Yeol Soo, an expert at South Korea's Korea Institute for Military Affairs. He said prospects for South Korea-US coordination are bright if Biden is re-elected in the November election, but could suffer a setback if former President Donald Trump returns to the White House. North Korea is expected to

respond angrily to the announcement, as it has previously accused its rivals of using the consultation group to plot a nuclear attack on the North.Worries about North Korea have further deepened since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin in June signed a deal requiring each country to provide aid to the other if it is attacked, and vowed to boost other cooperation.

Seven Indians missing in Nepal landslide

Kathmandu (PTI): At least 65 people, including seven Indian nationals, are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a landslide in Nepal and pushed into a swollen river on Friday, according to media reports.

The two buses carrying 65 passengers went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district, myRepublica news portal reported quoting officials. Chief District Officer of Chitwan, Indradev Yadav, confirmed the incident.

According to Yadav, the Kathmandu-bound Angel bus and Ganpati Deluxe, en route to Gaur from the Capital, met with the accident at around 3:30 am. Twenty-four people were onboard the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police

India to clock GDP growth of 7% in FY25: NITI Aayog member

PTI NEW DELHI

 $T_{
m grow}^{
m he\ Indian\ economy\ will}$ in the current fiscal year and is on track to maintain a similar growth rate for several years, NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani said on Friday. Virmani said there are new challenges facing the

challenges facing the country and they will have to be dealt with.

"Indian economy will grow at 7 per cent plus minus point 0.5 per cent... I expect that we are on track to grow at 7 per cent for several years from today," he told PTI in an interview.

Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) pegged the FY25 gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate at 7.2 per cent.

Responding to a question on the decline in private consumption expenditures in the last fiscal year, Virmani said it is actually recovering now."The effect of the pandemic was to draw down savings... And very different from previous financial shocks," he said.Explaining further, Virmani said it is like what he calls a double drought



'We also had, of course, El Nino last year, but what the pandemic did was that it resulted in people having to draw down their savings... So, the obvious reaction is to rebuild your savings, which tend to reduce current

consumption," he noted.

If people were buying branded goods, they will buy less branded or ordinary goods and save part of that money, he said, explaining that this shows a slide in consumption.

Virmani said history shows

that coalition partners can slow privatisation in states in which the regional ally is in power, but that is not a big issue.

"I see no reason why privatisation cannot happen in the other states and it may also happen in these states (where coalition parties are in power). I am just giving you a historical example," he

With support from N Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar-led JD(U), along with other alliance partners, the NDA

crossed the halfway mark in the recently held Lok Sabha elections to form the government at the Centre.
On the decline in foreign

direct investments (FDI) to India, despite it being the fastest growing economy, Virmani said riskless return of investment is much higher in the United States and other developed countries than in emerging markets. "As soon as interest rates begin to come down in the UŠ, I expect the FDI into emerging markets, including India, to increase," he said.

Sensex, Nifty hit record high on buying in IT stocks after TCS earnings

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their fresh record high levels on Friday amid heavy buying in IT stocks after TCS announced its June quarter earnings. The 30-share BSE Sensex

The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 996.17 points to hit all-time high of 80,893.51. The NSE Nifty jumped 276.25 points to a new lifetime peak of 24,592.20. Among the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services climbed nearly 6 per cent after the country's largest IT services player reported 8.7 services player reported 8.7 per cent growth for the June quarter net profit at Rs

12,040 crore.
Infosys, Tech Mahindra,
HCL Technologies, Axis
Bank and Bajaj Finance were the other major gainers. Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints and ITC

were among the laggards. "The positive domestic cue is the better-than-expected numbers from TCS and positive management commentary which can lift most IT stocks," said V K Vijayakumar, Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.



In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted higher while Seoul and Tokyo traded lower. US markets ended mostly

lower on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.59 per cent to USD 85.90 a barrel.

Foreign

Institutional

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,137.01 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Retreating from early highs, the BSE benchmark closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34 on Thursday. The NSE Nifty edged down 8 50 points or edged down 8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95.

FADA seeks vehicle depreciation benefits for income tax payers

Automotive dealers body FADA on Friday urged the government to introduce vehicle depreciation benefits renicle depreciation benefits for individual taxpayers, saying it will not only expand the taxpayer base but also ignite automobile demand. In its pre-budget wishlist, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) also asked the finance ministry to reduce corporate tax for LLPs, proprietary, and partnership firms.
"We urge the finance ministry

to introduce the benefits of claiming depreciation on for individuals vehicles paying income tax," FADA President Manish Rai President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement. Allowing individuals to account for depreciation will not only increase the number of income tax filers but also ignite automobile demand, he reasoned.

Singhania also recommended reduction of corporate tax for LLPs, proprietary, partnership firms.

While the government has



already reduced corporate tax to 25 per cent for private limited companies with a turnover of up to Rs 400 crore, extending this benefit to all LLPs, proprietary and partnership firms is crucial, as most traders within the auto dealership community fall into these categories," he

FADA strongly appeals to the government to consider these two key measures in the upcoming budget to stimulate the automotive industry and broader economy, Singhania

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is slated to present the Union Budget for 2024-25 on July 23.

Magicpin onboards over 1,000 big brands in a year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hyperlocal e-commerce firm magicpin has onboarded over 1,000 mutlicity and multinational consumer brands in a year, registering a year-on-year growth in onboarding may exceed the target like last prominent firms, the year," the company said in a

rompany said on Friday.

While it took magicpin four years to bring around 2,000 brands on board, it added over 1,000 of them over the

last 12 months for us... There | said, adding that once has been an exponential 100 | finalised, this will make way per cent increase for us in | for fresh investment.

thereby welcoming over 1000 new brands and over 75,000 local merchants to our platform," magicpin CEO and Co-Founder Anshoo Sharma said in a statement.

The company has added new brands across fashion, quick service retail and fine dine category during the 12-month period ending June 2024. The new brands magicpin onboarded include Burger King, Domino's, TacoBell, McDonald's, Faasos, Subway, Behrouz Biryani, Meghna Biryani, Truffles, Chaayos, US Polo Assn, Louis Philippe,

Puma, Levi's, Van Heusen, Lee Cooper, etc. Lightspeed Venture Capital firm backed magicpin is the biggest seller on government backed e-commerce platform ONDC, accounting for over 50 per cent of the total order

per month.

The company in the last one year recorded a 37 per cent jump in its local merchant base to over 2.75 lakh from around 2 lakh a year ago, the company said.

Hindustan may exceed capex target of ₹350 cr this fiscal year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Hindustan Copper Ltd on Friday said it is likely to exceed its capex target of Rs 350 crore for the ongoing fiscal year.
"Although this year's capex

target is Rs 350 crore, it is expected that the company

past year alone.

"It has been a phenomenal developer for Rakha mine, it

terms of brands and The domestic copper demand in the country will grow in



line with the growth of sectors transportation construction sectors.

"Analysts suggest that there will be double-digit growth in these sectors in

term. Accordingly, copper sector growth is expected to be in double digit," it said. The current per capita refined copper consumption in India is around 0.5 kg, far less than the global average of about 3.2 kg per capita, leaving a huge

gap.
As India is in an aggressive growth path and expecting double-digit growth, the copper demand in India will definitely outpace the global demand, the PSU said. Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) is under the administrative control of the Ministry of

Mines. The company has facilities for production and marketing of copper concentrate, copper cathodes, continuous cast copper rod, and byproducts

Essar Energy Transition setting up Europe's 1st hydrogen-ready power plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Essar Energy Transition on Friday announced setting up of Europe's first hydrogen-ready combined heat and power plant (CHP) at its Stanlow refinery in Ellesmere Port in the UK. The building of the power plant is a key part of EET's overall USD 3 billion of energy transition initiatives in the North West of England.

The company aims to complete the project, EET Hydrogen Power in 2027, it said in a statement. The investment will support

EET Fuels' ambition to become the lowest carbon process refinery, globally and ET Hydrogen



become the leading low carbon hydrogen producer in the UK. It will also provide low carbon power to other industrial users in the region support decarbonisation targets.

EET Hydrogen Power will become an independent vertical under EET.

The project will be developed

over two phases to reach a capacity of 125 MW and reducing 740,000 tonne of carbon dioxide per annum. The new plant will replace Stanlow's existing boiler units, which generate approximately 50MW of power for the refinery operations. The plant

integral decarbonisation of operations at EET Fuels' Stanlow refinery, which plans to cut total emissions by 95 per cent by 2030, to become the world's lowest carbon refinery.

Tony Fountain, Managing Partner of Essar Energy Transition, commented: "Launching EET Hydrogen Power shows the progress that EET is making in delivering against its commitment to put the UK at the forefront of low carbon energy. EET Hydrogen Power helps bring this commitment to life and demonstrates our intention to globally showcase the pathway to decarbonising vital high emitting industries.

Launches of affordable flats drop 21% annually in April-June to 1,32,77 units in top 7 cities: JLL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $N_{apartments}^{ew \ supply \ of \ affordable} \\ - costing \\ below \ Rs \ 50 \ lakh - declined$ 21 per cent in the April-June period across seven major cities as builders are launching more premium flats, according to JLL India. Real estate consultant JLL India on Friday released data for housing market of major seven cities, showing a 5 per cent increase in fresh supply of apartments to 1,59,455 units during April-June 2024 from 151,207 units in the year-ago period. The data includes only

Rowhouses, apartments.

villas, and plotted developments have been excluded from the analysis. Of the total new supply in the June quarter, the launches of affaordable flats stood at 13,277 units, a fall of 21 per cent from 16,728 units in the

same period last year.
The launches of flats, each costing Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore, declined 14 per cent to 47,930 units from 55,701

In the Rs 1-3 crore price bracket, the new supply grew 3 per cent to 69,312 units from 67,119 units.

The launches of apartments, each priced Rs 3-5 crore, more than doubled to 19,202 units from 7,149 units.



Similarly, in above Rs 5 crore category, the new supply jumped more than two-fold to 9,734 units from 4,510 Commenting on the trend of

rise in supply of premium homes and fall in supply of

affordable homes, Siva Krishnan, Senior Managing

Director (Chennai and Coimbatore), Head-Residential Services, India, Head-JLL, said, "This speaks about developers' active response to the surge in demand for high value homes among the target clientele."

On demand, the consultant said the sales of apartments across seven major cities rose 22 per cent to 154,921 units during April-June 2024 from 126,587 units in the year-ago period.

These seven cities are --Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune.

The MMR includes Mumbai city, Mumbai suburbs, Thane city, and Navi Mumbai; Delhi-NCR includes Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and Sohna.

and Sohna.

"Interesting to note, sales momentum has successfully complemented the new launches with around 30 per cent of the H1 2024 sales (154,921 units) being contributed by projects that got launched during the last six months," said Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research, India, JLL. Listed and reputed developers, consistently bringing in a substantial supply over the past few years have played a key role in this growing trend, Das said.

Work under the Rs 9,265-crore North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project is expected to be completed in Tripura by March pixty year, an official said on Friday. Under the NEGG project as part of a plan to synchronise gas supply in the region, 253 km of gas pipeline will be laid across seven districts in the

northeastern state. 'The North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project in seven districts of Tripura is being undertaken by a joint venture entity- Indradhanus Gas Grid Ltd (IGGL) having stakes of five companies- GAIL, IOCL, OIL, NRL (Numaligarh Refinery Ltd) and ONGC," Industries state and Commerce Department's Director Vishwasree B told

Of the total 253 km pipeline target in the state, around 105 km has been covered so far while the "remaining portion of the project, which is under various stages- land acquisition, pipeline welding and laying of the pipeline -

will be completed by March 2025", she said. "Payments

compensation for land acquisition have been delayed a bit because of non-availability authenticated documents of the owners. However, the district magistrates (DMs) have resolved the issue and the payments are under process," she said.

Vishwasree stated that once the NEGG is functional, the gas supply will be easier with consistent pressure which is required for industry use or power generation plants.

The state government has already issued a licence to the public sector undertaking ONGC for five blocks to undertake exploration for oil and gas. 'If ONGC discovers gas reserve in the course of exploration, it will seek permission from the state to go for mining in five potential blocks", she said. The northeastern state has an expected reserve of 8

billion cubic metres of gas.

Inaugural Session of ICANA-2024 begins PNS NEW DELHI

School of Sciences, Advanced VIT-AP University and University of Southern Denmark jointly organizing 2nd International Conference on Advanced Nanomaterials Applications (ICANA-2024) from 10 — 12 July 2024 [Virtual Mode].

This conference was incepted jointly by the School of Advanced Sciences, VIT-AP University and the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), USA in the year 2022. Chief guest Prof BS Murty addressed the participants of the ICANA-2024. He emphasised the importance of collaboration for India's development.

Auto industry body SIAM seeks sops for EVs, additional incentives for vehicle scrapping

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Auto industry body SIAM on Friday sought sops to promote EVs and suggested the government to bring in additional incentives for scrapping of vehicles in the upcoming Budget.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

emphasised on a growth oriented Budget with focus on greater allocation for capital expenditure.

"We are expecting that the government should come up with a FAME 3 like policy... Good schemes like PLI are already in place, which we are sure will continue," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal told reporters here. The FAME



(Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme, if unveiled, is expected to offer financial incentives to electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers as well as government-owned

The FAME 3 scheme will succeed Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), which was introduced when

"We are also expecting that the government could do something more on the incentives for the scrapping of because scrappage policy is already in place but we have not seen much impact of that," Aggarwal said. vehicles,

He further said, "And so therefore, to give further boost to the scrapping of old polluting vehicles, I think something needs to be done."
Aggarwal said the government should continue to take initiatives which are good for

the economy. "We anticipate that it will again be a growth oriented Budget...Which means it will

FAME 2 scheme ended on March 31, 2024. be more focused on the capital expenditure. because that has a multiplier effect on all segments of the economy," he stated.

Allocation for the capital expenditure in the Interim Budget stood at Rs 11.1 lakh crore which was 11.1 per cent higher than the previous year allocation, Aggarwal stated. "So, we are expecting that the focus on allocating more and more capex will continue," he

Aggarwal also urged the government to come up with some policy initiatives to boost the rural economy.

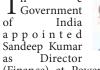
It will be good for sectors like automotive and FMCG and others if the rural economy starts doping better, he added. India.

Sandeep appointed Director (Finance)

The e Government

(Finance) at Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), effective 11 July 2024. Before this appointment, he was Executive Director (Finance) at PFC since 01.01.2020 and is holding the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), PFC. Kumar has a distinguished

of PFC PNS NEW DELHI



career spanning over 34 years in the power and financial sectors. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (Honours) and is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of

NE gas grid work in Tripura to be completed in March next year, says official



PTI AGARTALA

SPAIN MEET ENGLAND IN EURO FINAL

ne is the best team in the ne is the best team in the tournament, on the brink potentially of a new era of success because of a teenage wonderkid, an outstanding midfield and a tweak in philosophy. The other is a survivor, limping to the end with big moments, resilience and an oft-criticized coach who has another chance to end his country's long wait for a major men's title.

The European Championship final between Spain and England on Sunday is dripping with narrative - with one arguably standing out above the rest.

Inside Olympiastadion, the historic venue in Berlin built by the Nazis for the 1936 Olympic Games, Lamine Yamal - a day after his 17th birthday - will look to crown his breakthrough as soccer's newest superstar by leading Spain to a first major men's trophy since the 2008-12 era, when it won back-to-back Euros either side of the World Cup in 2010.

in 2010. Yamal has been the shining light in a tournament where many of the high-profile figures - Cristiano Ronaldo, Kylian Mbappé, even England's Harry Kane - have underwhelmed. If his three assists before the semifinals hinted at his undoubted promise, Yamal's spectacular curling shot that propelled Spain to a 2-1 win over France in the last four signaled a new star had arrived.

directness out wide, it's the central midfield that has given Spain the edge over all of its rivals.

Rodri, perhaps pound-for-pound the world's most effective player, and Fabian Ruiz are the axis from which Spain thrives. Dani Olmo has joined them as the most attacking of pretty much a complete central-midfield three that England will struggle to contain.

Spain topped a group containing defending champion Italy and 2022 World Cup semifinalist Croatia, before eliminating host nation Germany and Mbappe's France, for many the pre tournament favorite many the pre-tournament favorite. It's six straight wins for La Roja. No wonder they are being so heavily backed ahead of the final.

"They have been the best team," England coach Gareth Southgate said of Spain. "... But we are there and from what we have shown to this point, we have as good a chance as they do."

Indeed, Spain should not underestimate England, whose tenacity and character have stood out way above its quality of play at Euro 2024. The nation's most talented squad for 20 years has underperformed, underperiormed, looking unbalanced, short of ideas and in some cases fatigued, but has somehow scrapped through to a second straight European Championship final.

Three years ago, England lost to

France in the last four signaled a new star had arrived.

While Yamal and fellow winger
Nico Williams now offer their

Champonship hind.

Three years ago, England lost to Italy in a penalty shootout on home soil at Wembley Stadium, extending the birthplace of soccer's



since its one and only at the 1966 World Cup. Southgate's team is back in the title

match - its first ever outside England - and is an increasingly confident underdog, with potential matchwinners dotted throughout the team in Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka and Kane. Foden, Bukayo Saka and Kane. Someone has always popped up with a crucial goal - Bellingham with the stoppage-time equalizer against Slovakia in the last 16, Saka with the 80th-minute equalizer against Switzerland in the

against Switzerland in the quarterfinals, even backup striker Ollie Watkins pretty much exactly on 90 minutes against the Netherlands in the semifinals. Who will come to Southgate's rescue on Sunday - if indeed someone does? "They are able to inflict a lot of damage, even without playing in a very fluid way," Spain defender Dani Vivian said. "But they have that quality that makes they have that quality that makes them able to produce those sparks." them able to produce those sparks. The smart money, though, is on Spain winning a seventh straight game to clinch a record fourth European Championship title. It would be a just end to a tournament where few teams really clicked apart from the Spanish, who have dovetailed a more sutbless attacking edge with their

ruthless attacking edge with their longstanding possession game that perhaps peaked in the Euro 2012 final when a team of midfielders notably Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets, Xabi Alonso and David Silva - ran over Italy in Spain's 4-0 win.

Rodríguez enjoying stunning revival | Swimmer Ryan longs to reclaim top with Colombia at Copa América

AP ■ WASHINGTON

uis Díaz was unable to Locontrol his excitement and tears - when talking about James Rodríguez, the key player in Colombia's journey to the Copa America final against Argentina on Sunday.

"From the moment I arrived at the national team, I let him know that he has always been my idol," Liverpool winger Díaz said.

"I grew up watching him." Such is the admiration that the midfielder, who turns 33 on Friday, attracts within the Colombian camp. The 27-year-old Díaz was a

teenager when James proved a sensation at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he won Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer and moved from Monaco to Real Madrid.

But for this Copa América, the best player at the little was expected of James. He arrived in the United States after a poor season at Brazilian club Sao Paulo, where he ended up being an afterthought and appeared to be on his way out of there.

Colombia's aspirations of a second Copa title were placed on the shoulders of Díaz, along with Jefferson Lerma and Daniel Muñoz, another much," said James, recalling couple of players in England's

top flight. Few expected that James, "We are happy." despite his prodigious left James has a goal (a penalty) foot and craftsmanship on the field, would once again be the stepping stone for Colombia in a major tournament after disappointing stints with Real

Madrid, Bayern Munich and Everton, among other European clubs.

But Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo put his faith in him and James has rewarded that by reemerging as, arguably,

tournament, establishing himself as the main focus of a team that will play defending

the championship match.

"I have been here for almost

an international career that began in September 2011.

and six assists at this edition of the Copa América. The sixth - in the 1-0 victory against Uruguay in the semifinals - helped him surpass Lionel Messi's record (5 in 2021) for the most goal assists in a single edition of the tournament since records began to be kept in 2011. Iames will meet Messi in

Sunday's final. "I want to be champion. We



champion Argentina at Miami Gardens, Florida, in

It will be Colombia's first Copa final since winning the title as host in 2001.

know that they are a super complicated opponent, that they have experience playing

in finals," James said.
With his superlative performances in the past few weeks, a question has again been raised: What makes James shine so much when wearing the yellow jersey of Colombia?

Brazil coach Dorival Júnior, who managed him in Sao Paulo, said that the transformation is because Iames feels comfortable in a known environment.

"He really feels so good wearing the Colombian national team jersey... It's impressive in every aspect," Dorival said ahead of Colombia's 1-1 draw with

Brazil at Copa America. This is very interesting, because some players play well in their clubs and do not perform well on their national teams, the opposite happens with James. He feels

very good and integrated into a group that respects him, embraces him and make him feel more important."

Since he took over as Colombia's coach in 2022, Lorenzo has not hesitated to make James an important piece of his project.
"With me he has nothing,

simply that he has continuity and has a great commitment," Lorenzo said before the semifinal against Uruguay.

"With the national team it has always been the same, when a great player has minutes, it gives him the opportunity to show what he can do. If you give him just a few minutes you have little chance."

The result? Colombia has just broken its unbeaten record that had lasted three decades by going 28 straight games without a loss.

James is aiming for more. "The most important thing is still missing, which is to play that grand final," he said.

spot on medal podium at Olympics

Ryan Murphy longs to reclaim the top spot on the medal podium at the Paris Olympics

America's backstroke star was relegated to silver and bronze in his individual races at Tokyo a performance that still irks him just a bit.

"There's definitely no shortage of motivation from my end," said Murphy, who will be competing in the men's 100 and 200-meter back for the third Olympics in row. "I feel like I've always got a fire under my butt."

The 29-year-old Floridian, who trains at Cal-Berkeley, has been a worthy successor to the long run of backstroke success in the U.S.

Picking up giants such as John Nabor, Rick Carey, Lenny Krayzelburg, Aaron Peirsol and Matt Grevers, Murphy has left his own impressive mark.

to go ever harder.

impressive

of Light.

American male has won

backstroke medals over three

Summer Games, which is what

he hopes to achieve in the City

"I always feel more for the

veterans, especially people going for their third Olympics," said Grevers, who

competed in two Summer

Games but came up just short

in his next two attempts to

make the powerhouse U.S.

Team. "You have to be on your

game for a very long time, and

the pressure stacks each time."

While burnout and mental

issues have plagued some of

the world's top swimmers,

Murphy has managed to stay

on top of his game for nearly a

decade. In addition to six

At the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016, he swept the men's backstroke events and added a third gold as part of the 4x100 medley relay.

He followed up at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo

Games with a runner-up finish in the 200 and a third-place showing in the 100, to go along with another gold in the medley relay.

Murphy motivated to train harderTo win any medal at the Olympics is quite an achievement, but it wasn't good enough for the demanding Murphy.
Especially since the victories by

Russia's Evgeny Rylov in both backstroke events ended an impressive American streak. The U.S. Men had swept every 100 and 200 back going all the way back to the 1996 Atlanta Games - a total of 12 gold medals in a row.

"The world is getting faster,"



said Grevers, who came out of Olympic medals, he's won 17 retirement to compete just for medals, including seven golds, fun at this year's Olympic at long-course world championships and another 14 trials. "We won golds for a very long time, but the world has medals - nine of them gold - at kind of caught up to the U.S." the 25-meter worlds. "I try to be as consistent as

For Murphy, that pushes him possible every day." Murphy "I want to win every time I touch the water, whether that's a Monday morning practice or an Olympic finals," he said. said. "I think the biggest thing in a sport like swimming, where we kind of have few opportunities to race at this level, you have to pull motivation from a lot of different parts of your life." While Tokyo was a bit of a disappointment, and stirred up talk of doping within the sport by Russia and other countries, Some days in training, he's just Murphy's consistency over such a long period is impressive indeed. No

trying to get his hand to the wall faster than everyone else. Other days, he's concentrating on getting his technique as close to perfect as possible. Still others, he's fixated on sticking his routine.

Even now, after all these years, "I'm really motivated to try to improve," he said.

Where Murphy does his best work in the pool While it's not uncommon in swimming to bounce around from one coach to another, Murphy has maintained a more than decade-long partnership with Cal coach Dave Durden.

The biggest thing that you want as an athlete is to know that your coach is constantly thinking about how you can improve," Murphy said. "We want to work hard because we don't want to let Dave down.

He's the man. I've got a lot of love for Dave, and it's been a great ride.' Murphy does some of his best work on the starts and in the

His reaction time off the blocks is quicker than just about anyone else in the world. And his work underwater is a sight to behold.

Throughout the U.S. Olympic trials in Indianapolis, Murphy would go into the turn trailing another backstroker. Then, a powerful kick off the wall would send his body wiggling under the surface like a speedy dolphin. Inevitably, he would be ahead when he finally popped back up nearly halfway down the 50-meter pool.

Murphy was born in Chicago but his family moved to the Jacksonville, Florida area when he was just a youngster. While he spends much of his time these days on the West Coast, he maintains close ties to his adopted hometown of Ponte Vedra Beach, especially through his love of the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars.

He's already looking forward to the new season, with quarterback Trevor Lawrence who recently signed a longterm deal - looking to lead the Jaguars back to the playoffs after they just missed out a year ago. "They have some more tall weapons on offense, so we'll see how it goes," Murphy said. Of course, his primary focus remains at the pool, Murphy isn't sure how long he wants to compete, but he's not ready to ponder his legacy.
There's still races to win,

medals to collect.

"I've always thought that I'll appreciate my career a little bit more when I'm done swimming, and I can kind of zoom out," Murphy said. "For right now, I'm really zoomed in on everything I'm doing on a day-to-day basis.

Surprise, surprise! Unlikely Wimbledon contenders Krejcikova and Paolini meet in women's final

before Wimbledon.

So, yeah, she's pretty surprised to have reached the final at the All England Club on Saturday against No. 7 Jasmine Paolini, who is equally amazed to be

one step away from the title. Neither has played in a Wimbledon singles final before - Paolini was 0-3 at the grass-court major before this tournament started - and their meeting ensures there will be Wimbledon has seen seven women win the past seven singles titles, dating to when Serena Williams won her seventh in 2016.

"I have had many difficult periods. I never really imagined that ... I could reach

be a different player," said Krejcikova, who won the 2021 French Open for her only Grand Slam singles title. Both Krejcikova and Paolini

dropped their first set in the semifinals before fighting back to reach the final. Krejcikova, the No. 31 seed, ousted 2022 Wimbledon

champion Elena Rybakina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court after Paolini outlasted Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) in the longest Wimbledon women's semifinal on record.

For both winners, yet another new champion. momentum turned when they started playing more aggressively, which they'll likely need to do again on started

Saturday. The 28-year-old Krejcikova dropped her first three service games, though she also broke the hard-serving Rybakina After Melbourne Park, she

a Wimbledon final, that I can twice in the first set to at least give her something to build on as she mounted her comeback. Kreicikova likes to come to the net - she's won seven Grand Slam doubles titles, including two at Wimbledon - and after just one approach in the first set, she won 11 points on 14 trips forward.

"I felt that I had to maybe put a little bit more pressure on her. I was just looking first for some options. One of the options that I have is to serve and volley," she said.

Before the semifinal, Krejcikova acknowledged: "I didn't really expect to get this

She reached the quarterfinals of the Australian Open in January but was then slowed by a back injury and what she described as a series of



played only nine matches winning three - before coming to the All England Club. Two of the victories came at a grass-court tuneup

tournament at Birmingham. The 28-year-old Paolini, who is Italian and has family ties to Poland and Ghana, is the first woman representing Italy to reach the Wimbledon final in the Open era, which began in 1968.

She is also the first woman to get to the title matches at the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season since Williams in 2016.

"The finals, Paris and here these are things I didn't expect. It's all special," said Paolini, who lost to Iga Swiatek in the Roland Garros final.

After getting some rest, both Paolini and Krejcikova have plenty to work on. Krejcikova

committed six double-faults against Rybakina. Paolini wasted two match points before putting away Vekic and said afterward: "I was drowning, but I managed to swim.' The finalists have only faced

each other once before, back in Australian Open qualifying in 2018. Krejcikova won in straight sets but that surely won't factor into Saturday's final - neither woman even recalled the match. The 5-foot-4 (1.63-meter)

Paolini tries to control rallies with early strikes and frustrates opponents by seemingly getting to every spot on the court defensively. Emma Navarro, who eliminated Coco Gauff and Naomi Osaka before losing to Paolini in the quarterfinals, said the Italian was "on top of me from the very first point.

Young Indian stars look to translate dominance into series victory over Zimbabwe

PTI HARARE

ack to their collective best, a Back to their concerne best, a clutch of young Indian stars will be eager to usher in a new era in the shortest format with a series victory when they face Zimbabwe in the fourth T20I here on Saturday.

After an unexpected defeat in the first match, the Shubman Gill-led side rediscovered its mojo in the second and third games to take a 2-1 lead with comprehensive wins. Under the existing cricketing

landscape, a series win over Zimbabwe will not rank high in the pecking order, but it will certainly spark ambitions inside some young players who are keen to take the team forward post the retirement of some modern-day greats. None provide more compelling cases of that scenario than Washington Sundar and Abhishek Sharma.

Post the retirement of Ravindra Jadeja from T20Is, Washington is eyeing the spin-all-rounder slot and the Tamil Nadu man has shown some promising signs against Zimbabwe, taking six wickets at a fine economy of 4.5.

Whenever the selectors sit together to pick the Indian squad for the upcoming white-ball tour to Sri Lanka, they now will have to consider Washington's name seriously.

The 24-year-old has given this Indian side the option of a bowler flexible enough to operate inside and outside the Power Play, and a handy lower-order batter, who if the need arises, has the technique to come up the order as well.

Abhishek bludgeoned a 47-ball hundred in the second T20I here, underscoring the hope around him as a long-term India material.

India will no longer have the services of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the ultra-abridged version, and Yashasvi Jaiswal is the frontrunner to occupy one of those top-order slots. Abhishek will hope to further buttress his claim for the other vacant top-order spot, for which there are other strong contenders in Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad, with a bruising knock against the African side here on the morrow.

But this is not to say that some of the more established names such as



They linked with the squad here after taking part in India's victory parade in Mumbai post the T20 World Cup triumph, where they had limited or little role in that epochal run.

So, the remaining two matches of this series will be an opportunity for Dube and Samson to keep the meaningfully challenge this Indian unit, which is currently operating at one level higher. themselves in the front row of players who will carry India into the future, producing some valuable

Indian management will also be pleased by the outing of their bowlers, particularly that of legspinner Ravi Bishnoi, whose googlies were indecipherable for the home batters.

home batters.
Bishnoi has six wickets, numbers similar to Washington and pacer Avesh Khan, who proved a nippy customer in this series.

Mukesh Kumar might come in place for left-arm pacer Avesh Khan after getting a rest in the previous match, but the pacer, though he has taken four wickets, will certainly like to be more economical.

Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube have nothing to gain from this series. On other hand, Zimbabwe have slipped a few rungs below after beating India in the first match.

There have been lonely sparks in their line-up like searing spells by impressive pacer Blessing Muzarabani and a well-paced fifty

by Dion Myers.
But they need to harness them to

one level higher. TEAMS:

India: Shubman Gill (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Shivam Dube, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande. Zimbabwe: Sikandar Raza (c), Akram Faraz, Bennett Brian, Campbell Johnathan, Chatara Tendai, Jongwe Luke, Kaia Innocent, Madande Clive, Madhevere Wessly, Marumani Tadiwanashe, Masakadza Wellington, Mavuta Brandon, Muzarabani Blessing, Myers Dion, Naqvi Antum, Ngarava Richard,



India showed resilience to win T20 WC and celebrations told that story: Laxman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Batting great VVS Laxman hailed India's "resilience" while winning the recent T20 World Cup "from the jaws of defeat", and said the passionate celebration by players and former head coach Rahul Dravid exemplified the value of that triumph to them. India won their first ICC

trophy after 11 years and their second T20 title after 17 years when they beat South Africa by seven runs in the final in Barbados on June 29.

"The kind of finish we had after we were under pressure with South Africa batters needing 30 runs off 30 balls. And from there to show character, resilience and self-belief to pull off the match from the jaws of defeat, it shows the character of the entire team," Laxman said in a video posted by the BCCI on its 'X' handle.

"The amount of hard work they put in, the celebrations (by the players and support staff) told the bigger story

behind this victory."
The 49-year-old Laxman, who is currently heading the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, said the fervent celebrations by the team showed how much the victory meant to each of the players and the support staff.

"Obviously, it is a special feeling winning the World"

by Rohit and Virat Kohli to hand over the trophy to him (Dravid) and the way he

Cup. When you are playing against the best and win the trophy, it means a lot to all the players participating in the

tournament. "Everyone showed their emotions and it showed how much it meant to each and every player in the squad, as well as the support staff, the emotions were really high. You saw Hardik Pandya breaking down once he bowled the last delivery. You saw Rohit Sharma on the ground.

The entire country is rei this win. It was a special feeling keeping in mind we had come close (to winning the title) six months back (ODI World Cup). We should have won the World Cup, 50-over dominating the entire tournament but not being able entire to cross the final hurdle," he said. Laxman made a special mention of the expressive celebration of Dravid, who generally abhors public show of emotions.

"Someone like Rahul with whom I have played so much cricket, knew him for so many years, but for him to show that emotions, first when the last ball was bowled and then the various conversations he was having with the team members and when he lifted the trophy. "I thought it was a great gesture celebrated by lifting the trophy, it showed how much it meant to each one of them," said Laxman who paired with Dravid in a memorable Test win against Australia in Kolkata in 2001 when they stitched that famous 376-run partnership after following-on. Laxman, who has 8781 runs from 134 Tests at an average of 45.97, lauded captain Rohit, star batter Virat Kohli and allrounder Ravindra Iadeia for their contributions in the T20 format. The trio announced retirement from the T20Is after the T20 World Cup win.

'My message to these stalwarts of the game, Virat, Rohit and Ravindra Jadeja, an extremely talented player who has contributed immensely to the contributed immensely to the progress of the Indian team. Congratulations for the contributions you have made to this great game and set an example to the youngsters to follow. The passion and the pride with which they had played this game is exemplary.
"While they have retired from this format, I am sure they will continue to prepare the way they did so far in their career and continue to bring laurels to

the country. "Big congratulations for an excellent T20 career and I am sure they will continue to contribute in the longer version of the game and in the

We are very greedy to win every game: Harmanpreet ahead of women's Asia Cup

rndian women's team is entering every Imatch with an unquenchable thirst for victory and there will be no deviation from that set path during the highly-anticipated Asia Cup match against Pakistan later this month, reckoned captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

The Indian women are high on confidence after beating South Africa in a three-match ODI series and in the one-off Test while drawing the T20I series 1-1 recently at home.

"The kind of approach we have right now, every day whenever we are going to play the matches, we are giving equal importance to all matches," Kaur told Star Sports.

"We all are very greedy to win every game, and that is something we feel should be in a team, and this is what everyone in the team is feeling," she

India's next assignment is the Women's Asia Cup, set to begin on July 19 in Sri Lanka, with Kaur and Co. Opening



their campaign against familiar foes Pakistan at Dambulla.

Kaur said it is her responsibility as a leader to calm her team's nerves during such pressure games.

"When you play against Pakistan, there is a different atmosphere in both the countries. Both the countries want their team to win.

"As a player, there is a lot of pressure for us. But as a leader, it is my responsibility

to make my team feel light in that environment, so that they don't think that we are playing against Pakistan or it's a pressure game," she said. India-Pakistan rivalry is one of the

most sought after be it in men's or women's game. But for Kaur, it is imperative for her side to forget the outside noise and treat the match as any

other game.
"It will be important for me to make

everyone feel that this is also just another game. We have to do well for the team and make the team win.

"Other than thinking about what is going on in the stadium, who are the other people cheering for? Who are they talking about? Just focus on the main things. Don't think about the things that we can't control," she added. Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the team is enthusiastic about its chances at the Women's Asia

Cup.
"The enthusiasm is really high, and that's always been the scene. It's a nice feeling, but more than that, it's very inspiring to know that every time we walk out on the field, we know we have the support of every single person backing us.
"It's just about how well we prepare

rather than thinking too much ahead of ourselves. About the results, it's always about preparation.

"We know if we prepare well, we are going to go out there and do well," she added.

Sable says he can wir

India's top 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable does not want to be just a participant at the Olympics and believes he can a win a medal at the Paris Games beginning later this month. The 29-year-old Sable, who recently broke his own national record, will be competing in his second Olympics. He had failed to make it to the finals at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"I don't want to just participate, I believe I can win a medal. I am working hard with my eyes set on that goal, if everything falls into place I win a medal," Sable said when asked about

the Paris Olympics.
"I used to think Olympic medallists had a unique and difficult approach to training, but my experiences over the past two years have boosted my confidence," he said in a



JioCinema release.

Sable had clocked 8 minutes and 9.91 seconds to break his earlier national record while finishing sixth at the Paris Diamond League earlier this month. At the Paris Olympics, he will face at least seven competitors who have run at better time than him this year. The likes of legendary Indian athletes like Milkha Singh, Sriram Singh and PT Usha have inspired Sable to aim for an Olympic medal.

"Their performances at the world level have deeply inspired me. If my role models

can excel globally, so can I. I've own progress rather than others. My competition is with my timing," he said. "My goal has always been self-

improvement rather than focusing on the competition. This mindset has allowed me to break the national record ten times," said the reigning Asian Games gold medallist. He said his silver medal winning performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games gave him the confidence that he can compete against the best in the world.

at "Mv aim Commonwealth Games was to compete against the Kenvan athletes. Finishing second by a fraction of a second gave me the confidence that we can compete against the best in the world," said Sable, who had Kenyan broken medal monopoly in steeplechase in the CWG.



704 wickets and out: England great Jimmy Anderson bows out of test cricket in win over West Indies

Tt's 704 wickets and out for Jimmy Anderson.
The most prolific fast bowler in test history bowed out of international cricket by helping England complete a win by an innings and 114 runs over the West Indies at

Lord's on Friday.
The 41-year-old Anderson's 188th and last test ended with him taking 3-32 in the West Indies' second innings as they were dismissed for 136 a little over an hour into the third day's play.

One of those wickets came on Friday, with Anderson enticing an edge behind off Joshua Da Silva with a delivery that seamed away. It was classic Anderson - unlike caught-and-bowled chance he dropped off Gudakesh Motie with England needing just one more wicket for victory. He fell to his knees and

covered his face with his hand.

a standing ovation after Gus Atkinson took the final wicket. The morning had started with

field at the home of cricket to

Anderson, who doesn't like being the center of attention, looking emotional after being given a guard of honor from both teams - and a first standing ovation from the crowd - when he came out at the start of the day's play. Atkinson, who represents the

future of English pace bowling, took two of the wickets after the Windies resumed on 79-6 - still 171 runs adrift of making England batting again - and had match figures of 12-106. He became the first England bowler to get a 10-wicket haul in a test at home since Alec Bedser in 1946.

Anderson finished his test career four wickets behind the late Australia legspinner Shane Warne's tally of 708 wickets. Only one bowler has more than them: former Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Soon, he was walking off the Muralitharan with 800.

Indian hockey defender Jarmanpreet, who once served doping ban, geared up for Olympics debut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A frustrating doping ban jolted Jarmanpreet Singh's career in 2016, but he has long forgotten that bitter episode and the defender is all geared up for his Olympics debut in Paris later this month.

Jarmanpreet, a regular member of the Indian hockey team in the last few years, was picked in the 16-member Indian team for the Paris Games.

"It was not easy. It was one of my darkest phases, with many uncertainties," said Jarmanpreet on the doping ban from 2016 to 2018. "Players don't usually emerge

from a setback like this. To sit out of matches for two years is a big gap in the sport," he

Jarmanpreet was then a promising player on his way to playing for India at the Junior World Cup 2016 when he was slapped with the doping ban.

The Punjab player did not give up and served out the two-year period in exile before making a return to competitive hockey and then to the Indian senior team. "But I was persistent and I

knew I had to bounce back. I don't think I could have done the selectors that I still had it in a Hockey India release. in me," said Jarmanpreet, who this without a strong domestic structure where I could show

"In 2018, after the Hockey is now an Income Tax officer, India Senior Men National

Championship, I was among team that won a gold medal at the 50 probables in the camp. the Hangzhou Asian Games Hockey India gave me a chance to rebuild my career. I was selected for the national programme for senior men where I was given an opportunity to catch up with my peers and make my senior India debut. "They saw that potential in me

and I didn't give up on my dream to play for India at the Olympic Games," he noted. The 27-year-old has played in 98 international matches since making his India debut at the 2018 Champions Trophy in Breda, the Netherlands, where India won the silver medal. He was a part of the Indian

in 2023 and silver-winning squad at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Now in Switzerland where the Indian team is going through

a mental conditioning camp, Jarmanpreet is excited and eager to experience his first outing in the Olympics. "The journey so far with this team has been incredible. We have gone through the highs

and lows as one strong unit. Now, we are focused on our goal and we are in the last block of our preparations. "I am super excited and eager to start our campaign at the Paris Olympics," he said.

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