



WORLD 5
NEPAL NAMES 8
NEW ENVOYS

MONEY 6
GOVT BUYS 71,000
TONNES OF ONION

SPORT 7
NAGAL CONFIRMS HIS PARIS
OLYMPICS QUALIFICATION

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₹1 cr fine, up to 10-yr jail for paper leak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Amid the raging row over the entrance cum employment exams paper leaks, including the latest NEET, NET and CSIR, the Centre on Friday operationalised the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations and entails provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to ₹one crore for offenders.

The Bill received the President's assent on February 13, but was enforced only on Friday. Besides Ministry of Education on Saturday constituted a high-level committee of experts led by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The seven-member committee will make recommendations on reforms in the mechanism of the examination process, improvement in data security protocols and the structure and functioning of the NTA, the Department of Higher Education in the ministry said.

It said the committee will submit its report to the Ministry within two months. Central University of Hyderabad Vice-Chancellor



Activists under the banner of Yuva Shakti stage a protest over the alleged irregularities in NEET 2024 results and UGC-NET 2024 exam cancellation, in Patna, on Saturday PTI Photo

Professor B J Rao and former director of AIIMS Delhi Randeep Guleria are on the panel. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge termed the enforcement of the anti-paper leak law a "whitewash" and asserted that the BJP cannot evade its responsibility in "promoting corruption and education mafia". Several Opposition political parties and student associations, including the Congress, have held protests across the country over alleged irregularities in medical entrance exam NEET-UG and the UGC-NET. "More important are laws, systems, processes, and procedures to ensure that leaks don't happen in the first place," said Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh. The National Testing Agency, which conducts the competitive exams, on Friday announced the postponement of the June edition of the Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test, citing unavoidable circumstances and logistic issues.

It came two days after the agency cancelled the UGC-NET examination within 24 hours of its conduct saying the integrity of the exam had been compromised, and a massive row on NEET over alleged irregularities, with the issue now before the Supreme Court.

Bihar Police to verify seized NEET papers

PNS/AGENCIES ■
PATNA/NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Unit of Bihar Police has obtained NEET reference question papers to compare these with documents recovered during a search operation last month from a flat here and is also exploring the "possibility of conducting narco analysis and brain mapping tests" of accused in the case, sources said on Saturday.

They also indicated that the Enforcement Directorate might investigate the money laundering aspect of the

alleged irregularities in the medical entrance examination -the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET, conducted by the National Testing Agency in May. "We had requested the NTA for the reference question papers after we began the probe last month. Finally, they did the needful. We will tally these papers with partially burnt papers seized from a Patna flat last month. This exercise is likely to be done before a forensic examination of such documents," an EOU source said.

Top officials of the EOU are likely to visit Delhi on Saturday to "discuss certain aspects of the ongoing probe with the senior officials of the Union Education Ministry and other concerned wings", he said. "Based on EOU's FIR, the Enforcement Directorate may probe into the matter under several sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Central agency is expected to identify proceeds of crime and initiate proceedings to attach properties belonging to the accused or suspects," said another source of the Economic Offences Unit.

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Politics over water heats up as Delhi LG slams AAP Govt

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhiites suffer acute water crisis and political parties indulge in slugfest over the issue, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday expressed "anguish" and accused the Aam Aadmi Party-led Government and its Ministers of turning the water crisis into an 'opportunity' to blame neighbouring States. "The shrill discourse of the Ministers of the GNCTD over the last few weeks, has been distressing and questionable at various levels.

"Drinking water supply has become a challenge in the national Capital. Political leaders of Delhi have turned a crisis into an opportunity for blaming neighbouring States, with the sole aim of gaining political mileage," said Saxena, adding even as Haryana and the Delhi Jal Board itself reiterated day after day that all treatment plants were producing water, beyond their installed capacity, the AAP Government moved the SC against Haryana on May 30, 2024, only to be snubbed again with an advice by the court to request for Haryana's help.

Making these assertions, Saxena said drinking water supply has become a



Residents collect drinking water from a tanker amid ongoing Delhi water crisis at Vivekananda Camp, Chanakyapuri, in New Delhi PTI File Photo

challenge in the national Capital in the backdrop of a searing heat wave, which has gripped northern India. The States are obliged to release water as per agreements signed under this framework, he said in a statement on water crisis. "At the same time, the city Government is under an obligation to ensure that this water resource is used efficiently to ensure equitable supplies across the city. "Unfortunately, neither has the city Government, demonstrated seriousness in ensuring improvement in water networks and augmentation of capacity, nor has it chosen a path of dialogue," the LG said. The Lieutenant-Governor's

statement comes amid a heated war of words between the Governments of Delhi and Haryana over the acute water crisis in the Capital. Delhi Water Minister Atishi is on indefinite fast to press the demand for additional water from the BJP ruled State Haryana. Atishi has claimed Haryana was releasing 100 MGD less water in Yamuna for Delhi since last two weeks, affecting 28 lakh people in the city. The LG said the AAP Government resorts to litigation against him as well as the Central Government and other States and even its own departments. Nearly 20 such cases have been filed by the AAP Government in HC and SC.

Focus on boosting India, Bangladesh economy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Saturday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Sheikh Hasina. They agreed to start negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement and prepared a futuristic vision for boosting overall relations. Hasina is the first foreign dignitary to pay official visit to New Delhi since Modi assumed charge for the first time earlier this month. She was among the seven top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and the Union Council of Ministers on June 9.

Addressing a joint news conference with his Bangladeshi counterpart after talks at Hyderabad House, Modi announced that India will commence an e-medical visa facility to facilitate Bangladeshis seeking medical treatment to come to India. He also said both countries have agreed to open a new Assistant High Commission in Rangpur for the "convenience of the people of the North West region of Bangladesh." Modi said the two countries are focusing on connectivity, commerce and collaboration. He said the two nations will enhance focus on digital and energy connectivity to spur their economies. Hasina said India is Bangladesh's major neighbour and trusted



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina before a meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

friend. "Bangladesh greatly values its relations with India," she said and invited Modi to visit her country. "Come to Bangladesh to witness what all we have done and plan to do," she said. Modi said after parleys with Hasina they discussed furthering defence ties, defence production, cooperation on counter-terrorism, management of the border and other issues, in their bilateral talks in New Delhi. He said the neighbouring country is situated at the confluence of New Delhi's Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, Vision Sagar and Indo-Pacific Vision. "To further strengthen our defence ties, we had detailed discussions from defence production to modernisation of armed forces. We have decided to strengthen our

cooperation over counter-terrorism, fundamentalism and peaceful management of the border. "Our vision for the Indian Ocean Region is the same. We welcome Bangladesh's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. We will continue our cooperation at BIMSTEC and other regional and international forums," Modi said. He further said the two countries have together completed many important projects for public welfare. "Trade in Indian rupees has started between the two countries. The world's longest river cruise on the Ganga river between India and Bangladesh has been successfully completed. The first cross-border friendship pipeline between India and Bangladesh has been completed.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the first Session of the 18th Lok Sabha, the NDA and the INDIA Bloc sparred on the issue of Pro-tem Speaker with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accusing the Congress of resorting to lies and the Opposition threatening to refuse to join the panel of chairpersons in the House. President Droupadi Murmu had appointed BJP leader and seven-term member Bhartruhari Mahtab as the Pro-tem Speaker of the Lok Sabha who is tasked with administering the oath and affirmation to the newly-elected members of the Lower House and presiding over the election of the Speaker.

The President had also named five senior members — K Suresh (Congress), T R Baalu (DMK), Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste (both BJP) and Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC) to assist Mahtab in the process that will take place over the first three days of the Lok Sabha Session commencing on June 24.

Congress has alleged that the Government has violated procedures and conventions and ignored the claim of eight-term member Suresh to the post of the Pro-tem Speaker, a claim dismissed as "misleading" by Rijiju. On Saturday, Opposition sources said Suresh, Baalu



Inside view of the new Parliament House

File photo

and Bandyopadhyay may not join the panel of chairpersons to assist Pro-tem Speaker Mahtab in administering the oath to the newly-elected members of the Lok Sabha. Rijiju had asserted that Mahtab was the senior-most in the House as he was elected for seven uninterrupted terms to the Lok Sabha, while Suresh, though a eight-term member, was not a member in 1998 and 2004. Suresh had said his claim to the post of Pro-tem speaker was overlooked as he belonged to the Dalit community, remarks that were scoffed at by Rijiju. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said the Congress had deliberately insulted a "tribal" Parliamentary Affairs Minister by lying on the issue of Pro-tem speaker.

"Congress has always insulted tribals. They called Droupadi Murmu Rashtrapatni and they even abused her," Poonawala said. Rijiju said he may be the first tribal to occupy the post of Parliamentary Affairs Minister but he won't be intimidated by the threats and lies of Congress party. "I will be bound by rules and will strictly follow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'," he said. Earlier, Congress leader K C Venugopal had described the overlooking of Suresh's claim to the Pro-tem Speaker post as an attempt at "destroying parliamentary norms". "I have said this before and say this now, the battle for saving our democracy and Constitution isn't over yet," Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray said in a social media post.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chief priest of Ram temple consecration ceremony dies

Varanasi (UP): Acharya Laxmikant Dixit, the chief priest who had performed the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, died Saturday morning. Family members said Dixit, 86, was not well for the last few days. His last rites will be conducted at Manikarnika Ghat. Lord Ram's idol was consecrated at the Ayodhya temple on January 22 in an event led by Prime Minister Modi. Counted among the senior scholars of Varanasi, Dixit was a native of Solapur district of Maharashtra but his family has been living in Varanasi for several generations.



CNG price in Delhi, adjoining cities hiked by ₹1 per kg

New Delhi: CNG price in Delhi and adjoining cities was on Saturday hiked by Re 1 per kg following a drop in the supply of subsidised input natural gas. Indraprastha Gas Ltd, the firm that retails CNG automobiles and piped cooking gas to households in Delhi and adjoining cities, announced the hike in rates on its website. In New Delhi, CNG will now cost Rs 75.09 per kg, up from the previous rate of Rs 74.09. In Noida, Greater Noida, and Ghaziabad, the price has increased to Rs 79.70 per kg from Rs 78.70 per kg. There, however, was no change in piped cooking gas prices. IGL did not give reasons for the increase.

Immigration process fast-tracked at IGIA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme' (FTI-TTP) at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on Friday.

The Delhi airport has become the first in the country to launch the FTI-TTP for Indian passport holders and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders. This first facility in India aims to significantly reduce congestion at airports by offering expedited immigration clearance for pre-



verified travelers, both arriving and departing. The programme is a step towards modernising India's immigration system and improving travel efficiency for Indian citizens and OCI cardholders.

Detailed report on Page 4

UAPA tribunal upholds ban on J&K-based anti-India outfits

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal on Saturday upheld the orders passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs declaring Jammu and Kashmir-based organisations Muslim League (Masrat Alam faction) and Tehreek-E-Huriyat as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). These organisations had been formed by late Kashmiri-separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani. The Muslim League Jammu Kashmir was formally banned for five years by

Union Ministry of Home Affairs on December 27, 2023, for alleged involvement in anti-national and secessionist activities in the region while, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) was outlawed for five years on December 31, 2023 for fomenting terrorism and spreading anti-India propaganda in Jammu and Kashmir. In last five years, the Centre has banned 10 separatist groups in Jammu and Kashmir under the UAPA. The one-member tribunal of Delhi High Court judge Sachin Datta was constituted under the stringent anti-terror law in January to assess whether there was



"sufficient cause" behind the imposition of the ban. The tribunal upheld the Central Government's ban

on these organisations and extended it to continue to hold force for next five years. The Tribunal also upheld the

Central Government's contention that these organisation were acting on behalf of Pakistan-based terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) of Hafiz Sayeed, Jamaat-ud-Dawa of Iftikhar Hyder Rana and Hizbul Mujahideen of Syed Salahuddin and were given constant on-ground support by such terrorist groups to carry out militant operation in the valley. Upholding the ban, the Tribunal held the two organisations were carrying out secessionist activities in the valley with help from across the border to realise the merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan and

establish Islamic rule in the Union Territory. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and advocate Rajat Nair represented the Government before the tribunal. The Union Home Ministry, while imposing the ban, had said the leaders and members of TeH have been involved in raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organisations, for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities and sustained stone-pelting on the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

Metro train operation will start between Indore-Ujjain: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that according to the need of a new traffic plan for the big cities of the state, the state government is going to take important steps. The most important step in this direction includes the decision to operate the metro train between Indore and Ujjain, which will also be useful in terms of transportation facilities for the devotees in Simhastha 2028.

The report of the feasibility survey related to running the metro between Indore-Ujjain has been received. In the coming time, the Vande Metro facility from Indore Airport to Mahakal Temple will be an important gift for the people of the state and the tourists and devotees coming from India

and abroad. Different cities will be able to connect in a better way. Information given in review meeting that the work of preparing the metro line from AIIMS to Karond intersection in Bhopal with a total length of 16.74 kilometers will be completed in three phases. The first phase is seven kilometers, which includes 8 stations (elevated). On the progress of Indore Metro, it was informed that work is being done on a total of 31.32 kilometers. A total of 28 stations will be built in Indore. Yadav, after reviewing the progress of the metro project of Bhopal and Indore in a meeting held at Samatva Bhawan located in the Chief Minister's residence office on Saturday, said that for easy transportation, big cities of the state like Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior,

Jabalpur and Ujjain along with the metro, Vande Metro, ropeway, electric-bus and cable-car will be used. Given the upcoming requirements, necessary arrangements will be made by taking the local public representatives into confidence. On the use of transport options, necessary decisions will also be considered and taken for the Ujjain to Omkareshwar route, Bhopal to Indore, Jabalpur to Gwalior. Yadav said that as per a recent discussion with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, it has been agreed upon to run the Vande Metro in place of the old metro for various cities in Madhya Pradesh. Vande Metro Circle Train will be a great gift for the citizens. In cities where traffic pressure is increasing, it has been agreed to start the facility of circle trains for inte-

grated planning of metro train operations. The Chief Minister also had discussions with the Railway Minister regarding the operation of Vande Metro, which runs faster than the metro train, the use of modern technology, and benefiting industrial areas like Pithampur-Dewas. Regarding the use of narrow-gauge and other rail lines available in some cities of the state, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that its survey and study should be completed so that the rail tracks that are currently not in use can be used. Urban Development and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing Smt. Pratima Bagri, Chief Secretary Smt. Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajesh Rajoura,

Principal Secretary of Chief Minister's Office Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Principal Secretary Urban Development and House Neeraj Mandloi and officials of Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited were present. Metro train operation in Bhopal has also been tested in October. A total of 16 stations will be built in the Orange Line, of which 14 will be elevated and 02 will be underground. In the second phase, a total of 14 elevated stations will be built from the Bhadbhada intersection to Ratnagiri Tiraha length of 14.21 km (Blue Line). The third phase includes work of 9.74 kilometers from Subhash Nagar to Karond intersection. Subhash Nagar has a joint metro rail depot and Pul Bogda, an interchange station between the two lines.



Newly elected BJP MP from Chandani Chowk constituency New Delhi and All India General Secretary of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Praveen Khandelwal being felicitated by the traders during a CAIT conference of MP chapter in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Man booked for sexually asalting divorced woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chola Mandir police have booked a man for sexually assaulting a divorced woman. The accused develop relationship in the name of help. After this, he made relations with the woman by promising marriage. Recently, when the woman started pressurizing him for marriage, the young man refused to marry her. The woman reached Chola Mandir police station on Friday night and complained about the matter. The police have started investigation after registering a rape case. According to information received from the police, the 32-year-old woman lives in Chola Mandir police station area. About five years ago, she was having a tiff with her husband. Her husband used to beat her. After this, she divorced her husband and started living alone.



During this time, she came in contact with a young man named Mahendra Chaurasia, who lives in the same area. When the two started talking, the woman also started sharing her family's personal matters with Mahendra. **The accused had instigated her for divorce** When she told Mahendra about her tiff with her husband, the young man assured her of help. After this, he helped and grew closer to her. The young man

started convincing the woman that you should divorce your husband, I will marry you. Believing the words of the young man, the woman divorced her husband. After this, the young man started raping the woman and sexually exploiting her. He took the woman to Indore. He continued to have physical relations with her even while living together here. Recently, the woman and the young man came back to Bhopal. Here, when the woman pressured the young man to marry her, he first avoided it and later refused to marry her. The woman reached Chola Mandir police station on Friday and complained about the matter. The police have registered a case of rape and started investigation.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Three new facilities were inaugurated on Saturday at AIIMS Bhopal by Apurva Chandra, Secretary Health, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in presence of Dr. Jaideep Mishra (ICAS), Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhopal:- Centre of Excellence for Rare Diseases, AIIMS Bhopal, In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Skill Lab, Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization-Time of Flight mass spectrophotometry (MALDI-TOF MS). With the starting of these facilities, AIIMS Bhopal has not only further expanded the scope of services that are being provided at the institute, but also reiterated its strong commitment to

providing exemplary healthcare to the people of the region. A brief description of these facilities is as under: Centre of Excellence for Rare Diseases: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recognized AIIMS Bhopal as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Rare Diseases, marking a significant milestone for healthcare in Central India. AIIMS Bhopal is the first such centre in Central India, dedicated to the comprehensive diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of rare diseases. MoHFW has sanctioned a grant of ₹3 crore for the procurement of drugs for rare diseases and ₹5 crore for the purchase of medical equipment. The CoE for Rare Diseases at AIIMS Bhopal aims to address the critical need for specialized healthcare facilities in Central India, particularly for genetic disorders prevalent in the region, such as sickle cell disease, tha-

lassemia, and muscular dystrophy. With approximately 20% of the local population being tribal, there is a significant burden of these genetic disorders. The centre will target various beneficiaries, including pregnant women, newborns, and individuals suffering from rare disorders, providing screening for approximately 10,000 individuals per year and diagnosis and management for around 1,000 patients annually. The centre will carry out the teaching and training of medical personnel and patients to increase awareness about these disorders, leading to screening, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of rare disorders. In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Skill Lab: The IVF Treatment Facility is expected to start very soon at AIIMS Bhopal, making it the first government facility offering IVF treatment in the state. The IVF Skill Lab is a training facility with

several high-fidelity digital simulators that enable doctors to practice the various procedures required for infertility treatment and IVF, such as hysteroscopy, Ovum pick-up and Embryo Transfer as part of IVF training. These simulators are based on modern digital & AI technology and incorporate a wide variety of procedures and cases with varying difficulty levels for the trainees. This allows the doctors to practice the procedures several times safely on the simulator before performing on real patients. This is a very important aspect towards ensuring patient safety. Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization-Time of Flight Mass Spectrophotometry (MALDI-TOF MS): MALDI-TOF MS has emerged as a potential tool for microbial identification and diagnosis. It can identify pathogens, including rare microbes, within 15-30 min-

utes, in comparison to 18-24 hours with other automated systems. AIIMS Bhopal has procured this machine at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore. The recurring expenditure of this machine is also less than one eighth (1/8) of other automated identification systems. Hence, this equipment is hugely beneficial in providing treatment with a much shorter turnaround time and a lesser cost to patients suffering from infections. Visit to the 3 D Bioprinter Facility: After the inauguration of the various facilities, and a round of the AIIMS Hospital, the dignitaries and delegation of officials from MoHFW (GOI), visited the recently established 3-D Bioprinter facility at the Tissue Engineering Facility in the Department of Translational Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal, supported by Vardhman Group under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.



India's first trending transgender model Khushi Shaikh with her fans during a beauticians workshop at Manas Bhawan in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Santosh Chaubey to be honoured with prestigious Shatabdi Samman-2023

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Bharat Hindi Sahitya Samiti's prestigious 'Shatabdi Samman-2023' will be conferred on Santosh Chaubey, senior poet-storyteller, Director, Vishwa Rang and Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal. Chaubey will be honoured with the 'Prestigious Shatabdi Samman-2023' in a grand and dignified ceremony to be organized soon by Shri Madhya Bharat Hindi Sahitya Samiti. On this occasion, an honor fund of one lakh rupees and a certificate will be awarded. Chaubey, active in the field of literature, art, culture, education, technology and skill development for five decades, has established a distinct identity at the national and international level with his tireless creative efforts. Shri Santosh Chaubey ji, selected for the Indian Engineering Service and Indian Administrative Service, is currently the Director of 'Vishwa Rang' Festival, Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University and Dr. C.V. Raman University and is the President of ISECT Network, State



Resource Center, Vanmali Srijan Peeth and Tagore International Literature and Art Center. It is noteworthy that Chaubey is continuously active at national and international level through various literary and cultural activities along with writing for the global dissemination of Hindi literature language. Along with this, he is also continuously making important contributions in the field of science, technology and skill development. In the last fifty years, he has established a network of more than forty thousand training and service centers across India, which, apart from providing employment to thousands of people, is participating in important schemes like Digital India, Skill India, Startup India.

Ret govt employee cheated at ATM booth

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A retired government employee was duped by a miscreant at an ATM booth in Piplani area of Bhopal. The accused changed the ATM card in the name of help and withdrew Rs 40,000 from the man. The police have registered a case against the unknown and started investigation. According to the Piplani police station, the complainant Subhash Chandra Yadav is a resident of Patel Nagar. He is a retired government employee. On April 22, Subhash Chandra Yadav went to withdraw money at the ATM booth located in front of Anand Nagar Chowki. When he was trying to withdraw money from the ATM, the money was not coming out at once. He tried several times but was unable to withdraw money. Meanwhile, a young man standing at the booth came near him to help him. The young man took his ATM card and inserted it. But, this time also the money did not come out. Meanwhile, the young man changed the card and gave another card to Subhash Chandra. Subhash Chandra went out with the card.

MCTE Mhow confers engineering degrees to 16 officers from TES-41

PNS ■ MHOW

Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), held its convocation ceremony on Saturday to confer Engineering Degrees to 16 officers from the passing out course of Technical Entry Scheme (TES-41) including one officer from friendly foreign country. The officers were admitted to the Fraternity of Engineers by Lieutenant General KH Gawas, Param Vishist Seva Medal, Vishist Seva Medal, Commandant MCTE & Colonel Commandant Corps of Signals. All graduating officers took the pledge under Brigadier Ashish Chhibbar, BGS & Deputy Chief Instructor, MCTE for their commitment of their acquired knowledge to enhance professional effectiveness in discharge of their duties. Prof (Dr) P Hanumantha Rao, Director General, SAMEER was the chief guest for the ceremony. In his address to the passing out officers, Prof (Dr) P Hanumantha Rao complimented the graduating offi-

Prof (Dr) P Hanumantha Rao, Director General, SAMEER was the chief guest for the ceremony. In his address to the passing out officers

cers for their sustained hard-work, application and performance. He stressed upon the importance of critical role of communications in today's network centric warfare and exhorted them to be a step ahead of anticipated challenges. < Prof (Dr) P Hanumantha Rao appreciated the commitment of instructional staff for their relentless pursuit in conducting the courses in a professional manner thereby imparting high quality education in the field of Information and Communication Technology. Signal Officer in Chief (SO-in-C) trophy and Gold medal for the Best Student officer of TES-41 course was won by Lieutenant Jatin Sharma.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with members of the private hospital and nursing home association Ujjain, in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

CM for high-level probe in cow slaughter in Seoni

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has given instructions for a high-level investigation into the cow slaughter in Seoni. He said that no crime against Gaumata will be tolerated in Madhya Pradesh. He has also asked the senior administrative and police officers of Jabalpur division to keep an eye on the entire matter.

In line with the instructions of CM Additional Director General of Police (CID) Shri Pawan Srivastava and the team are reaching the field. 5 accused of cow slaughter have been arrested. Action has been taken against two accused under the NSA. Along with this, strict action is being taken against every accused found involved in this incident. Meanwhile, office-bearers of the Private Hospital and Nursing

Home Association, Ujjain paid a courtesy call on CM today at Samatva Bhawan, Chief Minister's residence. The officials of the association presented angavastram to Chief Minister Dr. Yadav. Those present included Dr. Rajendra Bansal, Dr. Katayan Mishra, Dr. Sushil Gupta, Dr. Mahendra Patidar, Dr. Harsh Mangal, Dr. Rupesh, Dr. Shripad, Dr. Mayank and Dr. Hemant, etc.

CM to pay homage at Veerangana Rani Durgavati’s samadhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that the bravehearts who sacrifices their lives during the freedom movement will always be respected by society. It is necessary to make today's generation aware of their sacrifices. Along with the programme being organized in Jabalpur on the Balidan Divas of Rani Durgavati on 24th June, various events should also be organized on her birth anniversary on 5th October. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was reviewing the preparations for the programme to be held in Jabalpur on June 24 from Samatva Bhawan on Saturday through video conferencing.



Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was informed about the preparations for the programme by Tribal Affairs Minister Dr. Vijay Shah and Collector Jabalpur. **CM Yadav to take part in Balidan Divas programme**

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav along with other public representatives and citizens will participate in the programme being organized at Narrai Nala, Jabalpur on 24th June, on the Balidan Divas of Veerangana Rani Durgavati. Rani

Durgavati will be honoured at her Samadhi. A dance drama based on the life of Rani Durgavati will be presented by the Culture Department at the Veterinary College, Jabalpur in another programme on the occasion. A photo exhibition will also be organized by Swaraj Sansthan. **Programmes me will be held every month under the 500th birth centenary celebrations of Rani Durgavati** It was informed in the meeting that this is the 500th birth centenary of Rani Durgavati. On the occasion of her Panch-Shatabdi birth anniversary, essays, quizzes as well as cultural programmes will be organized in schools located in tribal-dominated districts of the state on 5th October.

Various programmes me will also be held at the district panchayat level. Programmes will be held in Chhindwara in July, Shahdol in August, and Mandla in September. The main programme will be held in Jabalpur on October<05, in which many dignitaries will participate. Along with Madhya Pradesh, Shaurya Yatra from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh will reach Jabalpur. Chief Secretary Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajoura, Principal Secretary of Chief Minister's Office Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Tribal Affairs Department Dr. E. Ramesh Kumar, and other officers were present.

Last date for bids of prime commercial space is June 25

New Delhi: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has said the last date to submit bids for licence of prime commercial spaces at Sahibabad, Guldhar and Duhai is June 25. In a statement, the NCRTC said leading banks, developers, and retail giants have shown interest in these land parcels at these Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) stations. Pre-bid meetings drew participation from prominent names in the Indian business landscape, including HDFC Bank, Unity Group, Singla Sweets, Reveria Buildcon, and Manju

Gaur and Associates. This strong industry interest signifies the immense potential of these commercial spaces within the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) network, the statement said. Namo Bharat trains, that serve the RRTS route, have seen a steady rise in ridership since their inauguration in October 2023 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the agency said. These state-of-the-art stations, expected to serve an ever-growing passenger base, present ideal opportunities for retail outlets like restaurants,

QSR chains, apparel brands, and banking facilities to cater to the high expected traffic, it said. At the Sahibabad RRTS station, a built-up area spanning approximately 165 square metres in the entry/exit block adjacent to the Vasundhara and Sahibabad Industrial area is open for bidding. This strategically located space, on Madan Mohan Malviya road, offers an excellent opportunity for business establishments such as banks, offices, and restaurants/food and beverages outlets, the statement said.

इंडियन बैंक	Indian Bank	Koluakalan Branch Bhopal	E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
इलाहाबाद	ALLAHABAD		
Appendix-IV-A [See provisio to rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rules 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) & guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor/ of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Koluakalan Branch , the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on date mentioned below for recovery of bank dues (amount mentioned below) to the Indian Bank, secured creditors From below Mentioned borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) & guarantor (s)			
Name of the Branch / Borrower / Guarantors/ Mortgager	Description of Secured Assets (Moveable/Immovable Properties)	Demand Notice Date Possession Date Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price EMD Bid Incremental Amount
Name of EMD A/c & No. : AUTHORISED OFFICER INDIAN BANK A/c No. 818659668, IFSC : IDIB000B022			
Borrower: M/s Subhadra Poly Packs (Proprietorship firm) Prop. Shri Roop Singh Dangl S/o Toran Singh Dangl, Mr. Roop Singh Dangl S/o Toran Singh Dangl (Proprietor/Guarantor/ Mortgagor) Mrs. Shimla Dangl W/o Shri Roop Singh Dangl (Guarantor) Mr. Toran Singh Dangl S/o Late Shri Mohar Singh Dangl (Guarantor/Mortgagor)	(Property ID : IDIB10205580518) All that part and parcel of the property consisting (Plot & Construction) of 1. Kh. No 96, PH No 6, Village Lambakheda, Berasia Road, Ward No 79, Tehsil Huzur, Bhopal M.P. admeasuring 2400 Sq. Ft. in the name of Shri Roop Singh Dangl S/o Shri Toran Singh Dangl. Bounded By: East: Plot of Virendra Singh, West: Road, North : Plot of Shri Veer Singh, South: Others Plot	29.07.2022 10.10.2022 ₹ 1,88,55,000/- + further Interest & other Charges w.e.f. 18.06.2024	₹ 50,00,000/- ₹ 5,00,000/- ₹ 10,000/-
Borrower: M/s Veer Industries (Proprietorship firm) Prop. Mr. Mahendra Singh Thakur S/o Shri Toran Singh Dangl Mr.Mahendra Singh Thakur S/o Shri Toran Singh Dangl (Borrower/ Mortgagor) Mrs.Vijaya Dangl W/o Shri Mahendra Singh Thakur (Co-Borrower in home loan/Guarantor/Mortgagor), Mr. Brij Mohan Dangl S/o Shri Toran Singh Dangl (Guarantor/Mortgagor)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of (Property ID : IDIB30036180192) 1. Kh. No 96/1/1, Village-Lambakheda, Ward No 79, Tehsil Huzur, Distt Bhopal Madhya Pradesh, admeasuring 1740 Sq Ft., in the name of Brij Mohan Dangl & Mahendra Singh. Bounded By: East: House of Veer Singh Thakur, West: Road & then Garden, North : House of Roop Singh, South: Plot of Dr Singh Sahab	08.08.2022 13.10.2022 as on 18.06.2024 ₹ 2,03,47,000/- + further Interest & other Charges	₹ 30,00,000/- ₹ 3,00,000/- ₹ 10,000/-
Date & time of e-auction: 19/07/2024, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM E-auction platform : https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.msstcecommerce.com) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-23400020/23400021/23400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd., please contact ibapiop@msstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@msstcecommerce.com . For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131". Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.msstcecommerce.com Place : Bhopal, Date: 19.06.2024			
AUTHORISED OFFICER, INDIAN BANK			



Minister for Cooperatives Vishwas Kailash Sarang reviews a meeting with the officials of the cooperative department, at Samanvay Bhawan in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Police bust gang engaged in cheating for providing govt job

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has busted a gang of fraudsters who duped three lakh rupees on the pretext of providing a job to the Education Ministry in the government. According to the police on Saturday, the accused posted a message on Facebook groups "12 seats in education ministry for graduation interested candidates inbox me." The lady complainant namely, A, who is pursuing study and she was also in search of government job She found a message "12 seats in education ministry for graduation interested candidates inbox me" on one facebook group namely "Sant Nagar Burari" posted by the profile ID namely "Karan Tiwari," DCP Manoj Kumar Meena said. He stated that the lady victim was in need and hence communicat-

ed with profile. "The alleged person contacted the complainant through WhatsApp ID and Facebook messenger and told her the process of getting a job in the ministry and later informed her about the processing fee and interview fees etc. To cheat the complainant and to gain the complainant's confidence, he made an email ID education-ministry98@gmail.com and after that asked the complainant to make all communication on G-mail ID," the DCP added. The accused have been identified as 26 year old Sagar and 24 year old Saurabh who both hail from Noida. "In this way, the alleged Sagar and Saurabh started taking money by making various tempting promises, which later the complainant gave a total of Rs 3,00,000 in the name of job.

Financial security with Bajaj Allianz Life Invest Protect Goal

PNS ■ NEW DLHI

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, launched a new version of Bajaj Allianz Life Invest Protect Goal, re-emphasizing their innovative protection-oriented ULIP plan offering both a high life cover and market linked returns in one plan. The product is designed to help customers protect their family's life goals as well as create wealth, both at the same time. Furthermore, customers can also avail additional accident cover against disability and death, through the riders provided with the plan. The Indian market is currently experiencing growth momentum, offering promising opportunities for investment. The robust economic outlook offers a wide scope for wealth creation for an individual. Besides growth, one also needs protection against life's uncertainties i.e. death or disability. In line with this, Bajaj Allianz Life Invest Protect Goal offers a unique combination of Protection and Growth along with the flexibility to choose the amount of life cover as per your need. This comprehen-

sive plan from Bajaj Allianz Life can be the best decision one can take to protect and achieve one's financial goals. In addition, Bajaj Allianz Life Invest Protect Goal offers several other reasons for customers to stay invested in the new product for long-term which include:- Loyalty Additions as a reward for staying invested and Fund Maintenance Booster to ensure customers remain protected throughout the chosen policy term. Bajaj Allianz Life Invest Protect Goal also offers Return of Premium Allocation Charges and Return of Mortality Charges starting from 7th policy year, which further helps boost the fund value of the customers.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
असल कार्यालय, दिल्ली नगर, जलनूर - 482001 Ph: 0761-2624977, Email: zojabalpur@indianbank.co.in
नोटिस
सभी संबंधित लोगों और आप जनता को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे ध्यास्कों खाते मेसर्स भूरे बलिङ्ग वक्स प्रो. मो. शरीक के संबंध में दिनांक 06.06.2024 को प्रकाशित सरकारी अधिनियम, 2002 संपत्ति सुरक्षा हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम 2002 के नियम 8 (6) के प्रावधानों के तहत प्रकाशित नीलामी नोटिस पर ध्यान दें। नोटिस दिया जाता है कि अपरिहार्य परिस्थितियों के कारण दिनांक 24/06/2024 को नीलामी को अगली सूचना तक स्थगित कर दिया गया है। अन्य सभी शर्तें बैंक नियम के अनुसार ही होंगी।
दिनांक : 21.06.2024 प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, इंडियन बैंक

Noida police nab 497 people drinking in public places

Noida: The Gautam Buddha Nagar police booked 497 people for nuisance as part of its crackdown on public drinking. The action was carried out on Friday across all three police zones of Noida, Central Noida and Greater Noida during a one-day campaign titled "Operation Street Safe" to ensure public safety and reduce antisocial behaviour, an official statement said. "The operation aimed to crack down on individuals

consuming alcohol in public spaces during nighttime," a police spokesperson said. In Noida Zone, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Vidya Sagar Mishra led the operation across nine police station areas, covering 40 different locations. "During this operation, a total of 1,924 individuals were checked, resulting in action being taken against 208 individuals under Section 290 of the Indian Penal Code

(IPC)," the official said. Section 290 of the IPC pertains to causing public nuisance, which includes acts that significantly disturb public peace and order. DCP Suniti supervised the campaign in Central Noida, across eight police station areas, covering 31 locations. According to her, about 1,605 individuals were checked, with 146 people facing action under Section 290 of the IPC.

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saidapet, Chennai - 600015 Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010					
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE (APPENDIX – IV A) (RULE 8(6)) Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd. Corporate Office at Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, 167-169, 2nd Floor, Anna Salai, Saidapet, Chennai, 600015 and Branch Office at: - Hinduja Housing Finance Limited- 101-B, Business Park, NRK Near Mangal City, Vijay Nagar Indore - 452010. Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer of Ankit Patil had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.bankeauctions.com					
Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount Bid Increase Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserved Price (in Rs.) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Date of Inspection of Property EMD Last Date Date/ Time of Auction
Loan Account No. MP/IDR/MCHL/A000000236 Mr. Kailash Chawada (Borrower) Mrs. Sangeeta Chawada (Co Borrower 1) Mr. Mayank Chawada (CO Borrower 2)	28.08.2023 Rs.46,26,945/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five Only) Rs. 10,000/-	All that piece & parcel of Converted land at Western Part of plot no 251, Scheme No 03, Shikshak Nagar (Padma laya Colony), Village Chhota Ban garda Indore ,Urban - Indore Madhya Pradesh ,India - 452005 Measuring 750 Sq.ft. Bounded as - East - Rest Part of Plot No.251, West - Plot No.252, North- Road, South - Plot No. 258	20/12/2023	Rs. 54,70,000/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lacs Seventy Thousand Only) Rs. 5,47,000/- (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Seven Thousand Only)	25.06.2024 - 05.07.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 20.07.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 25.07.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000383 Mr. Pankaj Chouhan (Borrower) Mrs. Abhilasha Chouhan (CO Borrower 1) Mr. Uttam Chouhan (CO Borrower 2)	28.09.2023 Rs. 40,05,413/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Five Thousand Four Hundred and Thirteen Only) Rs. 10,000/-	All that piece & parcel of Converted land at House/ Plot No. 258-B, Kamla Nehru Nagar Colony, Indore Tehsil & Dist. Indore (MP) area 1000 Sqft Boundaries towards - as per sale deed East- Plot of Vijay Singh, West- House of Lalita Bai, North- Plot of Godbole South- Road	12/01/2024	Rs. 60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh Only). 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lacs Only)	25.06.2024 - 05.07.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 20.07.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 25.07.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000285 Mr. Radha (Borrower) Mr. Jitendra Fatrod (CO Borrower 1) Mr. Mithun Fatrod (CO Borrower 2)	28.09.2023 Rs.25,10,560/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Ten Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Plot No. 512-B, Siddharth Nagar, Gram Nainod, Tehsil and Dist. Indore (M.P.), 452001 Boundaries - East - Plot No. 607, West- Plot No. 512 A, North-506 B, South- Road	12/01/2024	Rs.29,70,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh and Seventy Thousand Only) 297000/- (Rupees Two Lacs Ninety Seven Thousand Only)	25.06.2024 - 05.07.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 20.07.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 25.07.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.
Loan Account No. MP/IDR/MCHL/A000000167 & CO/CP/CP/POF/A000000700 Mr. Vinod Kumar Lotusway (Borrower) Mrs. Lalita Lotusway (CO Borrower 1)	04.09.2023 Rs.33,19,585/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh nineteen thousand five Hundred and eighty five Only) Rs. 10,000/-	All that piece & parcel of Converted land at House/ Plot No. 265, Shivcity (Silver), Village Nihalpur Mundi Indore, Measuring 800 sq.ft Boundaries towards - , East- Colony Road , West- Plot No. 284, North- Plot No. 266, South- Plot No. 264	13/01/2024	Rs.46,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Only) 4,60,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)	25.06.2024 - 05.07.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 20.07.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 25.07.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E- AUCTION SALE:- 1. The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities. 2. Particulars of the property / assts (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extant & dimensions may differ. 3. E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or may representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to preserve the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries /due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bids/ 4. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website <https://www.bankeauctions.com> Or Auction provided by the service provider M/s C1 India Private Limited, who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform. 5. The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor /service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash own, power failure etc. 6.For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S C1 India Pvt Ltd., Plot No- 68, 3rd floor Sector 44 Gurgaon Haryana -122003 (Contact no. 7291981124,25,26) Support Email – Support@bankeauctions.com , Mr. Vinod Chauhan Mob. 9813887931. Email: delhi@c1india.com 7. For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at <https://www.bankeauctions.com> well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider. 8. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favor of "HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD." on or before 20-July-2024. 9. The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on <https://www.bankeauctions.com>) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer Ankit Patil Regional Office HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD., 101-B, NRK Business Park, 1st Floor, Vijay Nagar,Indore -452010 Mob No. 7723055195 latest by 03:00 PM on 20-July-2024. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale (as mentioned above) for property of "Borrower". 10. After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorized officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/s eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding /auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice. 11. Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e- auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension. 12. Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone. 13. Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorized Officer, Ankit Patil Regional Office HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD., 101-B, NRK Business Park, 1st Floor, Vijay Nagar,Indore -452010 Mob No. 7723055195 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings. 14. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) on the same day of the auction, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Chq favouring HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. 15. In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the property will be again put to sale. 16. At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorized Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount. 17. The Successful Bidder shall pay 1% of Sale price towards TDS (out of Sale proceeds) and submit TDS certificate to the Authorized officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the authorized officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorized Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited. 18. Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) and any other authorities dues (if any) has to be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property. 19. Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorized Officer in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges. 20. Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser. 21. The Authorized officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date before 30 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider. 22. The decision of the Authorized Officer is final, binding and unquestionable. 23. All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them. 24. For further details and queries, contact Authorized Officer, Mr. Vaibhav Shrivastava, Mo. No. 7987969803, Mr. Rajesh Chokhtiya Mo. No. 84355 71111, Ankit Patil - 7723055195, Govind Chouhan- 89628 16436. 25. This publication is also 30 (Thirty) days' notice to the Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above-mentioned date / place. **Special Instructions / Caution:** Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such failure and are able to participate in the auction successfully. **Place- Indore Date- 23.06.2024**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY	G20
E-Tender No. : JHS-ENG-G-E-2024-123	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.	
Description of work : Construction of Limited Height subway in lieu of LC No. S-32 in Khairar - Bhimsen section and at LC No. 457 in Khairar - Manikpur section of Jhansi division by Box Pulling technique.	
Approx Cost : 99885140.55, Earnest Money : 649400.00, Date of closing Tender : 15/07/2024 at 15:00 hrs., Date of completion/ period from issue acceptance letter : 09 Months.	
• Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 15.07.2024 • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in 1070/24 (AN)	
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR	

Hasina invites Indian businesses to invest in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited Indian businesses to invest in the country's special economic zones, highlighting the huge potential for bilateral economic cooperation.

Addressing Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) members on Friday evening, Hasina said both India and Bangladesh should work together to do business.

"All over India, there is a huge market so both the countries can work jointly and share our experiences. There is a good opportunity to do business," Hasina said, stressing that doing business is a key part of the bilateral relationship. She added that high importance is being given to working with



India to fulfil the needs of the people. The prime minister mentioned that she wanted to make the economy of Bangladesh stronger and more sustainable. She also stated that Bangladesh will work on bigger ports, waterways, rail and road con-

nectivity. Sanjiv Puri, President, CII said Bangladesh is India's land bridge to the vibrant regions of Southeast Asia, and Bangladesh and India can address the market together at a time when supply chains are shifting. He also mentioned that in agri-

culture, the two nations can set up joint ventures between private sectors. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said that to drive economic engagement, CII plans to take a CEOs delegation to Bangladesh later this year. During the industry interaction, business members from India and Bangladesh highlighted several sectors of joint collaborations, including increasing the supply of energy to Bangladesh with a special emphasis on hydropower and creating more energy transmission lines to Bangladesh. They also spoke about education and skill development in Bangladesh through telecommunications solutions. Other areas of collaboration such as agriculture, trade, and IT were also discussed.

BJP demands immediate resignation of TN Minister over hooch tragedy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday demanded the immediate resignation of Tamil Nadu Prohibition and Excise Minister S Muthusamy over a recent hooch tragedy in the state and accused the ruling DMK of shielding the culprits. The saffron party also demanded a probe into the incident by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Several people died after consuming spurious liquor in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi while many are undergoing treatment at local hospitals. Addressing a press conference here, Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla described the deaths as "state-sponsored murder" and held the ruling DMK in the southern state "solely responsible" for the tragedy.



"So far, 53 individuals have died and a majority of them belonged to the Scheduled Castes. Instead of taking action on this state-sponsored murder, the DMK continues to shield the villains of this ghastly crime," Poonawalla said. Referring to similar incidents in the state in the past, he alleged that there is a nexus between the liquor mafia and DMK leaders and demanded a CBI probe into it. Poonawalla also said the

National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) should take suo-motu cognisance of the incident and issue notices to the Tamil Nadu government and state police chief, asking who is responsible for the deaths. "The BJP demands the immediate resignation of Tamil Nadu Prohibition and Excise Minister Muthusamy for an impartial investigation into the incident," he said, asking why Chief Minister M K Stalin is not handing over the

probe to the CBI. Poonawalla also targeted the Congress and other constituents of the INDIA bloc over their "silence" on the issue. "(Congress leaders) Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who spoke about Dalits and south India umpteen number of times during the (Lok Sabha) election, have not uttered a word on this issue. This means their concern for south India and the members of the Scheduled Castes is cosmetic," he said. Another BJP spokesperson, Anil Antony, also slammed the DMK and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) over the hooch tragedy, alleging that the response and actions of the Tamil Nadu government are "lackadaisical" and indicate "a clear collusion" of the state authority with the liquor mafia.

Defer implementation of three new criminal laws, as Bills bulldozed through Parliament: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday demanded that the enforcement of the three criminal laws, which are to come into force from July 1, be deferred, saying the Bills were "bulldozed" through Parliament. In a post on X, Ramesh said the implementation of the Bills be deferred to enable a thorough review and re-examination by

a reconstituted Standing Committee on Home Affairs as they were passed at a time when 146 MPs had been suspended. "On Dec 25 2023, the President of India had given her assent to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. The three far-reaching Bills had been bulldozed through Parliament without proper debate and discussion,



and at a time when 146 MPs had been suspended from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha," Ramesh said. "Earlier the Bills had been bulldozed through the Standing Committee on Home Affairs without detailed interactions with stakeholders across the country and completely ignoring the written and very detailed dissent notes of a number of MPs belonging to different political parties, including the Indian National

Congress, who were members of the Standing Committee," he said. Ramesh said the three new laws are to come into effect from July 1, 2024, and the Congress is of the firm opinion that the date should be deferred to enable a thorough review and re-examination of the laws by the reconstituted Standing Committee on Home Affairs. He said the panel should have more extensive and meaningful consultations with various legal experts and organisations

"who have serious concerns on the three laws as they stand", after which it should be scrutinised by the 18th Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as well. On Friday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding deferment of the implementation of the three criminal laws, saying they were "hurriedly passed". Similar demands have been made by the DMK as well.

New Roojh app for appointments at All India Institute of Ayurveda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Patients visiting the All India Institute of Ayurveda at Sarita Vihar in the national Capital no longer need to stand in long queues to get their token numbers to get the appointments with the doctors. They can now do this conveniently from their homes using the Roojh app, saving valuable time and resources. An autonomous health institute under the Union Health Ministry, the hospital serves a daily influx of 2000 to 2500 patients who seek benefits from its 42 different OPD services. Previously, due to the lack of an online appointment system, patients had to endure long waits to obtain their tokens. "In response to this issue, the hospital recently launched the 'Roojh' app. The primary objective of this app is to eliminate long waiting periods for patients and simplify the appointment booking process,



enabling common patients to easily avail treatment," said an official from the AIIA. One can download and install the 'Roojh' app from Google Play Store or Apple Store. After installing the app, users need to create a login, for which an OTP will be sent to their mobile. Through a few simple steps, users can create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), ensuring secure storage of their medical

records for future use. Post registration, patients receive a token number, which facilitates easy creation of their OPD card, said the official. The AIIA has also set up a health desk to assist elderly and other patients. The app can be used from Monday to Friday, from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM while on Saturdays, this facility is available from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM. Dr. (Prof.) Tanuja Nesari,

Director of the institute, said, "We are committed to providing excellent services to patients, and this ABHA ID marks a new change that will protect patients from inconveniences during sun, rain, and cold weather. We will be able to serve patients well." Recently, the institute also initiated the operation of new counters to reduce the time spent distributing medicines. These steps will not only benefit patients in the future but also make treatment possible for a large number of patients. "The launch of the 'Roojh' app is an important step that will assist patients in receiving better healthcare services and free them from long waiting periods. This initiative by the All India Institute of Ayurveda will not only save patients' time but also provide convenient and effective healthcare services," Sharmila Sharma, a patient of diabetes said adding that by following ayurvedic medication her condition is now better managed.

WHO's global warning over fake weight-loss, diabetes medications

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has for the first time issued a global warning regarding counterfeit versions of popular weight-loss and diabetes medications containing semaglutide, the active ingredient in Novo Nordisk's Wegovy and Ozempic. The move followed reports of fake semaglutide documented across all geographical regions since 2022. Fake drugs could be harmful and if they do not have the necessary raw components, can lead to health complications resulting from unmanaged blood glucose levels or weight, the WHO said in a statement here. In view of escalating demand and falsification reports, the WHO said that it is now developing rapid guidelines for the potential use of GLP-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) like



semaglutides in treating obesity among adults. "Counterfeit drugs may lack essential active ingredients or contain undisclosed substances like insulin, posing severe health risks such as uncontrolled blood glucose levels, particularly hazardous for diabetes patients," WHO Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products, Dr. Yukiko Nakatani said and stressed the importance of avoiding suspicious medicines. Dr Nakatani also advocated for their immediate cessa-

tion and reporting to relevant authorities. The WHO said patients can protect themselves by using prescriptions from licensed physicians to buy the medications. The agency said patients also should avoid buying the drugs from unfamiliar sources, especially online. Semaglutides are crucial for managing type 2 diabetes and reducing cardiovascular risks. Typically administered weekly via injection or daily in tablet form, these medications also aid weight loss by

suppressing appetite. Despite their efficacy, their high cost renders them unsuitable for widespread public health programs aimed at ensuring broad access to treatment in resource-limited settings. To protect themselves from falsified medicines and their harmful effects, patients who are using these products can take actions such as buying medicines with prescriptions from licensed physicians and avoid buying medicines from unfamiliar or unverified sources, such as those that may be found online, the global health body said. People should always check packaging and expiry dates of medicines when they buy them, and use the products as prescribed. In the case of injectable semaglutides, patients should ensure they are stored in the refrigerator, it added. All notifications on falsified medicines can be sent to WHO via rapidalert@who.int.

Govt has ruined future of crores of youth: Priyanka

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid outcry against alleged irregularities in the medical entrance examination NEET and also the cancellation of the UGC-NET examination, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday launched a scathing attack on the government over exam paper leaks, saying the issue has become a national problem under the BJP rule which has "ruined the future" of crores of youth. In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi said the Congress demands that strict action be taken over the "NEET scam" so that 24 lakh students get justice. Her statement came on the day, the CBI questioned a man in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar in connection with the UGC-NET paper leak case. The CBI had registered an FIR into the UGC-NET paper leak case on Thursday against unidentified people on a reference from the Union Education Ministry. In another post in Hindi on X, she wrote, "In the last five years, papers of 43 recruitment exams have been leaked in the country. Paper leak has become a national problem of our country under BJP rule which has ruined the future of crores of youth so far."



"India is the youngest country in the world. We have the largest youth population. Instead of making these youth skilled and capable, the BJP government is making them weak," she alleged. Crores of talented students study hard day and night, prepare for different exams, parents bear the burden of studies by sacrificing everything, Priyanka Gandhi said. "Children wait for years for a vacancy to come. When a vacancy comes, there is the cost of filling the form, the cost of going for the exam, and finally the whole effort is wasted due to corruption. The BJP's corruption is weakening the country," she added. Senior Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi on Thursday had attacked the Centre over the alleged irregularities in NEET and exam paper leaks issue, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "psychologically collapsed" post-elections and will now struggle to run the government. He had also said the main reason for paper leaks was that educational institutions had been captured by the BJP and its parent organisation RSS. He asserted that paper leaks will not stop unless that is reversed. The UGC-NET-2024 exam for the selection of junior research fellows, assistant professors and PhD scholars was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on June 18 in two shifts across the country.

Shah launches programme to fast-track immigration process

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched a special programme under which the immigration process of pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders will be fast-tracked. The Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) is a "visionary initiative" by the government, thoughtfully designed for Indian nationals and OCI cardholders, the official said. Eligible individuals will need to apply online and submit their biometrics (fingerprint and facial image) along with other required information as specified in the application form. The FTI registration will be valid for a maximum of five years or until the validity of the passport, whichever comes first, he said. Approved applications would receive a message to schedule an appointment to provide their biometrics details. Applicants may provide their biometrics at designated international airports in India or the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) according to the prior appointment schedule. Biometrics is compulsory for the completion



of the application processing, the official said. The applicants may ensure a minimum passport validity of at least six months while applying for the FTI-TTP. The membership of programmer will be co-terminus with passport validity, he said. The applicant needs to provide the current residential address to avoid the rejection of the application, another official said. Incorrect or false information, concealing any material facts in the application form shall make the application liable for rejection. Those applicants will not be registered for the FTI-TTP whose biometrics, for any technical reason cannot be cap-

tured, the official said. The FTI-TTP aims to revolutionise people's travel experience, making it faster, easier, and more secure, he said. This initiative showcases the government's commitment to enhance travel convenience and efficiency for everyone, the official said. Registration under FTI will be completed after necessary verifications and confirmation of eligibility, he said. Applicants will be registered after their identity has been successfully authenticated through mobile OTP and email verification. The Union home ministry also shared a support help desk email ID -- india.ftittp-boi@mha.Gov.In.

MeitY kicks off India AI Mission, invites institutes to nominate students undertaking projects



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched the IndiaAI Mission with a budget of Rs 10,372 crore and started inviting nominations from top institutes, such as IITs, NITs etc for students who are undertaking projects in artificial intelligence (AI), according to reports. Engineering students pursuing B.Tech or M.Tech degrees at colleges ranked in the top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework will be eligible to receive AI fellowships. The ministry will provide Rs 1 lakh in three instalments to the B.Tech students who are accepted, while the M.Tech students will get Rs 2 lakh funding in four tranches of Rs 50,000 each, the reports mentioned. In a letter addressed to 50 engineering institutes by IndiaAI Mission CEO

Abhishek Singh, the ministry has asked each institute to nominate 10 students from each category who are undertaking AI projects. "This fellowship support will supplement existing fellowships and cover the duration of their project: one year for B.Tech students, and two years for M.Tech students," said the letter. "This support is instrumental in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, thereby ensuring a workforce proficient in the essential skills needed to progress in the field of AI," it added. To be eligible for fellowships, B.Tech students must have secured an overall 80 per cent mark or equivalent grade in the last semester and the nominated M.Tech students should be pursuing postgraduate studies in AI-related courses and should be undertaking a thesis on AI and related subjects, as per the ministry.

Kanishka bombing probe ‘active & ongoing’: Canadian police

PTI ■ OTTAWA

Investigations into the bombing of the Air India Flight 182 remain “active and ongoing”, the Canadian police have said, terming it the “longest” and one of the “most complex domestic terrorism” probe, ahead of the deadly bombing’s 39th-anniversary memorial. The Montreal-New Delhi Air India ‘Kanishka’ Flight 182 exploded 45 minutes before it was to have landed at London’s Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people on board, most of them Canadians

of Indian descent. The bombing was blamed on Sikh militants in retaliation to ‘Operation Bluestar’ to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in 1984. In a statement on Friday, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Assistant Commissioner David Teboul called the bombing the “greatest terror-related loss of life involving and affecting Canadians” in the country’s history as he offered “deepest sympathies, understanding and support to the families of the victims”.

“The Air India investigation is the longest and certainly one of the most complex domestic terrorism investigations that the RCMP has undertaken in our history,” Teboul said. “Our investigative efforts remain active and ongoing,” he said. Asserting that the impacts of the bombing “have not diminished with time” he said that the trauma it caused has impacted generations. “We must never forget those innocent lives lost to this tragedy and other acts of terrorism,” he said. Noting that this year marks the



39th anniversary memorial of the bombing, he said that the 40th memorial, a significant milestone, is approaching in 2025. “At the memorials, previous and current employees from the investigation and our greater organisation, past and present, will ensure we remember those lost and those left to deal with the unthinkable,” he said. “Over the years, attending the memorials has been an opportunity to pay our respects to the victims and their families and show our appreciation for all those that did so much to

respond to and investigate the tragedy,” he said, encouraging people to do the same in private or at the memorials in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. India’s consulates in Vancouver and Toronto have planned a memorial service to mark the anniversary of the bombing. A memorial is scheduled on June 23 at the Air India Memorial at Stanley Park’s Ceperley Playground area in Vancouver. Another memorial service is scheduled at South Lawn, Queen’s Park, Toronto.

Nepal names 8 new envoys, including for New Delhi

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal has nominated ambassadors for eight countries, including India, a little over two weeks after recalling the incumbents. According to the Cabinet sources, former chief secretary and Nepal’s ambassador to the United Kingdom, Lokdarshan Regmi, has been nominated as the new Nepalese ambassador to India. Regmi has earlier held positions of Home Secretary, Finance Secretary and Secretary at the Ministry of Land Reform and Management. The decision was taken by Nepal’s Cabinet on Friday. Earlier on June 6, the Nepal government had recalled ambassadors from 11 countries, including those serving in India and the US and appointed under the Nepali Congress’ quota, three months after Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ terminated his alliance with the party and joined hands with former prime minister KP Sharma Oli. The development had come three months after the coalition was formed with the support of CPN-UML. The government has named former Commerce and Industry Secretary Chandra Ghimire as Nepal’s new ambassador to the United States replacing the incumbent ambassador, Sridhar Khatri while Bijan Pant has been named Nepal’s new ambassador to the United Kingdom. All the ambassador nominees need to undergo parliamentary hearings before the president appoints them to their respective positions.

Israeli national found dead after being shot in Palestinian town

AP ■ RAMALLAH

An Israeli was shot dead in a Palestinian town in the northern West Bank Saturday morning, Israel’s army said, while deadly strikes rocked northern Gaza. The army said a man was pronounced dead after being shot in the town of Qalqilya, and that Israeli troops were currently operating in the area. The day before, Israeli forces shot dead two militants in the same West Bank town. No further details were made public. Violence has flared in the West Bank since the Israel-Hamas war erupted last October. Since then, at least 549 Palestinians in the territory have been killed by Israeli fire say the Palestinian Health Ministry, which tracks the killings. Over that same time, Palestinians in the West Bank have killed at least nine Israelis, including five soldiers, according to UN data. In a separate event, the Palestinian Civil Defence, an emergency group active in Gaza, said they pulled 19 dead

bodies from a building hit by an Israeli strike in an eastern neighbourhood of Gaza City on Saturday. The group said its emergency workers were also digging for survivors at the site of another strike in Shati Refugee camp, west of Gaza City. The Associated Press has been unable to verify the figures provided by the emergency group. The Israeli army said its fighter jets struck two Hamas military sites in the Gaza City area, but did not elaborate further. The Israel-Hamas war erupted on October 7 when Hamas militants stormed southern Israel and killed around 1,200 people and took hostage some 250 others. Israel has responded by bombarding and invading the enclave, killing over 37, 400 Palestinians there according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. Israeli nationals are prohibited from entering Qalqilya and other areas of the West Bank that fall under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

In April, the death of a 14-year-old Israeli settler sparked a series of settler attacks on Palestinian towns in the territory. The The army said the boy was murdered, and later arrested a Palestinian in connection with the killing. In 2014, the abduction and killing of three Israeli teens in the West Bank escalated tensions and eventually ignited a 50-day Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, at the time the deadliest round of fighting between the two sides. Over recent years, the PA’s influence in the northern West Bank has waned as militant groups have grown increasingly powerful. Also Saturday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said a 12-year-old Palestinian boy died from his wounds after being shot by Israeli forces in Ramallah last week. Commenting on the shooting, the Israeli army said its forces raided al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah to arrest a suspect last Friday and then opened fire on a group of Palestinians who were pelting them with stones.

Nigel Farage draws flak for saying West provoked Putin to invade Ukraine

AP ■ LONDON

Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, the recently formed right-wing party that is seeking to woo voters away from Britain’s governing Conservatives at the general election on July 4, is facing wide-ranging criticism over his claim that the West provoked Russian President Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine. In a BBC television interview broadcast Friday evening, Farage drew a link between the expansion of NATO and the European Union eastwards over the past few decades and the invasion. Claiming that he warned of a potential war in Ukraine in 2014, when he was a member of the European Parliament, Farage said “we provoked this war.” It’s unclear whether his warning came before or after Russia had annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in February 2014. “It was obvious to me that the ever-eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union was giving this man a reason to his Russian people to say, ‘They’re coming for us again’ and to go to war” Farage said. “It’s, you know, of course it’s his fault — he’s used what we’ve done as an excuse.” Farage’s critics from across the political



“It was obvious to me that the ever-eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union was giving this man a reason to his Russian people to say, ‘They’re coming for us again’ and to go to war”

spectrum slammed his statement, with many describing him as a Putin apologist. “I think Nigel Farage is a bit like that pub

bore we have all met at the end of the bar who often says if I was running the country’ and presents very simplistic answers to actually, I am afraid in the 21st century, complex problems,” Ben Wallace, the former Conservative defense secretary who has stood down as a lawmaker, told BBC radio. Many Conservatives have largely held back from overly criticizing Farage, who though not a lawmaker in the UK Parliament, was hugely influential in Britain’s vote to leave the EU in 2016. The worry among many Conservatives is that attacking him too much will further alienate many Conservative voters, who sympathize with his tough rhetoric on issues like immigration and Brexit. This is the first general election that Reform UK is contesting and it has enjoyed a lift in the polls after Farage said in early June he would lead the party and contest the seat in Clacton in southeast England. He is currently favorite to win that seat and finally enter Parliament after seven attempts. Meanwhile, John Healey, who is set to become defense secretary if the left-of-center Labour Party wins the election on July, said Farage would “rather lick Vladimir Putin’s boots than stand up for the people of Ukraine.”

USS Roosevelt arrives in Busan as a show of force against North Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

A nuclear-powered United States aircraft carrier arrived Saturday in South Korea for a three-way exercise stepping up their military training to cope with North Korean threats that escalated with its alignment with Russia. The arrival of the USS Theodore Roosevelt strike group in Busan came a day after South Korea summoned the Russian ambassador to protest a pact reached between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week that pledges mutual defense assistance in the event of war. South Korea says the deal poses a threat to its security and warned that it could consider sending arms to Ukraine to help fight off the Russian invasion as a response — a move that would surely ruin its relations with Moscow.



Following a meeting between their defense chiefs in Singapore earlier in June, the United States, South Korea and Japan announced Freedom Edge. The new multidomain exercise is aimed at sharpening the countries’ combined response in various areas of operation, including air, sea and cyberspace. The Theodore Roosevelt strike group will participate in the

exercise that is expected to start within June. South Korea’s military didn’t immediately confirm specific details of the training. South Korea’s navy said in a statement that the arrival of Theodore Roosevelt demonstrates the strong defense posture of the allies and “stern willingness to respond to advancing North Korean threats.” The carrier’s visit comes seven

months after another US aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, came to South Korea in a show of strength against the North. The Theodore Roosevelt strike group also participated in a three-way exercise with South Korean and Japanese naval forces in April in the disputed East China Sea, where worries about China’s territorial claims are rising. In the face of growing North Korean threats, the United States, South Korea and Japan have expanded their combined training and boosted the visibility of strategic US military assets in the region, seeking to intimidate the North. The United States and South Korea have also been updating their nuclear deterrence strategies, with Seoul seeking stronger assurances that Washington would swiftly and decisively use its nuclear capabilities to defend its ally from a North Korean nuclear attack.

Wickremesinghe lauds India’s support during economic crisis

AP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has survived two difficult years of its economic crisis and it was possible because of the financial support of USD 3.5 billion from India, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Saturday and emphasised his commitment to maintain a strong partnership with New Delhi. Addressing the 31st All India Partners Meet in Colombo from June 20-22, Wickremesinghe said that he during his last visit to India to attend the new government’s swearing-in discussed with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi the core areas of partnership. “Having now survived two difficult years, I must acknowledge that this was possible because India gave us a loan of USD 3.5 billion. All that will be repaid,” he said.

Wickremesinghe said that sustainable energy is one of the grave areas that the two nations would be jointly working on. “When I was in Delhi last week, I discussed with Prime Minister Modi the need to accelerate the joint programme that we have decided, agreed on. So the major ones are identified. Now this will show the new path we are taking, and a number of projects, all will be in one parcel,” he said. He added that Sri Lanka had discussed a fair number of proposals. “First is the grid interconnection between Sri Lanka and India, so that sustainable energy can be transmitted to India, where you all need that very badly. We have the Sampur solar power project, which is a Government to Government (G2G) project, and a three-island project, which is where we hope the groundbreaking can take place in July,” he said.

Wickremesinghe added that additionally there is a focus on a project to establish land connectivity between Sri Lanka and India. “Extensive discussions have also taken place regarding expediting the Trincomalee Development Project, which encompasses industrial investment zones and tourist areas. Furthermore, plans are underway to construct a multi-product oil pipeline from Nagapattinam to Trincomalee, pending the final observation report,” he said. Wickremesinghe also mentioned the directors meeting of the International Monetary Fund, the global lender which is helping the island nation come out of the economic crisis. “We have just concluded the board of directors meeting of the IMF, which was quite successful and are preparing thereafter to meet with our creditor

nations, the Paris Club, India and others, who meet at the official creditors committee next week, and also carrying on discussions with China with the Exim Bank of China,” he said. “I hope by next week, or thereafter, that we will have come out of this phase of bankruptcy and into the next phase as we go ahead,” he said. The island nation, in April 2022, declared its first-ever sovereign default since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. The unprecedented financial crisis led President Wickremesinghe’s predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit office in 2022. Earlier in May, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry had said Sri Lanka is looking at a reduction of approximately USD 17 billion from its overall debt burden in the ongoing debt restructuring process.

Pak minister condemns Swat lynching

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday condemned the lynching of a man in the town of Swat for allegedly committing desecration of the Quran, lamenting how religion is being weaponised to justify “street justice” and “vigilantism”. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, while speaking during the budget debate in the National Assembly, said that Parliament had to take stern

notice of “mob justice”, as it had brought Pakistan “to the brink of destruction”, the Dawn newspaper reported. On Thursday night, an enraged mob in the picturesque Pakistani town of Swat gunned down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Quran. Muhammad Ismail, a 40-year-old resident of Sialkot in Punjab province, was visiting the northwestern Pakistan hill resort town of Swat and was

accused of having burnt the pages of Islam’s holy book in Madyan tehsil of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Amid interruptions by Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Iqbal said, “Another mob lynching has happened in Swat and Pakistan is under scrutiny for it”. The 65-year-old secretary general of the PML-N further said that if this was an isolated incident “we could move past it”. However, Iqbal then referred to

similar incidents that happened earlier in Sialkot, Jaranwala and Sargodha where those accused of desecration were lynched by vigilante mobs. The minister also recalled an attempt on his life in 2018 when he was shot by a supporter of the religio-political party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan. Iqbal said he was grateful that he got a new lease of life after an extremist shot him. “We must take notice of this incident as our nation is on the brink. We have now reached a

point where we are using religion to justify mob violence and street justice, flagrantly violating the Constitution, the law and the state,” Iqbal said. In Islam “even the bodies of heretics must be shown respect”, he said. “Not only are mobs killing people, but they are setting the bodies on fire and making a spectacle out of it. It’s shameful,” he said. Iqbal also demanded that a committee be formed to probe these incidents of mob attacks.

Crew released

Washington (PTI): Eight Indian crew members of the cargo ship ‘Dali’ that crashed into a famed Baltimore bridge in March left for India on Friday after nearly three months on the mammoth vessel. According to Baltimore Maritime Exchange, four of the 21 crew members are still on board the 984-foot cargo ship MV Dali, which is tentatively scheduled to leave Friday evening for Norfolk, Virginia. The rest of the crew has been moved to a service apartment in Baltimore and will remain there pending an investigation.

Russia launches more missiles on Ukrainian energy facilities

AP ■ KYIV

At least two people were killed in Ukraine’s second city, Kharkiv, in Russian shelling on Saturday afternoon, local officials said. The shelling hit an area of “dense residential development”, according to city mayor Ihor Terekhov. He said that 18 people were wounded, along with the two dead reported by regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. Russia launched a new barrage of missiles and drones in an overnight attack on Ukraine, officials in Kyiv said Saturday, damaging energy facilities in the southeast and west and injuring at least two workers. Ukraine is struggling with a new wave of rolling blackouts after relentless Russian attacks on energy infrastructure that started three months ago took out half the country’s power generation capacity. In its eighth major attack on energy facilities overnight, Russia fired 16 missiles and 13 Shahed drones, the Ukrainian air force said. Ukraine’s air defences intercepted 12 of the 16 missiles

and all 13 drones launched by Russia, the air force said. State-owned power grid operator Ukrenergoh said the strikes damaged equipment at facilities in southeastern Zaporizhzhia and the western Lviv region. Two energy workers were injured in Zaporizhzhia when a fire broke out at an energy facility, according to regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov. With no major changes reported along the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, where a recent push by the Kremlin’s forces in eastern and northeastern Ukraine has made only incremental gains, both sides have taken aim at infrastructure targets, seeking to curb each other’s ability to fight in a war that is now in its third year. Moscow’s overnight attack on Zaporizhzhia and Lviv follows Ukrainian military strikes on three oil refineries in southern Russia overnight into Friday. Air defences destroyed five drones over the Sea of Azov and the country’s western Bryansk and Smolensk regions, the Russian Ministry of Defense said.

Hindujas ‘appalled’ by Swiss court’s jail term order; file appeal

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain’s wealthiest family, the Hindujas, have said they were “appalled” by a Swiss court’s ruling of jail terms for some members and have filed an appeal in a higher court challenging the verdict finding them guilty of exploiting vulnerable domestic workers from India at their villa in Geneva. In a statement issued on behalf of the family on Friday, lawyers from Switzerland stressed their clients – Prakash and Kamal Hinduja, both in their 70s and their son Ajay and his wife Namrata – had been acquitted

of all human trafficking charges. They also dismissed media reports that any members of the family faced detention after court reports from Geneva said the four were sentenced to between four and four-and-a-half years in prison. “Our clients have been acquitted of all human trafficking charges. We are appalled and disappointed by the rest of the decision made in this court of first instance, and we have, of course, filed an appeal to the higher court, thereby making this part of the judgement not effective,” reads the statement

signed by lawyers Yael Hayat and Robert Assael and Roman Jordan. “Under Swiss law, the presumption of innocence is paramount till a final judgement by the highest adjudicating authority is enforced. Contrary to some media reports, there is no effective detention for any members of the family,” they said. The lawyers also pointed out that “it should also be recalled that the plaintiffs in this case had withdrawn their respective complaints after declaring to the court that they had never intended to be involved in

such proceedings”. “The family has full faith in the judicial process and remains confident that the truth will prevail,” they conclude. The statement followed a hearing in the Swiss city of Geneva after prosecutors opened the case for alleged illegal activity, including exploitation, human trafficking and violation of Switzerland’s labour laws. The family members were accused of seizing the workers’ passports, barring them from leaving the villa and forcing them to work very long hours for a pittance in Switzerland, among other things.

Some workers allegedly spoke only Hindi and were paid their wages in rupees in banks back in India that they could not access. During the trial, prosecutors alleged the family spent more on their dog than on their servants. The family’s legal team had countered the allegations and told the court the staff were treated respectfully and provided with accommodation. According to ‘The Sunday Times Rich List’ released last month, the UK-based Hinduja family once again emerged as the country’s richest, with

wealth estimated at around GBP 37.196 billion. They saw this tally increase over the previous year in the wake of the opening of the brand-new luxury OWO Raffles Hotel in the heart of London. The UK-based family’s group of companies, headed by chairman GP Hinduja, operates in 48 countries and across several sectors – automotive, oil and specialty chemicals, banking and finance, IT, cyber security, healthcare, trading, infrastructure project development, media and entertainment, power, and real estate.

Govt buys 71,000 tonnes of onion for buffer stock

Expects retail prices to ease with normal monsoon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has bought nearly 71,000 tonnes of onion so far this year for buffer stock, out of the total target of procuring 5 lakh tonnes for price stabilisation and it expects retail prices to ease with the progress of monsoon over most parts of the country.

According to data compiled by the department of consumer affairs, the all-India average onion retail prices stood at Rs 38.67 per kg on Friday, while the modal price was Rs 40 per kg.

Till June 20th, the Centre has procured 70,987 tonnes of onion, as against 74,071 tonnes procured in the same period last year, a senior official in the department of consumer affairs said.

“The pace of onion procurement for price stabilisation buffer this year is largely comparable with last year, despite about 20 per cent decline in estimated rabi production,” the official said, adding that the government is on course to achieve targeted procurement of 5 lakh tonnes for price stabilisation.

The government will exercise the option of holding or releasing onions from the buffer in order to maintain



stability in prices of onion, the official said. The procurement price is a dynamic one, linked to prevailing market prices.

The increase in prices of onion is on account of a shortfall in production in 2023-24 by about 20 per cent each in Kharif, late Kharif and Rabi, over the previous year due to less rains in major producing areas, the official explained.

To control prices, the

government has been taking measures in a graded manner, from August last year starting with export duty of 40 per cent, followed by Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 800 per tonne in October, 2024 and imposition of export prohibition from December 8, 2023.

These measures have helped in maintaining domestic availability of onion at reasonably stable prices.

Export prohibition had been lifted from May 4, 2024 with MEP of USD 550 per tonne and 40 per cent export duty in view of substantial stability observed in major mandis like Lasalgaon, in Maharashtra and the prospect of good Kharif production on the back of above-normal monsoon prediction this year.

“The prolonged and extreme heatwave condition currently prevailing over large parts of the country has impacted the production of green vegetables and led to increase in prices of vegetables including tomato, potato and onion,” the official said, adding that the situation is expected to ease with the onset of monsoon over most parts of the country.

In March, the Union Agriculture Ministry released the data for onion production. As per the data, onion production in 2023-24 (First Advance Estimates) is expected to be around 254.73 lakh tonnes, compared to around 302.08 lakh tonnes last year.

This is due to a decrease of 34.31 lakh tonnes output in Maharashtra, 9.95 lakh tonnes in Karnataka, 3.54 lakh tonnes in Andhra Pradesh and 3.12 lakh tonnes in Rajasthan, the data showed.

Indian deeptech startups count surges in 2023 but funding plummets 77 per cent: Nasscom

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India saw a significant surge in deeptech startups in 2023 with 480 new ventures emerging, making it the third largest pool globally, a report said.

However, the report by technology industry body nasscom and global consulting firm Zinnov highlighted the worrying trend of a funding winter, posing a major challenge for these startups.

‘India’s DeepTech Dawn: Forging Ahead’ report also said funding for scaling, talent attraction and retention, and global expansion are the top 3 challenges faced by startups in deeptech innovation.

“India currently has 3600+ deeptech startups, out of which 480 were established in 2023 itself, nearly 2X more than the number of deeptech startups established in 2022,” the report said.

But India’s deeptech promise is stunted by a funding gap. “Compared to startups across some other leading deeptech ecosystems, Indian deeptech startups receive a fraction of the median investment at every stage.

“This lack of funding restricts the ability of some promising deeptech startups to scale, thus hindering India’s ability to compete in the global deeptech race,” it said.

Indian deeptech startups raised about USD 10 billion in the last 5 years.



Total USD 850 million was raised in 2023 itself — this is a 77 per cent decline over USD 3.7 billion raised in 2022. The number of deals, meanwhile, declined by 25 per cent in 2023 over 2022, it said.

“India needs a multi-pronged approach: increased funding at early-stage, supportive market ecosystem for scale-ups, and robust initiatives to aid commercialisation.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerged as a founder’s favourite, with 74 per cent of deeptech startups established in 2023 driven by AI. AI was also an investor favourite, with 86 per cent of the startups who raised funding in 2023 having an AI focus.

AI takes the center stage in patent filings with 41 per cent of all patent filings in deeptech, followed, with a

large gap, by IoT and Neurotech, the report said.

According to venture capital firms, long gestation periods are the biggest challenge facing them while investing in deeptech.

“Co-investment programmes and government-backed instruments are necessary initiatives to be taken by the government to make the landscape more favourable to invest in,” the report said.

The number of investors participating in funding rounds for India’s deeptech startups dropped by over 60 per cent in 2023 compared to 2022.

The absence of many large global investors, who had previously driven funding, also contributed significantly to this decline.

“Median ticket size across seed-stage and late-stage

reached their 4-year low and 5-year low respectively. Although early-stage median ticket size reached a 5-year high, it was not enough to offset the overall decline in funding. The absence of mega deals in 2023 as compared to 9 mega deals in 2022, underscores a declining investor emphasis on large-ticket investments,” the report noted.

Investors preferred investing in seed-stage deeptech startups with low ticket sizes and relatively lower risk, further declining the funding volume.

Nasscom recommended the government to “identify and strengthen innovation clusters, facilitate the availability of patient capital and robust compute infrastructure, fast-track the implementation of the National DeepTech Startup Policy (NDTSP), improve the IP framework, and strengthen the overall supplier ecosystem (including talent pipeline).”

A deeptech startup involves early-stage technologies based on scientific or engineering advancements, to create and own Intellectual Property (IP). These startups are characterised by extended development timelines and high capital intensity and also carry large technical uncertainty which presents a large opportunity or risk depending upon whether or not it succeeds.

Prestige Estates plans to raise up to ₹5,000 crore via QIP; monetise hotel biz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Prestige Estates Projects Ltd plans to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore by selling equity shares to institutional investors and also monetise its hotel business through issuance of shares of its arm Prestige Hospitality Ventures. Prestige Estates is one of the leading real estate developers in the country.

It is into development of housing, office, shopping malls, warehousing and hospitality projects. The company has a significant presence in South India and has entered into Mumbai and Delhi-NCR property market.

According to a regulatory filing on Friday, the company’s board approved “raising of funds by way of issuance of equity shares or other eligible securities for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 5,000 crore by way of qualified institutional placement (QIP) or other permissible mode.”

The board also approved plans to “monetise assets of the hospitality segment through its arm Prestige Hospitality Ventures Ltd, by way of issue of shares (through primary or secondary or both).”

All these decisions are subject



to approval of shareholders.

According to an investors presentation, Prestige Estates has 10 hotels in operations totalling 1,489 keys. It is developing 3 hotels with 955 keys and there are 5 hotels having 765 keys in pipeline.

For monetisation of hospitality assets, the board has formed a sub-committee to oversee and structure the process.

“The committee is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements, coordinating with advisors and underwriters, and making all necessary arrangements,” the filing said.

During 2023-24, Prestige Estates net profit rose to Rs 1,374.1 crore from Rs 941.8 crore in the preceding year. Total income increased to Rs 9,425.3 crore from Rs 8,772 crore.

On operational front, Prestige Estates reported 63 per cent annual increase in sales booking for the last financial year at record Rs 21,040 crore on strong demand for its residential properties and higher average sales realisation.

Prestige Group has completed 300 projects spanning a developable area of around 190 million square feet.

Entrepreneurship presents viable path to economic rejuvenation: Arora

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Entrepreneurship presents a viable path to economic rejuvenation and a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem can drive sustainable growth, leaving cybersecurity major TAC Security founder Trishneet Arora has said.

Arora believes that fostering a culture of entrepreneurship can be the key to revitalizing Punjab’s economy and addressing its financial woes and the path to Punjab’s prosperity lies in collaboration between entrepreneurs and the government.

He envisions a synergistic relationship where the government provides the necessary infrastructure and policy support, while entrepreneurs drive innovation and growth.

This partnership can create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive, ultimately benefiting the state’s economy, he said.

“Technology and AI have the potential to revolutionize farming in Punjab by enhancing productivity, reducing costs, and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices,” Arora said.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Magic Bus, a non-profit organisation in the education and skilling space, aims to impart essential life and employability skills in over 65 lakh young people from marginalised communities over the next five years.

The NGO operates in 23 states and union territories and operates out of 117 livelihood centres, of which 17 are all-girl centres. It imparts essential life skills and employability skills in young people from underserved communities.

“Since 1999, Magic Bus has impacted 30 lakh adolescents, equipping them with life skills to achieve school, life, and work outcomes. We have empowered over 3.7 lakh youths with life and employability skills, connecting them to sustainable livelihood opportunities. Looking ahead, we aim to extend its impact by empowering over 65 lakh young people over the next five years,” Magic Bus India Foundation founder Matthew Spacie told PTI.

Life skills education serves as a cornerstone for the holistic development of young people and are



essential for them to navigate life and work in an increasingly technology-driven world, he said.

Magic Bus India Foundation Global CEO Jayant Rastogi stated that the organisation conducts thorough assessments of the demand-supply gap before introducing new skills or phasing out obsolete ones.

“This process involves analysing the demand for specific skills in different geographical areas and

evaluating the suitability of individuals to meet those demands. Before initiating any skilling programme, we ensure that there is a clear understanding of the market demand for the skills being imparted,” he said.

Additionally, he said, the organisation also engages with potential employers during the programme to align its training with their hiring needs, which helps Magic Bus to tailor its skilling initiatives to the

current job market requirements and maximise the employability of its participants.

The organisation targets young people, 18 to 25 years, from marginalised communities, providing them with the necessary 21st-century skills to obtain grey-collar jobs in the formal sector in the service industry. Rastogi further stated that Magic Bus has partnered with various state governments to expand the reach of life skills education.

“We have also aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP), our approach aims to bolster the government’s efforts in delivering holistic education, empowering adolescents with higher-order thinking, analytical skills, and socio-emotional learning essential for success in the 21st century,” he added.

Magic Bus is also operating programmes in Bangladesh, Spacie said.

“Currently, our programmes are operational in Bangladesh, and we are mapping potential countries in South East Asia to understand their needs and take our programmes to newer geographies,” he added.

Newsdrum is set to expand operations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After completing two years in the media space, general news platform Newsdrum is set to expand operations on the back of technology and Artificial Intelligence-led tools and innovations.

The platform has enabled AI-led features including but not limited to content repurposing, AI Web Stories and content distribution.

The portal has aimed at keeping its readers ahead of the curve with its sharp analysis, news breaks and has broken over three dozen stories, notching over 5 million monthly page views.

According to Semrush, an American platform used to for keyword research, competitive analysis, site audits, backlink tracking and comprehensive online visibility insights, 63 percent of visitors of NewsDrum have informational intent followed by 16 percent with transactional and 13 ercent with commercial intent.

Durlax Top Surface ₹40.80 cr IPO subscribed over 161 times

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Solid surface manufacturer Durlax Top Surface’s Rs 40.80 crore initial public offer has been oversubscribed nearly 161 times, the company said on Saturday.

According to the exchange data, the IPO received bids for around 87 crore shares against 60 lakh shares on offer for subscription, Durlax Top Surface said in a statement.

Non-institutional investor category received the highest interest among investors and was subscribed over 415 times. Bids for around 35.52 crore shares were received against 8.56 lakh shares on offer.

Retail segment was subscribed over 202 times and the qualified investor segment was subscribed over 48 times, the company said.

The company’s shares will be listed on the NSE SME platform, Emerge, on June 26.

The company had fixed the



price band at Rs 65-68 per share for the issue which was open for subscription from June 19-21, it added.

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of 42 lakh shares worth up to Rs 28.56 crore and an offer for sale of 18 lakh shares worth up to Rs 12.24 crore.

Out of the fresh issue of Rs 28.56 crore, the company plans to utilise Rs 17.50 crore to part finance working capital requirements and Rs 6 crore towards general corporate purposes.

Promoters including Shravan Suthar and Lalit Suthar hold around 95 per cent stake in the company

while public shareholders hold nearly 5 per cent stake.

Promoter Shravan Kumar, who held 66.94 per cent of the equity stake or 83,01,399 shares sold 18 lakh shares through the OFS route.

“Promoter holding pre-issue stands at 95.44 per cent which post-issue will come to 60.35 per cent,” the company said.

Established in 2010, Durlax Top Surface manufactures solid surface materials. The company has two brands, namely LUXOR and ASPIRON.

The Gujarat-based company reported revenue of Rs 90.84 crore and a net profit of Rs 5.05 crore for FY 2023-24.

Firm wins bid for world's first flue gas CO2 to 4G ethanol project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New energy transition platform Jakson Green has announced its plans to establish the world’s first flue gas CO2 to 4G ethanol project for a power plant. Serving as the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) partner, Jakson Green aims to operationalise the project within two years.

The initiative, located in Lara, Chhattisgarh, is conceptualised and designed by NETRA (NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance), the R&D arm of state-run NTPC, according to sources.

‘Flue gas CO2 to 4G’ refers to a process where carbon dioxide (CO2) captured from flue gases (emissions from industrial processes or power plants) is converted into “4G ethanol” through advanced technology.

Addressing bleeding management in cardiac, liver transplant surgeries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In good news for India’s healthcare sector especially in high-risk cardiac and liver transplant surgeries, Plasmagen Biosciences Private Limited (Plasmagen), a Bengaluru-based biopharmaceutical company, has partnered with global biotechnology leader CSL Behring to introduce Haemocomplettan P (Human Fibrinogen Concentrate) to the Indian market.

The move hopes to address the challenge of managing uncontrolled massive bleeding given that India performs approximately 1,50,000 cardiac surgeries and around 1,800 liver transplants annually, with a substantial number of these patients requiring blood transfusions to manage hemorrhage.

In fact, around 50 per cent of cardiac surgery patients need blood transfusions, and more than 25 per cent of blood transfusions in hospitals are



for liver transplant recipients. Delayed control of bleeding in these surgeries can lead to severe complications, including renal failure, stroke, and even death, as well as increased healthcare costs and longer hospital stays.

Vinod Nahar, Managing Director of Plasmagen, highlighted that the collaboration with CSL Behring not only addresses the pressing issue of bleeding management in critical surgeries but also expands the scope of treatment options across various medical specialties, including cardiac, liver transplant, gastroenterology, and pediatrics. This partnership

ensures that high-quality, globally recognised biopharmaceutical products are available in India, aiming to improve healthcare outcomes, enhance disease awareness, and provide comprehensive patient education, he added.

Haemocomplettan P, manufactured by CSL Behring, is a specialised product designed to treat and prevent bleeding disorders in patients with congenital afibrinogenemia and acquired hypofibrinogenemia.

This human fibrinogen concentrate has been used globally for over 27 years, treating more than 3.5 lakh patients and demonstrating significant efficacy in rapidly restoring fibrinogen levels.

This replenishment is crucial for effective blood clotting and can significantly reduce the need for blood transfusions.

Dr N Kanagarajan, a Senior Consultant Cardiac Anaesthesiologist at the Madras Medical Mission in Chennai, said,



NAGAL CONFIRMS HIS PARIS OLYMPICS QUALIFICATION

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal on Saturday confirmed that he has officially qualified for the men's singles event of the upcoming Paris Olympics. The Paris Games will be his second stint in the Olympics, having also qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Games, where he made it to the second round. "Extremely glad to share that I have officially qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This is a

monumental moment for me as the Olympics holds a special place in my heart!", Nagal posted on X. "One of my career highlights so far was participating in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Ever since then, Paris has been a big goal for me. Can't wait to put my best foot forward." The All India Tennis Association (AITA) had said that Nagal as per ITF was alternate till June 10, when the rankings were considered for qualification.

Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji will compete in the men's doubles event at Paris Games. Bopanna, being a top-10 player, had the choice to pick his partner. AITA approved his choice and paired him with Balaji. Nagal had enhanced qualification chances by winning the Heilbronn Challenger earlier this month as he broke into the top 80 of the ATP singles rankings. The Heilbronn victory was Nagal's second Challenger title

this season, having prevailed in the Chennai Challenger earlier this year. The 26-year-old Nagal has been making the waves since the start of the 2024 season as he qualified for the main draw of the Australian Open, where he made it to the second round with an upset win over then world number 37 Alexander Bublik. He had also qualified for the main draw of the Indian Wells Masters and Monte-Carlo Masters, the ATP 1000 events.

Shubhankar makes cut, but slips in third round of KLM Open



PTI ■ AMSTERDAM

Shubhankar Sharma, heading to the Paris Olympics in August, made the cut on the line in the second round of the KLM Open before suffering a round of 3-over 74 in the following round here. Sharma is now tied 67th. He had double bogey in the second round, and had two more in the third on the Par-3 fourth and Par-5 18th, which he had birdied on the opening two days. Overall, he had four birdies, three bogeys and two doubles on the third day, down four

places from the second round. The leader after two rounds was Mikko Korhonen (64-68), who was 10-under. He was yet to start his third round. The Finn made a hole-in-one en route a share of his lead on the opening day, and he added every score from two to seven in round two to move to 10 under. He was a shot clear of American Sean Crocker, who carded a 67, and two ahead of English duo Ross Fisher and James Morrison. Korhonen is a two-time winner on the DP World Tour, but his appearance at

last month's Soudal Open was his first in 12 months, and this is just the third event of his comeback from a spell out. A holed nine iron from 137 yards was the highlight of a second round that contained six birdies, two bogeys and a triple, and the 43-year-old was happy to be back on the Tour. Dane Rasmus Hojgaard matched the day's lowest round with a 65 to sit at seven under alongside England's Matthew Baldwin, Scot Ewen Ferguson, American Nicolo Galletti, Italian Matteo Manassero and German Matti Schmid.



Indian women compound archery team wins hat-trick of World Cup gold medals

PTI ■ ANTALYA (TURKEY)

Indian compound women's archery team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur continued their imperious form this season, securing a hat-trick of World Cup gold medals with a win over Estonia in the third stage of the event here on Saturday. The trio, who had qualified as the top-seed, beat Estonia's Lisell Jaatma, Meeri-Marita Paas and Maris Tetsmann, 232-229 in a one-sided final here. The women's compound team thus has been unbeatable this season, having won the World Cup Stage 1 and Stage 2 gold medals in Shanghai and Yecheon in April and May respectively. Indian male compound archer Priyansh is also fighting for a bronze later in the day. In the recurve section, Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara are also in the hunt for two medals, having advanced to their respective individual semifinals.



Gangjee holds on in close finish to win Selangor Masters golf title

PTI ■ SELANGOR (MALAYSIA)

Rahil Gangjee won the RPKNS Selangor Masters despite six bogeys in his 3-over 73 on the final day as he prevailed over Deyen Lawson (69) by one shot, here Saturday. The 45-year-old veteran, who had started the day with a five shot lead, finished at 8-under for the wire-to-wire win as Lawson was 7-under. Gangjee's five-shot lead going into the final round disappeared within a matter of holes as he was unable to find the form that he seemed to have had since round one. With three bogeys in his first nine, and another to match on hole 10, he soon found himself neck and neck with Thailand's Runchanapong Youprayong. It was Gangjee's second win on the ADT after his 2018 success at Louis Philippe Cup in India. He has two Asian Tour wins - first in 2004 in Volkswagen Masters in Beijing and then 14 years later in Panasonic Open in Japan. In 2011 and 2012 he played on the Nationwide Tour in the US and also played between 2020 and 2022 in Japan. Local rising star Marcus Lim and Australia's Deyen Lawson were breathing down his neck and just one shot behind in the USD 175,000 Asian Development Tour event. Gangjee was able to birdie the par-three hole 12 and then the Par-5 13th as he stayed ahead. Another birdie came on the 16th. By the time he reached the 17th tee, Runchanapong had

dropped away with a double bogey on 16th and only Lawson was left, two shots behind. Those two shots vanished as Gangjee bogeyed 17th and 18th. Lawson's birdie on 17 meant the pair were heading down the final fairway with just one shot between them. Both managed only bogeys on the 18th and Gangjee was finally able to breathe to get the win at 272 and Lawson (69) in solo second in 273. Lim (69) and Runchanapong (69) were tied third. Poosit Suppramai (66) of Thailand posted the only bogey free round of the day, his four birdies helping into a share of fifth spot alongside compatriot Sarut Vongchaisit (71). Saptak Talwar the only other Indian to make the cut shot 70 with three closing bogeys and was T-33rd.

AP ■ DORTMUND (GERMANY)

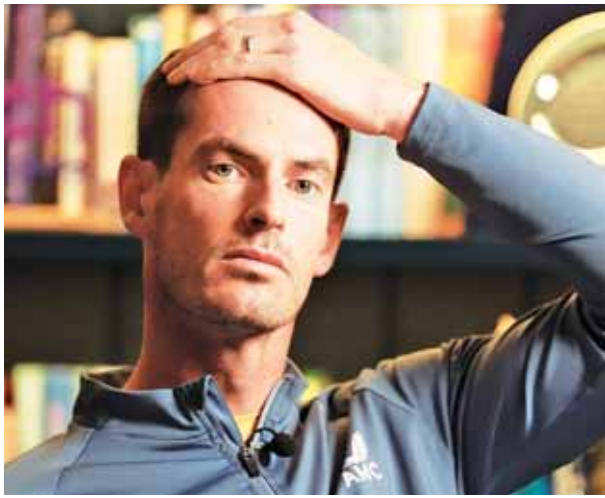
Portugal coach Roberto Martinez plucked out statistics to defend his continued selection of Cristiano Ronaldo after the striker's capacity to handle the physical intensity of the European Championship was questioned on Friday. The 39-year-old Ronaldo played the full game but didn't score in Portugal's group-stage opener, a come-from-behind 2-1 win against the Czech Republic on Tuesday. Next up for the five-time world player of the year is what promises to be an intense, atmospheric match against Turkey and its loud, passionate fans in Dortmund on Saturday. Get out of the group and Portugal will have to play every

four or five days to reach the final in Berlin on July 14. Martinez insisted that was not beyond Ronaldo, even at his age, and pointed to his record in the Saudi league with Al-Nassr in the recently completed season. "Can I ask you something?" Martinez replied when asked if Ronaldo's minutes might have to be managed at Euro 2024. "Do you know how many minutes Cristiano played last season?" The answer was 2,649 minutes in league play, the second highest for Al-Nassr behind Sadio Mane. Ronaldo started 31 of the team's 34 games, again behind only Mane's 32. It was put to Martinez that the intensity of the Saudi league doesn't compare to what he is experiencing at Euro 2024 and



that he doesn't need to press from the front as much with his club. "I think when you are talking about atmosphere, it is about experience and how you handle big occasions," Martinez continued. "I don't think there is another player in world football who has had six European Championships. "What is

important to understand is what a player brings. For us, Cristiano brings experience, know-how, goalscoring opportunities, that movement in the box, the opportunity to open space. If you want to analyze his stats in terms of the physical, all you need to do is look at what he has done in the last 12 months."



Murray to have surgical procedure on injured back


AP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray will undergo a "surgical procedure" on his back Saturday before the former No. 1 makes a decision about trying to play at Wimbledon or the Paris Olympics. The 37-year-old Murray retired from his second-round match at Queen's Club on Wednesday because of back pain - the latest in a series of injuries that have slowed the two-time Wimbledon champion.

Murray, who has signaled his intention to retire later this year, stopped playing while trailing Jordan Thompson 4-1. He said he was experiencing problems with his right leg even before getting to the court. After three games, Murray received treatment on his surgically repaired right hip, right knee and lower back. His management team confirmed that he'd have the procedure Saturday. No other details were provided.



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S. No.	NIT No./ Call No.	Tender ID.	Detaile of Work	Estimated Cost (INR)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Bid Submission End Date
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	05/TS/SEW/BMC/ 2024-25 First call	UAD _352673_1	Supply of PPE AND SAFETY GEAR/ EQUIPMENT FOR SAFAI MITRA under sewage Dept.	2,51,39,925/-	1,25700/-	25.06.2024
Prebid Meeting on 02.07.2024 at 12:00 PM. Place-Sewage dept. BMC, Shyamla hills rest house, near hotel lake view Ashoka, Bhopal						
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ENGLAND AIM FOR MASSIVE WIN OVER USA TO STAY IN SEMIFINAL RACE

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

Defending champions England will need their power hitters to do the job against a demoralised yet tricky USA in their final Super 8 match as they eye a huge win to keep themselves in contention for a semifinal spot at the T20 World Cup here on Sunday. England batters couldn't produce the big hits while chasing a target of 164 during their last Super 8 match against South Africa, suffering a narrow seven-run loss on Friday. West Indies' massive nine-wicket win over the USA has opened up the group, leaving England with the task of notching up a big victory to push their net run-rate up as it might come down to it in the end. While South Africa are currently sitting atop the Group 2 with two wins, both West Indies and England have a win and a loss each with the former having a better NRR than the latter.

However, no team is assured of a semifinal berth and England will need to defeat USA by either 10 runs or at least an over to spare to stay in contention for the semifinals. For SA, a loss -- even in a Super Over -- against WI in their final match will knock them out of the race if England can achieve their task. If SA win and England lose to USA, it will again be a three-way tie between WI, ENG and USA for the second spot and the team with better run-rate will go through to the knockout stage. England batters produced an authoritative performance against the West Indies but they failed to tame the SA bowlers and faltered in their chase of 164 on Friday. Phil Salt has been in great form, having blasted two centuries, a fifty, and three thirties in his last 10 T20Is but his early dismissal meant England couldn't get the explosive start as Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow couldn't quite bring out the big shots.



Harry Brook (53) and Liam Livingstone (33) played sensibly to take the chase deep but England eventually failed to score 25 runs in the last three overs. However, despite the loss, England's batting remains a formidable force which the likes of Saurabh Netravalkar and Harmeet Singh will find tough to tame. In the bowling unit, Adil Rashid and Jofra Archer have been their standout bowlers with 13 and 12 wickets each but Mark Wood's form will be a cause of worry as apart from a three-wicket haul, he couldn't get any wicket in his last 5 T20Is. For the co-hosts USA, it has been a reality check after a stunning show in the group stage. They suffered successive losses and their entry into the semifinal will be a miracle as they are alive in the tournament only mathematically. USA will need to beat England by 80 runs in their final game and also hope that South Africa outwits WI by more than 67 runs to make the semifinal on the basis of NRR.

For US, Andries Gous and Aaron Jones have done the heavy lifting in the batting department and they will need support from the entire team as it will take more than a few individual performances to get it across the defending champions. Jones has been leading the sides since USA have been without skipper Monank Patel following their game against Pakistan. **TEAMS (FROM):** **England:** Jos Buttler (c), Moen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley and Mark Wood. **USA:** Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Noshtush Kenjige, Saurabh Nathralvakar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangir. Reserve Players: Gajanan Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Yasir Mohammad.

India women eye ODI series clean sweep against South Africa

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India were able to tame varied challenges thrown at them by South Africa so far, and they will be eager to take the series to its fitting conclusion of a 3-0 margin during the third and final ODI here on Sunday. Currently, the margin stands 2-0 in favour of India but that insuperable position has not come without its own trials by fire. In the first match, the Indian batters had to come back from a perilous 99 for five before making a 260-plus total. The home side bowlers defended the target well too. But in the second game, it was the turn of the Indian bowlers to ace the test that they were subjected to by centurions Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp on a placid pitch. Despite the heavy pounding, they kept their nerves till the last ball of the match to come out on the right side of the result. However, the common thread across these two matches was the exceptional batting of



Smriti Mandhana, who made 117 and 136 in them. Mandhana thus became the first India woman batter to score two successive hundreds in ODIs, and she also equalled Mithali Raj's record of seven one-day centuries.

So, the Indian vice-captain will be eager to sign off from the ODI series on a high before entering the one-off Test at Chennai from June 28. The timely return to form of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who made an 88-ball 103 in

the second match, too might have pleased the management no end. However, the think tank will be eager to see a substantial outing from opener Shafali Verma, whose run of low scores has now been extended to eight matches.

With the series already in kitty, India might also give an outing to fringe players such as bowlers Shreyanka Patil, Saika Ishaque and top-order batter Priya Punia. On the other hand, South Africa will be keen to win the

match and gain at least two ICC Women's ODI Championship points, critical in their qualification for next year's 50-over World Cup. Of course, a win will go a long way in instilling a dose of confidence ahead of the Test and the ensuing T20I series. But for that, the visitors will need a concerted effort from their batters and bowlers. **TEAMS (FROM):** **India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Dayalan Hemalatha, Radha Yadav, Asha Sobhana, Shreyanka Patil, Saika Ishaque, Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Priya Punia. **South Africa:** Laura Wolvaardt (c), Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Mieke de Ridder, Sinalo Jafta, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Eliz-Mari Marz, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukune, Nondumiso Shangase, Delmi Tucker.



SA bowlers had good plans and pulled it off against England: Markram

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)

South Africa skipper Aiden Markram applauded his bowlers for sealing a thrilling seven-run victory against England in a T20 World Cup Super Eight match here on Friday, saying they did not wilt under pressure. England needed just 25 runs in the last three overs with six wickets in hand but tight bowling left them stranded at 156/6 in their chase of 164 on an easy-paced wicket with even bounce. "Last three overs we had a lot against us but the bowlers had good plans and pulled it off," said Markram, whose side's innings was built around opener Quinton de Kock's fine 65 off 38 balls. "If I am greedy, we were 10-20 short especially after the start we got. Not quite played a complete game of cricket but we are on the right track." He singled out de Kock for special praise, who dished out a second good performance in the Super Eight stage and helped South Africa win their sixth game on the bounce in the World Cup. "Quinny (de Kock) has been good for us in the last two games. It was a bit nerve-

wracking in those (last three) overs but it can happen. The plans were there just the execution wasn't. I'm grateful that catch (of Harry Brook) stuck," he added. England skipper Jos Buttler too praised De Kock for his enterprising batting. "Quinton came in with a lot of intent and we couldn't quite match that. We pulled it back and were happy to chase that target, but his innings was the difference. We came back well with the ball. "(Harry) Brook and (Liam) Livingstone had a fantastic partnership to get us close and even look like favourites but credit to South Africa for closing out the game," he said. De Kock, who picked up his second 'Player of the Match' in Super Eight, said he just tried to carry on from where he had left off against the USA in the previous game. De Kock had scored 74 off 40 deliveries in the opening Super Eight game. "I try to carry on confidence game by game. We bowled really well in the powerplay and we controlled it very nicely. To be able to defend 160 on a decent wicket is a good effort from us."

West Indies crush USA by 9 wickets

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Opener Shai Hope blasted an unbeaten 82 as West Indies came back roaring to crush the United States of America by nine wickets in the T20 World Cup Group 2 Super Eight match here. After bowling out the USA for a mere 128 in 19.5 overs, the West Indies batters went all guns blazing from the word go to knock off the target in 10.5 overs to make 130/1, recording a comfortable win. The win improved West Indies' standing in the Group 2 points table. The Caribbean side, which had suffered an eight-wicket hammering from England on Wednesday, is now placed second with two points and a Net Run Rate of 1.814. Johnson Charles fell for a 14-ball 15 with a couple of fours early on but the pair of Hope (82 not out) and Nicholas Pooran did the job for their



side, smacking the USA bowlers all around the park here at the Kensington Oval.

Hope made a mincemeat of the USA bowling as the right-handed wicketkeeper-batter

clattered eight sixes and four fours to make 82 not out from just 39 balls, with Pooran

reaching 27 not out from 13 balls with three sixes and a four. Hope remained at the forefront of WI's chase as he forged a 67-run stand for the opening partnership with Charles and then added another 63 runs unbeaten for the second wicket with Pooran, which came off only 23 balls as the Caribbean side ruled the roost. Earlier after the West Indies put USA in to bat first, Andre Russell (3.5-0-31-3) and Roston Chase (4-0-19-3) made life tough for the opposition batters. After an early blow in the form of Steven Taylor (2) who was caught at point by chase of Russell, the pair of Andreis Gous and Nitish Kumar (20) forged a strong partnership to revive USA and take them ahead but they both fell after making their respective starts. Nitish was trapped leg-before by West Indies spinner

Gudakesh Motie for 20 off 19 balls with two fours and Gous, who hit three fours and a six in his rapid 29 off 16 balls, was caught at deep midwicket by Hope off Alzarri Joseph in the eighth over and that was when USA's decline began. None of the following USA batters could trouble the West Indies as the tournament co-hosts kept chipping away with regular wickets, denying their opponents any momentum with the bat. USA skipper Aaron Jones (11) was cleaned up by Chase who looked unplayable. Chase grabbed another wicket when he had the veteran Corey Anderson trapped leg-before for seven. Harmeet Singh, who had provided fireworks with the bat for the USA against South Africa in the last match, fell for a first-ball duck when Chase had him caught by Charles to ensure West Indies remained on top of the proceedings.

Afghanistan set for stern Australia test in T20 World Cup Super Eight game

PTI ■ KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES)

Astern test awaits Afghanistan as they take on a rampant Australia in their T20 World Cup Super Eight Group 1 clash here on Sunday. Coming off a 47-run thrashing at the hands of India, Afghanistan will be under pressure not just to record a win but also to improve their Net Run Rate which took a severe hit after the loss in their first Super Eight game. Afghanistan are placed third with a NRR of -2.350 and it will be an uphill task for them to improve that as well as move up in the points table in a group which also consists Bangladesh. While Rahmanullah Gurbaz (178 runs) and Ibrahim Zadran (160) have been at the forefront of Afghanistan batting, they need more from their middle and lower-order batters in terms of contribution. Both Fazalhaq Farooqi (15 wickets) and Rashid Khan (9)

have made life tough for batters consistently across varied pitches in the Americas and they will be crucial to stop the battery of in-form Australian batters who like to keep things in their control. Afghanistan showed their all-round skills in the group stage to finish second behind the West Indies but they will have to find their 'A' game to stop the 2021 winners Australia, who have notched up five wins in a row. At the top, David Warner (169 runs) and Travis Head's (179) destructive opening pair can take down the best of bowling attacks and in such a scenario, Rashid's use of Farooqi and himself could have a big impact on the proceedings. The two teams last met in the ODI World Cup in 2023. It was in Mumbai where Glenn Maxwell had played a once-in-a-generation knock to notch up a sensational double hundred while battling cramps all over his body, with Pat Cummins in tow who provided sturdy support from



the other end. Afghanistan would certainly be motivated to exact revenge for that loss in a format wherein they feel most comfortable and have the skills and mindset to excel but it remains to be seen if Rashid's side can execute their plans to perfection. Like South Africa, Mitchell Marsh's Australia have established themselves as one of the formidable sides in the tournament with plenty of firepower in their ranks. Maxwell's form remains a concern but Australia have a perfect cover in Tim David, the burly all-rounder who has also been honing his skills as a leg-spinner in order to add more to the bowling strength. Marcus Stoinis' presence in the middle and lower order makes Australia's batting look deeper and his current form - 156 runs in three matches at 190.24 - makes him one to watch out for. Pat Cummins' hat-trick in the last game against Scotland notwithstanding, the

Australians will be challenged to improve their fielding in general after they spilled a total of six catches in which Marsh alone dropped three. Adam Zampa (11) is ranked second in the list of most wicket-takers in this World Cup and the leg-spinner remains Australia's best bet with the ball after the big three quicks. **TEAMS (FROM):** **Australia:** Mitchell Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade (wk), David Warner and Adam Zampa. **Afghanistan:** Rashid Khan (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal Kharoti, Hazratullah Zazai, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad Malik.

the pioneer agenda

"That's my gift. I let that negativity roll off me like water off a duck's back. If it's not positive, I didn't hear it. If you can overcome that, fights are easy"

— George Foreman



Water is a driving force and fuel for all nature. India's water crisis is increasing day by day, especially in metropolitan cities. To address this problem is the urgent need of the hour, say **DR KAUSHAL KANT MISHRA** and **DR VINAY PATHAK**

SCARY SCARCITY OF LIFE'S DRIVING FORCE

Water is the key resource for sustaining life on Earth. It permeates every aspect of our existence, from the biological processes that occur within our bodies to the agricultural systems that produce our food or source of energy. The critical nature of water is further underscored by its finite availability and the essential roles it plays in maintaining ecosystems, supporting economic activities, and ensuring human health and well-being.

As global populations continue to rise and climate change intensifies, the pressure on our water resources is mounting, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable management and conservation practices. The significance of water cannot be overstated; it is the lifeblood of our planet, making the stewardship of this precious resource a paramount concern for all.

Securing water resources is paramount because, unlike energy, there are no alternative sources for water. It is an imperative that transcends environmental and geopolitical boundaries. We are often guided by the same motivations and methodologies in water related matters like we do for energy. However, unlike energy, which could benefit from a diverse array of alternative sources, water remains singular in its indispensability and irreplaceability. Energy resources can be substituted, green sources for fossil fuel, solar for coal, nuclear power for thermal power and so on. The situation is quite different when it comes to water.

The total volume of water present on planet earth is constant. If we discount the amount of water contained in meteors, water does not come to this planet in any significant form. Our exorbitant exploitation of this natural reserve is making water ratio available for human diminish alarmingly.

Alternative energy resources like wind energy, solar energy, have become quite reliable alternatives to the traditional fossil fuels. These alternative energy sources do provide pollution free and sustainable means for the planet's energy needs. We can use ethanol for petrol or mixture of both and it still works. In contrast, water has no such alternatives. These renewable sources are diverse and abundant, enabling a flexible and resilient energy supply system. There is no renewable or alternative water that can replace the freshwater required for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, and industrial processes. This stark difference underscores the critical nature of water and the imperative to manage it wisely. While advancements in technology have enabled us to harness the power



DR VINAY PATHAK



DR KAUSHAL KANT MISHRA

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SECURING WATER RESOURCES IS PARAMOUNT BECAUSE, UNLIKE ENERGY, THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR WATER. IT IS AN IMPERATIVE THAT TRANSCENDS ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOPOLITICAL BOUNDARIES. WE ARE OFTEN GUIDED BY THE SAME MOTIVATIONS AND METHODOLOGIES IN WATER RELATED MATTERS LIKE WE DO FOR ENERGY
”



of the sun and wind, the same cannot be said for creating new sources of water. Thus, the focus must be on conserving and efficiently managing the water we have, ensuring its availability for future generations.

The absence of viable substitutes for water underscores the urgency of safeguarding our existing supplies through comprehensive, integrated approach encompassing the demand side and also the supply sides of the equation. Ensuring water security involves not only protecting the quality and quantity of freshwater sources but also includes improvements and in the water supply, transmission, sanitation infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change and population growth. This requires coordinated efforts at all levels of governance to commit and deploy far reaching policy reforms, technological innovations, and community engagement.

The stakes are high, as the failure to secure water resources could lead to severe social, economic, and environmental consequences. Let's convince ourselves and decide to call water not as water resource but water reserves.

According to a US geological survey the total water reserves on this planet is 1.36 billion kms. Out of this only 2.5 per cent is freshwater and out of that 0.3 per cent is liquid while the rest is frozen in glaciers and poles. Scarcity of water is actually scarcity of access to water reserves, which is pervasive. As per UN estimates around two billion people suffer from some form of water stress. This number is only going to increase in near future.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the annual per capita water availability is less than 500 cubic meters, far below the threshold for water access. Similarly, in Sub-Saharan Africa, recurrent droughts exacerbate the already limited access to safe drinking water, affecting both rural and urban populations.

The world's most populous countries, India and China face significant challenges due to the over-extraction of groundwater depletion and water reserve contamination. In Chennai, the situation turned dire in 2019 when the city's reservoirs dried up, leading to a severe drought. This crisis was exacerbated by delayed monsoons and overdependence on groundwater, prompting emergency measures like water tankers and rationing. Bengaluru's crisis this year in April needs no reminder. The local impacts of water reserve access are profound and varied, affecting communities in different ways depending on their geographic, economic, and social contexts. In regions like California in the United States, prolonged droughts have led to severe water restrictions, affecting agricultural productivity and leading to economic losses.

In India, the state of Maharashtra has experienced recurrent droughts, leading to crop failures and driving rural-to-urban migration as farmers seek alternative livelihoods. These local impacts highlight the interconnectedness of water scarcity with other critical issues such as food security, economic stability, and social cohesion. Overuse and mismanagement of water reserves are primary drivers of water scarcity. In agriculture, inefficient irrigation practices lead to significant water wastage. For example, traditional flood irrigation methods can lose up to 50 per cent of water to evaporation and runoff. Transitioning to more efficient methods, such as drip irrigation, can substantially reduce water use while maintaining crop yields. In industry, water is often used in large quantities for processes such as cooling, cleaning, and manufacturing. Without proper recycling and reuse strategies, this water is discharged as waste, contributing to the depletion of local water reserve sources. Household mismanagement also plays a role, with excessive water use for

activities such as lawn watering, car washing, and inefficient fixtures leading to unnecessary wastage. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach that includes technological innovation, regulatory measures, and public awareness campaigns to promote more sustainable water use practices across all sectors. Climate change has a profound impact on global water cycles, exacerbating water reserve access scarcity and contributing to the depletion of freshwater reserves. Rising temperatures lead to increased evaporation rates, reducing the availability of surface water in lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. There may be increased rainfall and flooding which sometime increases the chances of contamination of water supplies and infrastructure damage. The variability and unpredictability of climate change's effects on water availability necessitate adaptive management strategies that can respond to these changing conditions. This includes enhancing water storage infrastructure, improving water use efficiency, and developing robust monitoring and forecasting systems to better manage water resources in a changing climate. In many developing countries, inadequate sanitation infrastructure exacerbates the problem, leading to widespread contamination of drinking water reserves. Addressing water pollution requires stringent regulatory measures to control industrial emissions, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and improve waste management systems. Further, increasing the expenditure in water treatment methods may help mitigate the problem. Public awareness and education campaigns are also crucial in promoting responsible behaviour and reducing pollution at the reserve source. The health and well-being of communities depend on the availability of clean and safe water, making the

prevention and mitigation of water reserve pollution which is a critical component of water reserve management. Thus, the call to action is clear: we must prioritize water reserves as a central pillar of sustainable development. Efficient water reserves management is key to tackling the problem. We have to ensure sustainable use of water resources. In agriculture, the adoption of advanced irrigation techniques, such as drip-irrigation and sprinkler based systems, can significantly reduce water use while maintaining or even improving crop yields. These new and innovative technologies deliver water directly to the plant roots and reducing the overall need for water. In the industrial sector, recycled water supply in-plant reuse policy may substantially decrease water consumption. By treating and reusing wastewater within industrial processes, companies can reduce their reliance on freshwater sources and lower their environmental impact. Household water-saving technologies, such as low-flow fixtures, dual-flush toilets, and rainwater harvesting systems, can also contribute to significant water savings. Encouraging the widespread adoption of these technologies requires supportive policies, financial incentives, and public awareness campaigns. By implementing efficient water management practices across all sectors, we can reduce water wastage, enhance water security, and promote sustainable development. All individuals, industries, and governments need to act collectively and urgently to protect and manage our water reserves. The right time to get together and respond to the call for action is right now. The water we save today is the water we generate for tomorrow.

DR KAUSHAL KANT Mishra is Delhi-based senior orthopaedic surgeon
DR VINAY PATHAK is Assistant Professor, IIIT-Sonepat

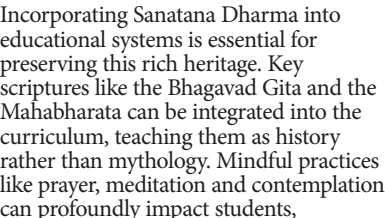
A decorative wooden boat-shaped platter filled with various sushi, including nigiri, maki, and sashimi, garnished with flowers and soy sauce.

adding an authentic touch to every dish, says Mr Amit Rana, General Manager at Holiday Inn New Delhi International Airport. Complementing the food, the festival will offer a selection of unique cocktails and mocktails that capture the essence of South India, including Madras Magic, Kerala Coconut Cooler, Andhra Mango Mojito, Udupi Uplifter, Ambuli Juice, Neer Majjige, Panakam, Panna, and Nimbu Pani. The ambience at Edesia and Viva will transport guests to the vibrant and culturally rich regions of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Both restaurants will be adorned with traditional decor, colourful displays, and installations representing the distinct art and culture of these southern states. A dedicated vendor will enhance the dining experience by transforming the space into a visual celebration of South India's heritage.

Inspired by her Guru, Om Swami, she now leads the Vedic Sadhana Foundation, making Sanatana Dharma accessible to the modern world says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

not only preserved but also revitalised in a way that resonates with today's youth. Priyanka's decision to transition from the corporate world was influenced by several pivotal moments. Under her Guru's guidance, her interest in exploring the depths of Dharma grew. The powerful teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and other scriptures offered profound answers and insights into life. A particularly significant experience was when her daughter, attending a Catholic school, expressed a desire to become a disciple of Jesus at the age of seven. This moment highlighted the disconnection from their own cultural heritage. Priyanka began sharing stories from the Puranas with her daughter and practicing more rituals at home. These experiences deepened her love for Bhagawan and solidified her path. In times of despair, her Guru was her pillar of strength, much like Krishna to Draupadi, leading her to share this journey with others.

At the Vedic Sadhana Foundation, Priyanka strives to make ancient teachings reliable to the younger generation by meeting them where they are online. The foundation has developed the world's first app for Mantra Sadhana, empowering youth globally through the practice of meditation and mantra chanting. The Sadhana App, used by 90,000 people globally, 75% of whom are youth, makes these practices accessible. Additionally, the foundation holds free Sadhana events across India, allowing youth to collectively embrace and understand the meaning behind these practices. Engaging directly with their curiosity, the foundation answers thousands of queries on their helpdesk, showcasing the beauty and richness of Dharma, which encourages personal exploration and empowers youth to lead better lives.



encouraging them to reflect on higher questions of life. Well-trained teachers who understand Sanatana Dharma can inspire students with its values and virtues. Celebrating traditional festivals, rituals and practices creates a vibrant cultural environment, helping students connect with their heritage. Technology, like the Sadhana App, can also be

incorporated into the curriculum, providing students with practical tools for spiritual growth and self-discovery. The impact of the Vedic Sadhana Foundation's work is evident in stories like Priya's, who found solace and purpose through the Sadhana App. Struggling with severe mental health issues, Priya discovered the app and started with simple mantra chanting. The practices brought her a profound sense of calm and clarity, transforming her life. Inspired to learn more about Sanatana Dharma, Priya found a renewed sense of purpose and a stronger spiritual foundation. Her story is a powerful testament to the foundation's life-changing impact.

One major challenge in promoting Sanatana Dharma is the reluctance to discuss religion openly. The foundation addresses this by leading by example, proudly celebrating heritage and showcasing its transformative power. Modern-day disengagement from traditional practices due to time constraints and lack of access to authentic information is another challenge. The Sadhana App, created by Om Swami, makes these practices accessible to all, demonstrating their profound impact. Priyanka's vision for the Vedic Sadhana Foundation is to become a global beacon for Sanatana Dharma, making ancient Indian wisdom accessible and transformative for people worldwide. The foundation plans to establish a stronger presence, inspire the younger generation and collaborate with patrons to ensure a lasting legacy. Upcoming initiatives include the Sadhana Tablet, a dedicated device for performing Sadhana, and the Astro Sadhana App, which integrates astrology with spiritual practices.

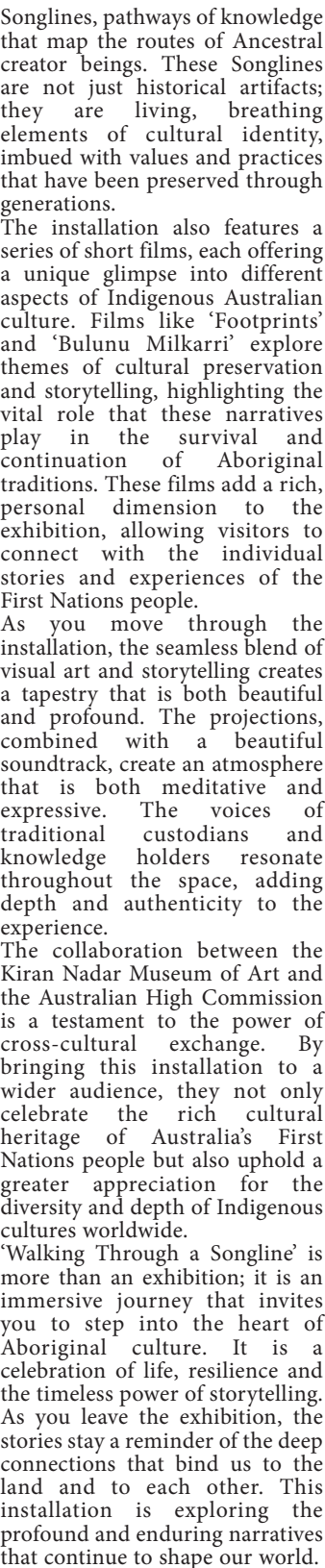
Programs for children will help them connect with their spiritual roots from an early age.

With a global audience, the foundation plans to expand its reach to digital platforms and establish a strategic physical presence. Relocating to the USA, Priyanka aims to bring ancient Indian wisdom to the forefront, mirroring historical efforts of saints who spread this knowledge globally. By making digital offerings more accessible and organising on-ground events, the foundation hopes to inspire pride in heritage and embrace Sanatana Dharma worldwide.

Priyanka's personal journey and spiritual practice under the mentorship of Om Swami have profoundly influenced her leadership and the foundation's direction. Rediscovering the transformative power of Sanatana Dharma, she integrates these ancient practices into modern life, driving the foundation's mission to reconnect individuals with their spiritual roots and promoting mental and emotional well-being through ancient practices.

In a world increasingly disconnected from its roots, Priyanka Anand and the Vedic Sadhana Foundation stand as powerful advocates for the preservation and promotion of Sanatana Dharma. Through innovative use of technology, educational initiatives and a profound commitment to spiritual growth, they are ensuring that the timeless wisdom of ancient India continues to thrive and inspire future generations. Priyanka's journey from a corporate leader to a spiritual guide is not just a personal transformation but a beacon of hope for all seeking deeper meaning and connection in their lives. Her work is a reminder that, with dedication and vision, it is possible to bridge the gap between the ancient and the modern, creating a harmonious path forward for all.

Walking Through a Songline” is a mesmerising digital installation that merges the ancient wisdom of Indigenous Australian Songlines with cutting-edge technology. Presented by the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and the Australian High Commission, this immersive experience, crafted by the National Museum of Australia and Mosster Studio, takes visitors on a profound journey through the rich tapestry of Aboriginal culture, offering a unique blend of storytelling, art and innovation says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Stepping into 'Walking Through a Songline' feels like crossing the threshold into another world, one where ancient stories and modern technology converge in a harmonious dance. It feels surreal as it presents an impressive vision of a 'Perfect World'. It feels like a soulful journey, offering a quiet, therapeutic way that allows the mind to wander into its own world.

The collaboration between the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and the Australian High Commission brings forth a groundbreaking digital installation, 'Walking Through a Songline.' Produced by the National Museum of Australia and Mosster Studio, this captivating experience promises to be a cultural journey like no other transforms the abstract into the creating an environment that is both surreal and profoundly real.

The installation, produced by the National Museum of Australia and Mosster Studio, centers around the captivating story of Naji, which originates from the Dreaming or Bugarregarre time. This narrative is a cornerstone of Aboriginal culture, detailing how spirit beings traversed a barren land, bringing life and water in their wake. As you walk through the space, these stories unfold through a series of stunning projections, enveloping you in a world that feels both timeless and immediate.

One of the most compelling aspects of this installation is its ability to evoke a sense of peace and introspection. The quiet,

therapeutic atmosphere invites visitors to lose themselves in the journey, much like the spirit beings did as they traversed the land. Each projection is a doorway into a different facet of the story, each detail meticulously crafted to draw you deeper into the narrative. Visitors are taken on a journey through mesmerising projections that portray Songlines in an artistic and astonishing way. This immersive experience blends ancient knowledge with new technology, allowing visitors to sit quietly in front of each short film and feeling transported to another world. The calm and therapeutic nature of the installation resonates with everyone present.

The tale of the Seven Sisters, a highlight of the exhibition, is presented with a blend of awe and reverence. Known as Kungkarangkalpa, the story follows the sisters as they are pursued across the desert landscape by Wati Nyirru. The narrative is brought to life through vibrant paintings by First Nations artists, which are projected onto the walls, creating a dynamic and immersive visual experience. The transformation of the sisters into stars is depicted with a poignancy that speaks to the universal themes of resilience and transformation.

'Walking Through a Songline' does more than tell a story; it creates an experience that bridges the ancient and the modern. The use of cutting-edge digital technology allows for a multi-sensory journey through the

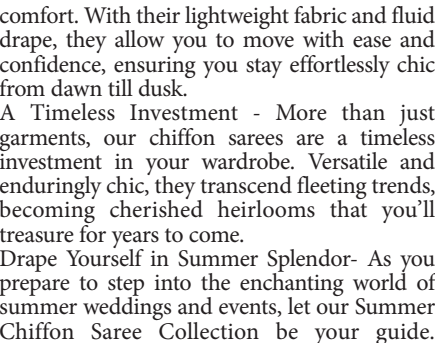
As the balmy breeze of summer is here, it's time to drape yourself in elegance and embrace the season's ethereal charm. We're thrilled to unveil our latest collection, curated especially for the enchanting summer weddings and soirées that await. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail and an unwavering commitment to sophistication, our Summer Chiffon Saree Collection captures the essence of grace and allure. Each saree is a masterpiece, designed to adorn you with effortless glamour and timeless beauty.

Light as a Whisper, Radiant as the Sun - Chiffon, renowned for its delicate texture and airy feel, takes center stage in our collection. Impossibly light and luxuriously soft, chiffon drapes like a dream, ensuring you glide through the summer festivities with unparalleled grace.

A Kaleidoscope of Hues and Patterns - From the soft pastel tones reminiscent of a summer sunrise to the vibrant hues that mirror the blossoming flowers, our collection boasts a kaleidoscope of colors to suit every mood and occasion. Whether you prefer subtle sophistication or eye-catching exuberance, you'll find the perfect saree to express your unique style.

Intricate Embellishments and Timeless Embroidery - Each saree in our collection is adorned with exquisite embellishments and timeless embroidery, adding a touch of opulence to every ensemble. From delicate floral motifs to intricate threadwork, every detail is meticulously crafted to elevate your look and leave a lasting impression.

Effortless Elegance, Unmatched Comfort - Designed with the modern woman in mind, your chiffon sarees marry elegance with



Immerse yourself in the sheer elegance of chiffon, and let each saree become a canvas upon which you paint your own summer story. Let this summer be your most stylish yet, as you enchant and captivate in the timeless beauty of chiffon sarees from Atelier Shikaarbagh.

About Atelier Shikaarbagh

Atelier Shikaarbagh is not just a brand, but a celebration of heritage and style. With a legacy inspired by fashion icons Rani Urmila Rajeev of Dhholpur and Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, the brand encapsulates the essence of timeless elegance and grace. The brand is now led by its visionary Founder & Head Designer, Maayanakraj Singh. Atelier Shikaarbagh is a sanctuary of sartorial splendor, where each creation is a masterpiece in its own right. From resplendent sarees adorned with intricate embroidery to bespoke wedding poshaks that exude regal charm, every creation is meticulously crafted to perfection. The essence of each garment is steeped in heritage craft and design narratives that have stood the test of time. The expression molds itself to the vision and desires of a proud traditional patron, finding their personal signature in a rapidly evolving local, regional and international fashion and styling arena. Their designs have been worn by some of the most prominent personalities, including the esteemed Mrs. Kokilaben Ambani, Mrs. Nita Ambani, Mrs. Smriti Z Irani, Princess Sarvathai-Hassan, Mrs. Sharmila Tagore, Mrs. Hemamalini, Mrs. Kareena Kapoor Khan, Mrs. Jahnvi Kapoor, and members of Indian and International royal families. Let me know if you require any more information.

“Chandu Champion,” directed by Kabir Khan and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, is an enthralling biographical sports drama that tells the inspiring story of Murlikant Petkar, India’s first Paralympics gold medallist

Kartik Aryan stars in the lead role, capturing the essence of a dream that perseveres against all odds and ultimately becomes a reality. The film follows Murlikant Petkar's life, from his challenging childhood to overcoming personal trauma and societal ridicule. Known as 'Chandu', Petkar's journey is marked by resilience, perseverance and an indomitable spirit that defies the label of 'loser' and aims for Olympic glory. This movie introduces the world to Murlikant Petkar, a hero whose name and achievements were unknown to many, beautifully depicting his journey and making sure everyone knows about the hero who fought for our country and made us proud.

Kartik Aryan delivers an exceptional performance in "Chandu Champion," showcasing his versatility and dedication to the craft. His portrayal of Murlikant Petkar is deeply moving, capturing the essence of the character's struggles and triumphs with authenticity. Aryan's physical transformation for the role is truly inspirational, highlighting his commitment to portraying the character authentically. His performance is an exemplification to his talent and serves as a powerful anchor for the film. Aryan's dedication to the role shines through, making it one of his standout performances. Vijay Raaz, portraying Tiger Ali, provides a perfect balance to the film with

his nuanced performance. The on-screen chemistry between Aryan and Raaz adds a compelling dynamic, enriching the narrative with authenticity and depth. Kabir Khan's direction is skillful and sensitive, capturing the essence of Petkar's life journey. The screenplay is meticulously crafted, combining moments of joy, emotion and pride. Unlike typical sports biographies, "Chandu Champion" combines heartfelt storytelling with engaging entertainment. Sudeep Chatterjee's cinematography is visually stunning, capturing the highs and lows of Petkar's journey with breathtaking visuals. While the first half of the film is engaging and well-paced, the

second half slows down slightly. However, the gripping storyline and stellar performances keep the audience invested in Chandu's journey. "Chandu Champion" is a joyful, emotional and pride-filled depiction of a real-life hero's extraordinary journey. Kartik Aaryan's powerful performance, alongside Vijay Raaz's excellent support, makes this film a must-watch. Despite the slower pace in the second half, the film's heartfelt narrative and inspirational message make it a memorable cinematic experience. "Chandu Champion" celebrates the human spirit and the relentless pursuit of dreams, reminding us that no dream is too big to achieve. Rating: 4/5



Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Olive
Lucky day Wednesday

Lucky number 10 | **Lucky colour** Golden
Lucky day Tuesday

Lucky number 9 | **Lucky colour** Beige
Lucky day Thursday

Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Violet
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283333

