



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.

Rijiju , Opp spar over Pro-tem Speaker

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.

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 Bangladeshi 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 friend. "Bangladesh greatly values



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

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.

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.

CM to inspect Burudih Dam with the aim of promoting

tourism and distribute assets in Ghatshila today

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

In a significant move aimed at boosting local development and tourism, Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Champai Soren, is scheduled to visit Ghatshila on June 23. The visit will be marked by a series of important events including the distribution of assets among beneficiaries of various government schemes, laying the foundation stones for new schemes, and inspecting the Burudih Dam with the objective of promoting it as a tourist destination. The Chief Minister will preside over a program organized at the Tamra Pratibha Manch Ground. During this event, assets will be distributed to the beneficiaries of several government schemes. This initiative aims to directly benefit the local populace by providing them with the resources and support necessary for their socio-economic development. Additionally, the Chief Minister will lay the foundation stone for new schemes, sig-



naling the commencement of further developmental projects in the region. One of the highlights of the visit is the inspection of the Burudih Dam located at Maubhandar, Ghatshila. The dam is a significant landmark with the potential to be developed into a major tourist attraction. The Chief Minister's inspection is focused on evaluating the current state of the dam and exploring possibilities for enhancing its appeal to tourists, thereby promoting local tourism and contributing to the economic upliftment of the area.

Soren will also participate in the Majhi Pargana Mahal conference organized in Pavada. This conference is an important cultural and administrative gathering that plays a vital role in the local governance and community engagement of the indigenous population. In anticipation of the Chief Minister's visit, District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal and Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal have been actively involved in briefing the deputied magistrates and police officers. Detailed guidelines regarding security and law and order maintenance have been issued. Both officials, along with other senior officers, conducted thorough inspections of the program sites, including Maubhandaar, Pavada, and Burudih Dam. During the site inspections, officials reviewed the arrangements for cleanliness, seating, drinking water, toilet facilities, medical assistance, ambulance service, and necessary barricading. Instructions were given to ensure that there is no negligence in maintaining security and law and order. The presence of local MLA Ramdas Soren during these inspections underscores the importance of the event and the collabora-

tive efforts to ensure its success. The inspection team included a host of senior officials such as DFO Mamta Priyadarshi, Deputy Development Commissioner Manish Kumar, PD ITDA Dipankar Chaudhary, ADM Law and Order Anant Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rohit Sinha, Director NEP Ajay Sao, ADM (SOR), DCLR, SDM Ghatshila, DTO, DPRO (Public Relations), BDO, and CO Ghatshila. Their combined efforts are focused on ensuring that the visit of the Honorable Chief Minister proceeds smoothly and effectively. The proposed visit of Chief Minister Champai Soren to Ghatshila is poised to be a significant event with multifaceted objectives. From empowering local beneficiaries through asset distribution to laying the groundwork for new development projects and promoting tourism at the Burudih Dam, the visit is expected to bring substantial benefits to the region. The meticulous preparations and stringent security measures underscore the administration's commitment to making this visit a success, thereby paving the way for further development and prosperity in Ghatshila.

Cleanliness drive at CMPDI Dispensary



PNS ■ Ranchi

Shankar Nagachari, Director (Technical / CRD) led the Cleanliness drive at CMPDI Dispensary premises and disposal of garbage as part of ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada. Dr. (Mrs.) Shilpi Swaroop, Chief Medical Officer; Dr. (Mrs.) Seema Kumari Kachhap, Dy. Chief Medical Officer; GM/HoDs and other senior officials and employees of CMPDI participated in this drive. In addition to the above, CMPDI and its Regional Institutes also carried out various activities like distribution of jute bags at Lohara Kocho Village, Ranchi; Dhanbad and Yensa and Borda Gram Panchayat, Maharashttra; Cleanliness drive by RI-I, Asansol and RI-II, Dhanbad; Awareness program on Single Use Plastics and distribution of Dustbins at Dhanbad, Awareness drive to sensitize people on harmful effects of plastic and distribution of Masks and sanitizers by Singhpur camp, RI-V, Bilaspur. Under Swachh Bharat Mission of Govt of India, Coal India and its subsidiaries are observing Swachhata Pakhwada from 16th-30th June, 2024 to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Cleanliness and Hygiene for the country.

International Yoga Day Celebrated at NTPC Coal Mining HQ/NML

PNS ■ Ranchi

The 10th International Yoga Day was celebrated with lot of enthusiasm at NTPC Coal Mining Headquarters/NML, Ranchi on June 21, 2024 with the theme "Yoga for Self and Society". The event was graced by Chief Guest, Sivam Srivastava, Director (Fuel), NTPC Limited and Chairman, NTPC Mining Limited (NML) & Animesh Jain, Regional Executive Director (Coal Mining) & CEO, NML as Guest of Honour. As part of Yoga Day celebration, employees participated in a Yoga Session led by Director (Fuel), NTPC Limited. The yoga session was conducted by Yoga Guru, Smt Renu Pandey as per Yoga Protocol. Addressing the participants, Director (Fuel), Srivastava said



"Yoga has now got worldwide recognition by our Honourable

Prime Minister Modi and has been It is treated as preventive medicine

to avoid lifestyle diseases with regular practice". He added "Yoga is beneficial and helps us to keep us fit, it is universally accepted and practiced by all worldwide, one has to practice yoga to get the benefits". Speaking on the occasion, Regional Executive Director (Coal Mining) Jain said that "generally we have the intent to do yoga but with the busy lifestyle gets sidelined, but yoga should be part of our life as it promotes physical & mental benefits. He thanked the HR team for organising the yoga session which acted as a refresher course and employees for their participation. On the occasion Naveen Jain, CGM, C&M, Rajnish Rastogi, HR, Heads of the department, Senior officials and employees in large numbers were present to celebrate the yoga day.

DMO Bokaro opens applications for Mineral extraction



PNS ■ BOKARO

The Bokaro district administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav has announced the commencement of the application process for mining leases for stone, morrum, and soil extraction on raiyati land, covering areas up to 3 hectares. This initiative, in accordance with Rule 9 (2) of the Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004 (as amended), invites eligible residents to submit their applications in the prescribed Form 'A'. Applications can be filed on any working day at the District Mining Office in Bokaro, as announced by the District Mining Officer, Mr.

Ravi Kumar. Residents of Bokaro district now have the opportunity to obtain mining leases for extracting minor minerals, specifically stone, morrum, and soil, from areas up to 3 hectares. The process is governed by the amended Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004, which streamline minor extraction activities. Eligible applicants must own raiyati land in Bokaro district, with the proposed mining lease area not exceeding 3 hectares. Interested individuals are required to complete and submit Form 'A' accurately, including all necessary details and documents. The District Mining Office will accept applications during regular office hours on any working day. Ravi Kumar has emphasized the importance of adhering to the guidelines in the application form to ensure a smooth and efficient processing experience. He encourages applicants to visit the District Mining Office for further information and assistance regarding the application process.

Vatsalyam-1 organised at SBPS

PNS ■ Ranchi

Grandparents are the family's strong foundation. To honour them, Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi celebrated Vatsalyam: Grandparents' Day with gaiety on the theme 'BIO RHYTHM - the song of life' which also revolves around SDG 15: Life on land. The energetic learners took the opportunity to show their love and gratitude towards their parents and grandparents through programmes.



The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by Ganesh vandana and a welcome dance. The school magazine was also released by the Principal. Under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0, the skill hub initiative undertaken by SBPS, Ranchi, the participants of the Assistant Beauty Therapist course were given their certificates by the Principal. Thereafter, the main programme commenced in which the students presented the saga of the life cycle of a butterfly and connected it with various stages of human life. The stages portrayed the struggle of a beautiful butterfly to exert its existence from the initial stage of a larva, similarly human life also encounters several obstacles which every individual needs to overcome through his/her hard work and perseverance. The event highlighted the bond between the grandparents and the children. Their enthralling performances left the audience spellbound and thoroughly mesmerized. The success of the event was evident from the joyful smiles of the grand-

parents as they were overwhelmed to see their grandchildren performing for them. It was a memorable moment for them as they left with pleasant memories, appreciation and heaps of blessings to the school and Management. Principal, Paramjit Kaur, expressed her gratitude to all for making the event successful. She highlighted the importance of Grandparents in the lives of young learners and how they inculcate values and help them to remain connected with their roots. She further added that to survive in this world of cut throat competitions and the escalating expenses, we usually are inclined upon our children having an IQ so high that they can earn to the max when they grow up. We should instead focus on Inheritance of Invaluable Qualities (IIQ). If we put only money and success in their head, they will weigh every relationship from a very materialistic perspective and eventually never become successful in interpersonal relationships. We need to give them values which can contain success and money.

IN BRIEF

Unparalleled Financial Security with Bajaj Allianz Life

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.

Necessary to provide basic facilities required by ordinary players: Saryu

Basketball court inaugurated

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

Former Olympian Harbhajan Singh inaugurated the basketball court built by Jamshedpur Krida Udyan, Sidgora on Saturday. This court has been funded by the MLA fund of Jamshedpur East MLA Saryu Roy. After the inauguration, Harbhajan Singh praised MLA Saryu Roy for fulfilling his promise of constructing the court within a year. He emphasized the importance of sports in instilling discipline and a winning spirit. Harbhajan commended Shri Rai for his noble deed, highlighting how sports cultivate problem-solving skills and the ability to win.



court. This month, additional facilities for archery, netball, handball, table tennis, snooker, and carrom will also be inaugurated. Roy emphasized his commitment to developing permanent sports infrastructure accessible to the common man. He mentioned

JNAC's expanded role in developing sports facilities, expressing happiness over this progress. The event also featured an exhibition match with teams from Ramakrishna Mission School and ISWP. National and international players, along with former coaches like Satvir Singh from Special

Olympics, attended the program. Before the match, Neepu and Roshni performed a beautiful dance, and two girls welcomed the guests with tilak and a welcome song. "Aarambh Hai Prachand." ISWP girls win, Ramakrishna boys triumph in a tough competition Jamshedpur: A total of eight basketball teams participated on Saturday, with five boys' teams and three girls' teams. The boys' teams included Ramakrishna Mission School, Sidgora, ISWP, SDSM Sidgora, Baridih High School, and Sister Nivedita English High School. The girls' teams included Ramakrishna Mission School Sidgora, ISWP, and Sister Nivedita English High School, Burma Mines. In Pool A, Ramakrishna Mission, Sidgora, and ISWP competed, while Baridih High School, Sister Nivedita High School, and SDSM School, Sidgora were in Pool B. The ISWP girls' team emerged victorious, defeating Ramakrishna Mission School 8-2. In the boys' match, Ramakrishna Mission, Sidgora, narrowly beat ISWP 15-14.

BSL Celebrates International Yoga Day

PNS ■ BOKARO

Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL) organized a program at the Bokaro Club premises to mark International Yoga Day. The event was graced by BSL's Director-in-Charge, Birendra Kumar Tiwari, Executive Director (Projects & Additional Charge Material Management) Chitta Ranjan Mohapatra, Executive Director (HR & Additional Charge Works) Rajan Prasad, Chief Medical Officer Dr. B.B. Karunamoy, along with other senior executives, employees, their families, and students from B.S.L. School. Yoga Guru Krishna Bandhu Mishra from the Yoga Center, Sector-4 Bokaro, conducted the session. The program commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting by DIC Tiwari, the



executive directors, senior officials, and the Yoga Guru. Mishra provided detailed information about yoga, demonstrating various asanas and pranayama techniques. Participants eagerly practiced these under his guidance.

Apart from the main event, International Yoga Day was also celebrated at the Collieries Division and the Jharkhand Group of Mines under BSL, where employees and their families participated enthusiastically.

BJP stages rally demanding drinking water and electricity

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

BJP in Daltonganj today staged a robust protest against the dismal availability of drinking water, electricity along with the persistent crisis of sand and rampant corruption. The BJP rally was organised by its district president Amit Tiwari. He showed his political strategy very well. The rally had 3 BJP MLAs namely Alok Chourasia, Dr Shashibhushan Mehta and Pushpa Devi. The rally had senior state BJP leader Manoj Singh besides other local faces.



BJP staging protest in Daltonganj today photo by

PNS

It showed that the BJP wanted this rally to be a serious one and not just a walk in the street in the Sun.

Earlier the Congress had staged a rally demanding better supply of electricity which is related to the drinking water supply. The Congress rally was impressive. Today the BJP came out on the street with political vigour. The Panki BJP MLA Dr Shashibhushan Mehta was in deep saffron from turban to wearing while others of his party were in normal wearing, a few in black just for the day being a Saturday. Young brigade of the BJP like BJYM and

its leader Jyoti Pandey was there in the rally. The veteran BJP MLA Ramchander Chandravanshi could not come to the rally because of his being indisposed due to heatwave. He was represented by his son. Women leaders of the BJP too spoke fiercely in the rally. The rally culminated at the main gate to the Palamu collectorate. Earlier it was said that two MP elects Vishnu Dayal Ram and Kalicharan Singh would be in the rally but they were not.

Don't sit idle, engage in welfare works: Bokaro DC instructs officers

R SHARMA ■ BOKARO

In a decisive move aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the district administration, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bokaro Vijaya Jadhav has issued stringent instructions mandating that no officer remains idle. This directive encompasses the entire officialdom of the district administration, emphasizing the need for active engagement in tasks that ensure the seamless operation of government mechanisms for the welfare of the people. The DC's directive underlines the importance of continuous mobility and proactive involvement in administrative duties. Every officer is now required to actively participate in various initiatives and tasks that contribute to the overall development and welfare of the community. This includes overseeing ongoing projects, addressing public grievances, and implementing welfare



schemes promptly and effectively. The directive is part of a broader strategy to foster a culture of accountability and responsiveness within the district administration. By ensuring that all officers are consistently engaged in meaningful work, the DC Jadhav aims to create a more dynamic and results-oriented administrative environment. This move has been welcomed by many in the community, who see it as a step towards more efficient governance. The

directive is expected to lead to quicker resolution of issues, better implementation of policies, and an overall improvement in public services. In conclusion, the DC Bokaro's strict instructions reflect a commitment to mobilizing the entire administrative apparatus to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people. This proactive approach is anticipated to bring about significant positive changes in the district's governance and service delivery.

State Govt readies to ensure rights to forest dwellers in Jharkhand

State-level workshop on Forest Rights Act to be organized today

PNS ■ Ranchi

After completion of General elections, the State Government is oiling the government machinery to expedite implementation of its flagship programmes. In the same sequence the government is focusing on ensuring rights to the forest dwellers and tribal population of the State. A road map has been prepared for settlement of forest lease claims. The responsibilities of all the officers associated with it are also being decided. Despite the Forest Rights Act, 2006 being very important for the State, till date 15 lakh tribals and other traditional forest-dependent families of the state have not been able to get its benefits. If the tribals had got forest lease, migration, human trafficking, unemployment and other social, economic and cultural challenges could have been dealt with to a large extent. The Hemant Soren led government had started the Abua Veer Abua Dishom cam-



campaign on 6 November 2013 to speed up the distribution of Forest rights lease of tribals and other traditional forest dwellers in every panchayat of the state. But, due to the changed political developments in the state and the Lok Sabha elections, this campaign could not take off properly. Now, the Champai Soren led government has prepared a fresh road map for implementation of the campaign, in which the responsibilities of the officials will also be decided, the forest rights lease claims will have to be sent back to the Gram Sabha in a rule-compliant manner, the claims will

have to be settled again after correcting the erroneous applications. In this connection the Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority, and Backward Class Welfare will host a pivotal one-day workshop titled 'Decoding FRA - Justice, Conservation and Challenges' at Sri Krishna Institute of Public Administration in Ranchi. Organized under the auspices of the Abua Bir Abua Dishom Abhiyan, this workshop aims to explore the multifaceted aspects of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), with a particular focus on justice, conservation, and the challenges encountered in its implementation. Chief Minister Champai Soren will be present in the workshop which is designed to facilitate in-depth understanding and interaction of the campaign. In the sessions, participants will examine and reflect upon various cases of rejection under the FRA, enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of the practical challenges and implications. This workshop titled "Decoding FRA - Justice, Conservation and Challenges" is pivotal in sensitizing and empowering stakeholders. These stakeholders, often referred to as the actual soldiers for forest rights, include government officials, com-

munity leaders, and civil society organizations (CSOs). The role of CSOs is particularly crucial in the effective implementation of the FRA. Notably PHIA Foundation has taken the lead in conceptualizing and designing the campaign in collaboration with the department, advocating at appropriate levels and bringing organizations like the Indian School of Business and FES on board to strengthen these efforts. To support the FRA's implementation, a dedicated FRA cell has been constituted within the Welfare Department. This cell is responsible for overseeing FRA-related affairs and providing technical support to ensure efficient execution. Additionally, the launch of a dedicated mobile application- JharFRA, and a corresponding website under this campaign underscores the commitment to streamline and enhance the implementation process. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, this workshop aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of the FRA, address implementation challenges, and set actionable targets for the future. It represents a significant step towards justice, conservation, and sustainable development for Jharkhand's indigenous and traditional forest-dwelling communities.

Cheque bounce case of Amisha Patel settled

PNS ■ Ranchi

Under the guidance of Jharkhand High Court Judge cum Executive Chairman of Jhalsa Sujit Narayan Prasad and Ranchi Civil Court Chief Justice Commissioner Diwakar Pandey, the cheque bounce case of film actress Amisha Patel and Ajay Kumar was settled on Saturday. With the contribution of mediator Sanjay Kumar and his advocates Jaiprakash and Vijayi Laxmi Srivastava, a settlement was reached between the first party Amisha Patel and the second party Ajay Kumar Singh. Justice Commissioner Diwakar Pandey was also present in the video conferencing. He talked to both the parties and congratulated



everyone on the settlement. It is known that for the special Lok Adalat to be held in the Supreme Court from 29 July to 3 August, notice has been issued on 40 cases related to the District Court by the District Legal Services Authority, Ranchi.

Campaign against use of drugs in schools across State



School students took out Prabhat Pheri with the slogan against drug abuse in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

PNS ■ Ranchi

Children from all government, non-government aided, non-aided, minority and private schools from across the State participated in a mega campaign against the use and consumption of drugs and narcotics on June 22. As per the directives issued by the Department of

School Education and Literacy of Jharkhand Government and Jharkhand Education Project Council, a Prabhat Pheri was taken out at 7 am in all the schools across all the districts where children tried to awaken social consciousness against drug abuse through message oriented pictures, slogans and posters. Children took out

rallies around their school and also urged the common people to join the campaign against drugs. Slogan writing, painting and speech competitions were also organised where children enthusiastically participated. Under this campaign, a cycle rally will also be taken out by the school children on June 24 with an aim to spread awareness in the society against drugs and narcotics. Awareness messages against drug abuse will also be read in prayer meetings on June 25 in the schools. The campaign will conclude on June 26 on the occasion of World Anti-Drug Day. On this day, children who win various competitions will be rewarded at the school level and there will also be a resolution meeting against drug addiction in schools.

State BJP election in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan reaches Ranchi

Co-in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma to come today

PNS ■ Ranchi

BJP state election in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Ranchi this evening, while co-in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma will come to Ranchi on Sunday morning. The leaders will participate in organisational meetings at the state office on 23rd June. BJP will run "Ek Vriksha Maa Ke Naam" tree plantation programme from 23rd June from Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Martyrdom Day to 6th July. Tree plantation programmes will be organised at booth level, lakhs of trees will be planted. State election in-charge and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, co-in-charge and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, along with state president and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi, Leader of Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri, regional



organisation general secretary Nagendra Tripathi, state organisation general secretary Karmveer Singh and workers from state to booth level will plant trees. Chauhan and Sarma are coming to Jharkhand for the first time with new responsibilities. Chauhan will stay at ICAR, Namkum, he will plant a tree in the campus at 9 am on 23rd June. After the departmental meeting, Shivraj Singh will reach the BJP State Office at 11 am and participate in various meetings organized by the party. Co-Incharge of Assembly Election and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will reach



Ranchi by flight at 9 am on 23rd June. At 9.30 am, he will join the program organized by the party at Litchi Garden, Jagannathpur and plant a tree. He will reach the State Office after the program and join the meeting. There is enthusiasm among the workers on the arrival of Assembly Election Incharge and Co-Incharge in Ranchi for the first time. A grand traditional welcome will be given at the airport by the workers of Ranchi Metropolitan and Rural District. Today, a meeting was held in the state office for the preparation of various programs organized by the

party, in which State Organization General Secretary Karamveer Singh, State General Secretary and MP Aditya Sahu, Dr. Pradeep Verma, State Vice President Balmukund Sahay, Aarti Kujur, State Minister Sumita Singh, Saroj Singh, and others participated. State President and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi will plant trees on 23rd June at 7.30 am in Sido Kanhu Park Morhabadi, Leader of Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri and MLA Viranchi Narayan, Anant Ojha, State General Secretary Manoj Singh in Dhurva, Regional Organization General Secretary Nagendra Tripathi, MLA Naveen Jaiswal in Argora Park, State Organization General Secretary Karamveer Singh, outgoing State President and MP Deepak Prakash, Rakesh Bhaskar, Shobha Yadav, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Park in Harmu, State General Secretary and MP Aditya Sahu in Kuchu Ormanjhi, Union Minister Sanjay Seth in Shaheed Sankalp Park Morhabadi, MLA CP Singh in Chutia at 5 pm, Samari Lal in Bariatu at 11 am.



Railway officials stand with an infant born at Muri Railway Station to one Babita Devi, a passenger, who felt labour pain in a train and gave birth to a child with help of railway medics on Saturday. PNS



Priest performs aarti and prayer to the idol of Lord Balram, Subhadra and Jagannath on the occasion of 'Snan Yatra' at Jagannathpur Temple in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murnu

Monsoon finally hits State, first showers in Sabihganj, Pakur

PNS ■ Ranchi

With the arrival of monsoon, the residents of Jharkhand finally have some much needed respite from the heat. The weather has been pleasant in many districts including the capital city-Ranchi as south west monsoon entered the State through Sabihganj and Pakur. As per the Meteorological Centre, Ranchi light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorms is predicted at many places across the State in the next few days. On June 23, light to moderate rainfall is expected at some places in Jharkhand whereas on June 24 and June 25 most parts of Jharkhand is likely to witness light to rainfall showers. The weathermen have also issued a yellow alert from June 23 to June 26 for gusty winds of speed up to 30-40 km per hour for many places in the State. The communiqué also showed a yellow alert for June 25 and June 26 for parts of northeast Jharkhand that are expected to witness heavy rainfall. "The entry of monsoon in the State has been confirmed and with all conditions favourable, monsoon clouds



are likely to soon cover the entire state of Jharkhand. However, no major increase in the maximum temperature is being predicted over the next five days, there will be some respite from the humidity for the residents. Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Giridih, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur and Sabihganj may witness heavy showers on June 25 and June 26," said an

IMD official. As per the bulletin shared, on June 22 the maximum temperature in the State was recorded at Daltonganj at 39.4 degree Celsius which is 3.8 degrees above normal. Jamshepur was 1.1 degrees above normal at 36.1 degree Celsius whereas Ranchi was observed at 30.8 degree Celsius which is 1.1 notches below normal.

AJSU Party celebrates its Foundation Day as Balidan Diwas

PNS ■ Ranchi

AJSU Party celebrated the foundation day, on Saturday, of AJSU across the State as Balidan Diwas dedicated to the youth. During this, programs were organized in all the assembly constituencies. The Party Chief, Sudesh Kumar Mahato participated in the Balidan Diwas program organized in Tamar and Silli Assembly. During this, he said that sacrifice and struggle is our self-respect. "All of us workers have to work together with determination towards fulfilling the aspirations of Jharkhandis. The responsibility of protecting the identity of the state is on our shoulders. On Balidan Diwas, along with making the youth of the State aware of the history of Jharkhand separate State movement, we are honoring the agitators who played an important role in this movement," he added. Mahto said that all the workers should discharge all the responsibilities towards the society and the organization with full devotion. "We will change the conditions of the State by not compromising with the glorious past and struggle. In the changed circumstances, we have to build a better and better Jharkhand. AJSU workers will have to sharpen their struggle and unity," he added. On the occasion, the party Chief greeted all the brave fighting com-



AJSU party Chief Sudesh Kumar Mahto alongwith party leaders during Foundation Day of AJSU Party in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

rades, workers, supporters and said that today is a day of pride, honour and honour for all of us workers. "The youth of AJSU brought the separate state movement, which was going on for decades, to its destination on the strength of their zeal, passion and sacrifice. Now again we have to work together to change the current political situation of the

state and bring Jharkhand back on the track of development," he added. During the programme organised in every assembly on Balidan Diwas, all the agitators who made an incredible contribution to the Jharkhand separate State movement were honoured. The agitators informed the youth of the area who

attended the programme about the importance and history of the movement through their address. The objective of this programme was to connect the youth of the State with this historical glory saga and to collect the valuable thoughts of the agitators and infuse a new energy towards the state in them. Also, during this period, tribute was also paid to the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the Jharkhand movement. In the Balidan Diwas program celebrated by AJSU Party in every assembly, the youth of the area were made aware of the pain, agony, struggle, passion, spirit of the Jharkhand separate State movement through video screening. Regarding this video screening, Mahato said that we can never forget the sacrifice of the brave agitators of the Jharkhand separate state movement. "Youth is the future of the state. Our aim is to connect the youth with the present of the state as well as our glorious history. This video presentation is just a glimpse of this struggle that lasted for decades," he added. During the program organized on Balidan Diwas, with the aim of keeping the environment clean and giving a better future to the present as well as the coming generation, AJSU workers took a pledge to protect them by planting trees in every assembly constituency.

Bomb buried in jungle found in Namkum

PNS ■ Ranchi

A bomb has been recovered during excavation in Hahap forest located in Namkum police station area of Ranchi district. The bomb buried in the soil was recovered here on Saturday. The BDS team reached the spot and destroyed the bomb. Namkum police station in-charge Brahmadev Prasad said that soil excavation work was going on during the construction of a house in Hahap forest, during which a para bomb was recovered from inside the ground. The house owner informed the Namkum police about the matter, after which the bomb disposal squad of Jharkhand Jaguar was sent to the spot and the process of defusing the bomb has been started. In fact, the area from where the bomb has been recovered has now become quite populated, 10 years ago the Naxalites used to rule this area. In this area,



the Naxalites had hidden a large amount of weapons and ammunition, which have been recovered and destroyed long ago. Naxalites used to bury their weapons and ammunition underground, it is suspected that one of these bombs remained buried underground and has now come out after digging the ground. Experts say that this para bomb is used for lighting. Whenever soldiers go out for searching, they also keep para

bombs with them. It is not dangerous. During an encounter, this bomb is released in the sky. It explodes after going a few meters in the sky. The light emitted from it is very bright and spreads very far. Due to which hidden enemies can be seen easily. But, this bomb is not used much in the forests of Bastar, because there are dense forests and bushes here. Therefore, it does not prove effective in Bastar. It is mostly used in open fields.

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 benefitting 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 percent 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 Shrawan 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 Vongchaist (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." Martinez maintained Ronaldo was being picked because of what he continues to do, not simply what he has done in his storied career. "Cristiano is in the national team of Portugal because he deserves to be," Martinez said. "Cristiano has scored 51 goals in 50 games (last season). All

the physical stats just back up that he can play every four days." Ronaldo was dropped by Portugal for the knockout stage of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where the team was coached by Fernando Santos and wound up getting eliminated by Morocco in the quarterfinals. Given Martinez's robust defense of Ronaldo, there appears little chance of that happening in Germany and he praised Ronaldo for his workrate and discipline against the Czechs, against whom he had three shots on target. "He is a player who is a poacher in the box," Martinez said, "and he will open space for other players.



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.

Mbappé out of France starting lineup

AP ■ LEIPZIG (GERMANY)

Kylian Mbappé was left out of France's starting lineup for its European Championship clash with the Netherlands on Friday. He was among the substitutes. Mbappé hadn't been certain to start after breaking his nose on Monday in the opening 1-0 win over Austria. Mbappé trained wearing a face mask on Thursday and coach Didier Deschamps sounded optimistic that his star forward would be able to play. But Deschamps evidently decided it was not worth the risk to start him against the physical Dutch defenders. Deschamps opted to go with Antoine Griezmann, Marcus Thuram and the unpredictable Ousmane Dembélé up front. Griezmann played further back against Austria, but Real Madrid midfielder

Aurélien Tchouaméni has recovered from injury to start, and Griezmann can expect to play closer to the goal. Mbappé appeared relaxed when he got off the team bus upon arrival at the stadium. He wore sunglasses but no bandage on his nose as he had when he resumed light training on Wednesday.



He emerged before Friday's game wearing a black face mask - not the red, white and blue mask he wore on Thursday - for the team's warmup, and sat on a football initially while the rest of his teammates stretched out. He was coaxed off the ball by a coach, then spent some time adjusting the mask and tapping it, as if to test its suitability, before he joined the substitutes in kicking a ball around. France and the Netherlands are level on three points in Group D. France has won seven of the teams' last eight meetings.



Olympic silver medalist Schnell, Capobianco grab semifinal leads at US diving trials

AP ■ KNOXVILLE (TENNESSE, USA)

Delaney Schnell led on the women's 10-meter tower after the semifinals, and Andrew Capobianco set the pace in men's 3-meter springboard at the U.S. Olympic diving trials on Friday night. Schnell is looking to add a second event to her schedule in Paris after qualifying in synchronized 10-meter with Jess Parratto. A silver medalist with Parratto at the Tokyo Games, Schnell scored 325.95 points in the individual event to lead Daryn Wright by 18.10 heading into the Sunday final. Sophia McAfee was third with 275.10. Capobianco topped the men's event with 507.25. He scored 91.65 and 91.20 on his last two dives to take a 21.65-point lead into the Sunday final. Carson Tyler was next with 485.60, with Luke Sitz holding down the third spot at 430.10. Scores from the semifinals carry over to the finals. The top two in men's 3-meter qualify for the Olympics, while only the winner of the women's 10-meter earns a spot. It's shaping up to be a busy weekend for Tyler, who led after the platform semifinals. He will be attempting to earn an Olympic berth in that event on Saturday before returning for the springboard final a day later.

Richardson overcomes wobbly start for win in first heat at Olympic trials

AP ■ EUGENE (OREGON, USA)

Her burst out of the starting block was more like a wobble. Sha'Carri Richardson also raced with one of her shoelaces untied. None of it mattered much on the opening night of U.S. Olympic track trials. Even in a race that was far from a masterpiece, Richardson was the fastest 100-meter sprinter in Friday's preliminary round and set herself up to race for a spot in the Paris Olympics. She finished in 10.88 seconds - fastest of any of the 34 sprinters spread over four races, and a mere .02 seconds off the time she ran three years ago, when she won the trials, only to have the victory erased by a positive test for marijuana.

"That tells me I'm prepared," she said in a post-race interview with NBC. "I just need to put it all together." Richardson will be back on the track Saturday for the semifinals. If she finishes in the top two in that race, she'll go for the title less than two hours later. The top three finishers in the final will head to Paris, where Richardson would try to add that title to the world championship she won last year. The 24-year-old sprinter was the headliner on opening night at University of Oregon's Hayward Field, wearing a gold-and-black running suit with her trademark, long nails to match. But when the gun sounded, she bounced out of the block and warbled across

her lane as she struggled to get upright. She was briefly in last place. Not until she was a good 10 steps down the track did she hit her stride, then hit overdrive and pass the other eight racers. "I definitely didn't have the start I've been training to have in this moment," she said. "But I'm still not panicking. I'm staying patient and knowing no matter what's going on, to continue to run my race." Other winners in the 100 prelims included 2022 national champion Melissa Jefferson and NCAA 100 and 200-meter champion McKenzie Long of Ole Miss. Noah Lyles starts his quest for the Olympic 100 in the men's prelims Saturday. For Richardson, things went sideways shortly after her



victory at trials in 2021, when her marijuana positive was revealed, after which she disclosed she had been battling with depression in the wake of her mother's recent death and

other issues. Ever since, she has been on a long comeback that she looks at in a different way - "I'm not back, I'm better." And, by almost every count - especially

the ones the public can chart on the track - she is. She came into trials as the reigning world champion, and also with a victory on this track last month in the Prefontaine Classic. She is the early favorite to win the Olympics in what is always a stacked field filled with Jamaicans. Asked how she's dealing with her rising fortunes, she said, "I'm enjoying the recognition of hard work, the support that comes with it." "The fact that the world can see so much work I've done on myself, for myself, and the world receives that, I'm appreciative and I will always show up for my fans," she said. 10,000 metersGrant Fisher won the 10,000 meters in 27

minutes, 49.47 seconds and joined Woody Kinkaid and NCAA record-holder Nico Young as the first three athletes to officially earn their spots on the team at trials. As an added bonus, they were the first three who got to sign the base of a miniature Eiffel Tower that's on display at Hayward Field this week. Running for Northern Arizona, Young ran 26:52.72 to shave nearly 16 seconds off the men's 10,000-meter college record in March. "I feel like this is where I saw my season going, and to execute it today is surreal," he said. Wilson's RecordQuincy Wilson doesn't even have a driver's license yet, but he now has a world record.

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 Jaftha, 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 an 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



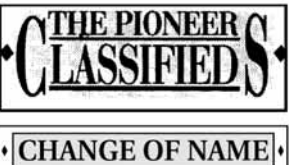
attacks and in such a scenario, Rashid's use of Farooqi and himself could have a big impact on the proceedings. The two teams last met in the ODI World Cup in 2023. It was in Mumbai where Glenn Maxwell had played a once-in-a-generation knock to notch up a sensational double hundred

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.



CHANGE OF NAME
I Anupreet S/o Anil Kumar
Sinha R/o Swapnil Behind
Jharkhand House Shastri Nagar
Kanke Road Ranchi
Jharkhand-834008 changed
my name to Anupreet Sinha.
PD(543)A

**झारखण्ड पुलिस हाउसिंग कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड**
(झारखण्ड सरकार का प्रतिष्ठान)
लाईन टैक रोड, राँची - 834001, ☎ 0651-2214712, फ़ैक्स: 0651-2202400
(CIN: U45200JH2002SGC012154)

पत्रांक CE/3203/75**लघु नीलामी सूचना****दिनांक: 21.06.2024**

झारखण्ड पुलिस हाउसिंग कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची के ध्वस्त हुए पुराने भवनों से प्राप्त Scrap सफ़िया एवं 2 अदद पुराने Generator की नीलामी मुख्यालय परिसर में दिनांक 25.06.2024 को 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न में की जानी है। नीलामी से संबंधित विस्तृत सूचना झारखण्डांकॉन्लिटो, राँची के वेबसाइट <http://jphcl.jhpolice.gov.in> से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। इच्छुक लोगों को नीलामी स्थल पर नीलामी से 1 घंटे पूर्व उपस्थित होना अनिवार्य होगा।

प्रबंधक (कार्मिक)
झारखण्डांकॉन्लिटो, राँची

"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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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
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FEAST ON A CULINARY RAINBOW!

Admiring a rainbow in the sky is an awesome experience but savouring it on your plate is a sensory treat, writes SHARMILA CHAND

How to go about creating a rainbow? Pick and choose different coloured fruits and vegetables, toss them together in a bowl, perk up with your favourite seasoning and place it in your plate. Maybe you can line it all up in the sequence of rainbow colours. Or else, enjoy all mixed. Now isn't your plate looking colourful and pretty? Well, it's not just for the visual appeal, but each colour plays its own role, lending a range of nutrients having immense health benefits.

Ask chefs how to create a rainbow and trust them, they will have a signature dish up their sleeves. It won't be as simple as just tossing up a few ingredients. Rather the dish will be exotic, colorful, flavoursome, nutritious and aesthetically presented. "Take a bite from Elan's Poke Bowl and enjoy a spectrum of flavours and health benefits," says Chef Vijay Thapliyal, Executive Chef, The Lodhi, New Delhi. He elaborates, "We use a variety of ingredients that are locally sourced to ensure the well-being of our guests while inculcating a sustainable future. Coloured vegetables play a significant role in our bodies, providing essential nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, and fibre. By incorporating these colourful ingredients, we broaden our spectrum of nutrients while ensuring our guests enjoy a visually appealing and delightful meal. Elan's Poke Bowl is one of our standout dishes that

embody the rainbow diet. It includes ingredients like edamame beans, silken tofu, red cabbage, pumpkin seeds, red rice, pink carrot ribbons, cucumber dices and sesame dressing, each ingredient lending its own property. Inspired by the Buddha Bowl, this dish has been a staple on our menu and is being served consistently. It's a vibrant, colourful dish that celebrates both colours and flavours, making it a complete meal in itself. The vibrant combination of colours and textures creates a delightful dining experience that tantalises the palate and captivates the visual senses."

Chef Ankur Gulati, Executive Chef, The Claridges, New Delhi loves his vibrant Thai Rainbow Salad. He says, "This delightful dish combines a medley of colourful fruits and vegetables, creating a visual feast and a nutritional powerhouse.

Packed with fresh mangoes, bell peppers, purple cabbage, cherry tomatoes, and carrots, this salad offers a spectrum of flavours and health benefits. Rich in vitamins, antioxidants, and fibre, our Rainbow Salad is as good for your body as it is for your eyes. Perfect for those who love to eat the rainbow and nourish their body with every bite. It is perfectly complemented by a zesty Thai chili jam dressing, creating a harmonious blend of sweet, tangy, and spicy notes. Each bite offers a juicy, crisp, and satisfying crunch.



making this salad the perfect way to cool down and nourish your body during the hot summer months." Enjoy a taste of Thailand with every colorful and nutritious mouthful!

Rainbow Platters

The fact that Rainbow diet is not restricted to any one particular cuisine is evident in the traditional food of every region. If the Indian Thali symbolises a perfect Rainbow platter with different coloured veggies, chutneys, pickles, papads, the Sushi



Boats too exemplify the same. Hence, you dine at Harajuku Tokyo Café, and see how the concept is fully embraced using a diverse array of colourful ingredients. Chef Asami says, “Our Poke Bowls are complete meals that illustrate the concept beautifully. The Bowl consists of white sushi rice topped with a choice of protein, along with fresh, crunchy vegetables like carrots, cucumber, sweetcorn and cabbage. Drizzled with our special house-made sauces, the Bowl offers a



balanced mix of proteins, vitamins and minerals, making it both nutritious and delicious. He further adds, “Let us not forget our Rainbow Sushi and Sushi Boats which showcase a variety of vegetarian options and feature a spectrum of colourful ingredients. These include red bell peppers, carrots, cucumbers, avocados, and purple cabbage. Each ingredient is chosen not only for its taste and texture but also for its nutritional benefits, ensuring a well-rounded, healthful dining experience. By incorporating these colourful ingredients, we ensure that our dishes are not only appealing to the eye but also provide a wide array of essential nutrients, supporting overall health and well-being.”

Join In Colorful Bakery!

In bakery too, colours and colourful decorations on bakery products act like a visual language, creating a unique character evoking emotions and flavours. For example, at Taj Holiday Village Resort and Spa, Goa, Chef Subhankar Chitrakar's Giant Easter Egg, is such a delightful rainbow that adds warmth, colours and joy to the entire festivities. "It is my favourite and I love to design it patiently using royal icing. You have to let the chocolate egg

cool completely before decorating with icing. Let your imagination run to the moon and back while you deck it up.” He adds, “Certain colours are naturally associated with specific emotions and flavours. For instance, red evokes excitement and is linked to flavours like strawberry or cherry. Pink is softer and suggests sweetness like raspberries or watermelon. I use these colour connotations to tell a story about the taste of the pastry before you even take a bite. Colourful sprinkles, chocolate drizzles, or candied fruit pieces can visually highlight the key ingredients in a pastry. This not only creates a unique look but also tells the guest exactly what flavours to expect.”

An all-natural fruit jelly is a favourite of Yatendra Rawat, Executive Chef at Hyatt Regency Gurgaon. "It is very simple to make and highly nutritious; kids just love it. It requires very basic and limited ingredients such as cut fruits of your choice, gelatin, sugar, and water. If you want to be a little more adventurous, you can add a bit of your favorite fruit juice to the water and sugar mixture. To prepare it, cook the sugar, water, and gelatin together until a gel texture is achieved. Then, pour the mixture over the cut fruits of your choice and freeze. Once un-molded, it will give you a wholesome dessert that looks like a rainbow."

To Conclude
Go ahead, have a Rainbow Diet that promises to not only refresh and revitalize you during the hot summer months but also supports your health with a broad spectrum of nutrients.

(Author Intro: Sharmila Chand)
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who writes on food, travel, art,
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How Best To Spend 48 Hours In Tokyo

Glitz, Glamour, Neon lights secretly protect a soul that resonates profound Japanese traditions and heritage in Tokyo, discovers SHARMILA CHAND

Landing at the international Haneda Airport, I headed straight to Hotel The Peninsula Tokyo which I chose for its location -- right opposite The Imperial Palace and Hibiya Park in Marunouchi district; just a walk away from the famous Ginza, the shopping hub. The hotel's captivating vibes are an added attraction, a seamless blend of traditional Japanese charm and contemporary luxurious elements. From the charms of the centuries-old active volcano Mt Fuji, and the quaint village -- Oshino Hakkai, to soaring edifices such as Tokyo Sky Tree, the capital city of Japan packs multiple surprises at every corner. It may not be on top list of travelers as heritage Kyoto but believe me, once you start exploring this city, you will be surprised at its vivacious character, unmatched by any other place in the world. There is an unbeatable synergy between rich Japanese culture and hyper modern metropolitan landscape in Tokyo.

So if you have only 48 hours in this delightful eclectic city, then let's cover it in such a way that you get to see both the East and West side; highlighting tourist trails as well as local hideouts to get a glimpse of real life. I call these my selection which will make an interesting potpourri to explore.

The Iconic Skytree
Start your morning with a visit to the cconic Skytree, the world's tallest freestanding tower, rising above the Azuma Bridge. A perfect venue that offers an unparalleled bird's-eye view of the city's vistas, particularly the red-roofed shrines dotted humbly among the huge skyscrapers.



Now sushi for breakfast may seem a bit unusual, but when in Tokyo, it is a done thing. Trust me, this is an experience worth giving a shot. The market is packed with top-notch sushi options, vegetarian and non-veg both. I thought it was the most exciting way to start my day of Tokyo exploration.

Akihabara for Tokyo Flavour
If not sushi then have a hearty breakfast of your choice and then start with Akihabara. It gives you the real peek into what Tokyo is associated with. In this kitschy district you will find skyscraping arcades, Manga stores, video game stores and a lot more. That's the much talked about

Spend An Hour In Shinjuku Gyoen
Tokyo's most spectacular gardens are in Shinjuku Gyoen. Tourist hotspot, much loved during cherry blossom season as it is home to over 400 cherry trees. You will get to see perhaps the most beautiful sight with baby pink petals all around. Accentuated with coy fish ponds, fruit trees, and exquisite flower beds. Take a

quick look at the Art Gallery here and then a cuppa of coffee at the pretty cafe.

Tokyo's Oldest Buddhist Temple

Senso-ji temple is the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokyo which showcases the rich culture of Japan's Edo Period. Undoubtedly this was my best sojourn. It enshrines a golden image of Kannon -- Buddhist Goddess of mercy. Legend has it that she was miraculously pulled out of the nearby Sumida-gawa by two fishermen in AD 628. The image has remained on the spot ever since but is never on public display. The main entrance to the temple complex is via pretty red Kaminari Mon and Busy shopping street Nakamise-d'ri. When you enter the gate, do not miss to see statues of F'jin (the God of wind) and Raijin (the God of thunder), and a stunning carved dragon under the giant red lantern. At the end of Nakamise-d'ri is the temple itself. The 55m-high five storey Pagoda is a sight to behold. Walk to the eastern edge of the temple complex. Here you will see Asakusa

Jinja, a shrine built in honour of the brothers who discovered the Kannon statue that inspired the construction of Sensō-ji.
 Immerse yourself in a vibrant atmosphere adorned with colorful hanging lanterns. Have a look at various temples and then walk towards Nakamise bustling market that offers a delightful array of traditional Japanese snacks and souvenirs. And yes, don't forget to make a wish at the famous Senso-ji Thunder Gate!
Day 2: 10.30 am Coffee at Shozo
 It is always nice to discover special cute small places to have a coffee break. So after winding up breakfast at the hotel, it is a good idea to go to Aoyama district. You will find this area fascinating with plenty of shops and art galleries. My local friends had already told me - a pretty hideout, the Shozo Coffee Store should not be missed and I agree with them. A wooden hut done up with plants was my coffee corner where I had the best caramel latte with a delicious cheesecake. And that set my

mood right to start exploring.
The Grand Meiji-jiing?

The Grand Meiji-jing?: History and Heritage
Tokyo's grandest Shint? shrine is dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and Empress Sh?ken. Their reign (1868-1912) coincided with Japan's transformation from an isolationist, feudal state to a modern nation. Constructed in 1920, the shrine was destroyed in WWII air raids and rebuilt in 1958. The main shrine is built of unpainted cypress wood with a copper-plated roof. It is in a wooded grove accessed via a long winding gravel path. The shrine occupies only a small fraction of the sprawling forested grounds, which contain some 120,000 trees collected from all over Japan. Of this, only the strolling garden Meiji-jing? Gyoen is accessible to the public. It is said that The Meiji emperor himself designed the iris garden here to please the empress and the garden is at its best when the irises bloom in June.

Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony

If you are not exhausted after lunch, I suggest attend a beautiful tea ceremony at Happo-en. Where on earth you will get to immerse in a real Zen garden in the heart of Tokyo? Happo-en is one of Tokyo's exclusive secrets. Off the touristy beat, hence tranquil, with hundred year old bonsai trees and Japanese carp and cherry trees swimming in a pond. Attend the serene tea ceremony, a lifetime experience, you will not forget.

A Bowl of Ramen Is Quintessential
Ramen and Tokyo go together. A bowl of Ramen is absolutely essential. Stop by at any Ramen joint, as you will find them after every 50 m. There's no shortage of delicious, steaming hot bowls

of rich broth, mounds of noodles and toppings of your choice to be found throughout the city.

Visit Golden Gai in the evening
One evening go to Golden Gai and see the spectacle. Narrow alleys will take you to the buzz of bars, karaoke joints, and sizzling yakitori spots. Have a bite at Omoide Yokocho. It's an uber-narrow strip lined on both sides with hole-in-the-wall yakitori joints. I kept looking at bandana-clad chefs flipping skewers by the dozen over fiery charcoal. That day I was totally immersed in the environs, looking nonstop at the locals, without blinking an eye and also ate like them, shoulder to shoulder. Amidst the heavy smoke and aroma of the grilled food, I was in a bustling and lively world.

Learn Origami Craft
The Happy Origami Crafting Lesson teaches participants how to create intricate figures from traditional washi paper. Beginners can join, no prior experience with origami is required. With this one-of-a-kind experience, you'll be able to learn the ancient Japanese art of origami with the help of an experienced paper folding pro.

Seal Your Memories and Bid Farewell To Tokyo
Immersing myself in the traditional Japanese culture, exploring the capitals unique character of effortlessly blending tradition and technology, admiring pagodas comfortable next to neon signs, experiencing authentic 'Forest Bathing', my 48 hours were like a fairytale dream!

(Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel and Food)



Dakshin Yatra Flavours of South

Edesia, Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla And Viva, Holiday Inn Aerocity, are delighted to announce an exclusive South Indian food festival, Dakshin Yatra Flavours of South, from June 22 to June 30, 2024. Guests are invited to embark on a culinary journey through the rich and diverse cuisines of South India, with dining experiences available every evening from 7 PM to 11 PM at both locations. Dakshin Yatra promises an authentic and immersive experience with a menu specially curated by the esteemed Chef Reghunath, who will be traveling from Kochi to share his expertise and passion for authentic South Indian cuisine. The festival will feature famous dishes such as Chettinad Chicken, Kerala Prawn & Mango Curry, Dindigul Biryani, Thalassery Biryani, Bisi Bele Bath, Malabar Parotta, and many more.

The Dakshin Yatra festival is an opportunity for our guests to experience the rich and diverse flavors of South India right here in New Delhi, says Mr. Shuvendu Banerjee, General Manager at Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla. "We are thrilled to bring this unique experience to our guests, with Chef Reghunath's exceptional expertise

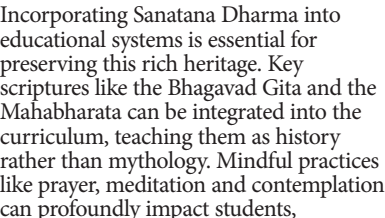


adding an authentic touch to every dish, says Mr Amit Rana, General Manager at Holiday Inn New Delhi International Airport. Complementing the food, the festival will offer a selection of unique cocktails and mocktails that capture the essence of South India, including Madras Magic, Kerala Coconut Cooler, 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.

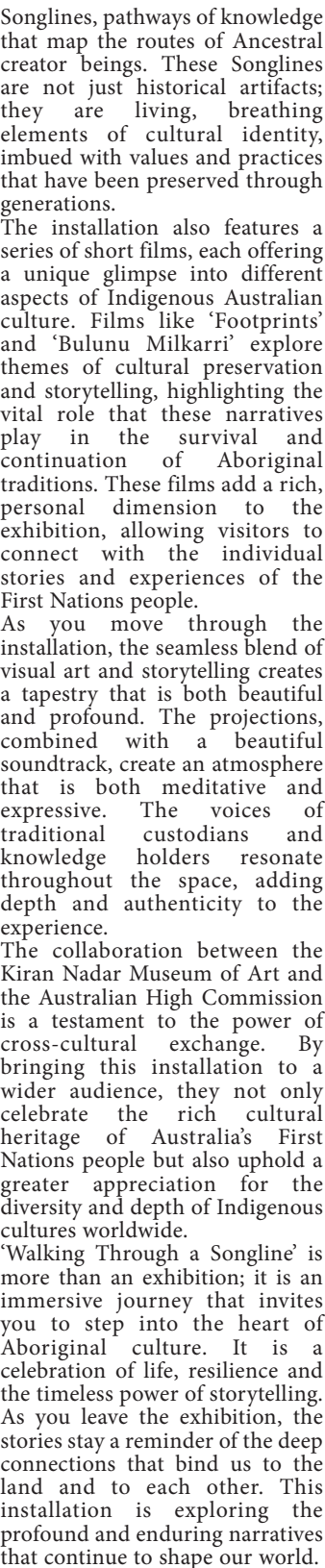
Programs for children will help them connect with their spiritual roots from an early age.

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,

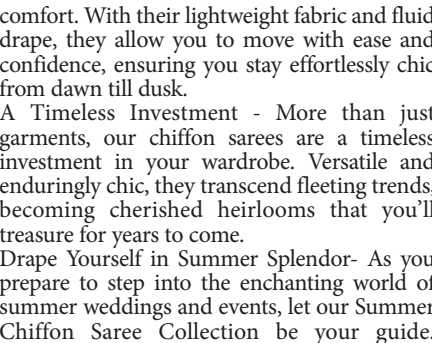
As the balmy breeze of summer is here, it's time to drape yourself in elegance and embrace the season's ethereal charm. We're thrilled to unveil our latest collection, curated especially for the enchanting summer weddings and soirées that await. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail and an unwavering 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 Rajeyo of Dholpur and Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, the brand encapsulates the essence of timeless elegance and grace. The brand is now led by the visionary Founder & Head Designer, Maayankraj 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 al-Hassan, Mrs. Sharmila Tagore, Mrs. Hemamalini, Mrs. Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ms. Alcahnay 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

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Get over habit tendencies, destiny changes

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