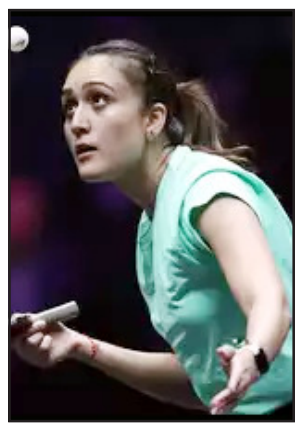
English Daily

UJALA SHIKHAR

News Of The Depths

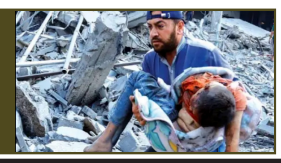
VOL. 02, NO. 21, MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ PRAYAGRAJ THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024 PAGES 8, PRICE RS. 2.00



2 Dhankhar reacts sharply after...



4 Greater likelihood of major conflicts



7 Paris Olympics: Manika to play Britain's Hursey...

India UK unveil futuristic Technology Security Initiative resolve to seal FTA soon

New Delhi (Agency): India and the UK on Wednesday firmed up a landmark technology security initiative that sets out a bold new approach for collaboration in a range of "priority" sectors including telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors and artificial intelligence, with a broader aim to elevate their strategic partnership to the next level.

The decision on the UK-India Technology Security Initiative was made public following wide-ranging talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his visiting British counterpart David Lammy.

In the discussions, both sides appreciated the "substantial" progress made in the India-UK FTA negotiations and looked forward to its "early conclusion" to achieve a mutually beneficial deal, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It is learnt that the Indian side, during the talks, flagged its concerns over activities of pro-Khalistan elements in the UK while the British side raised the issue of Christian Michel, the key accused in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case, who is languishing in a jail in India.

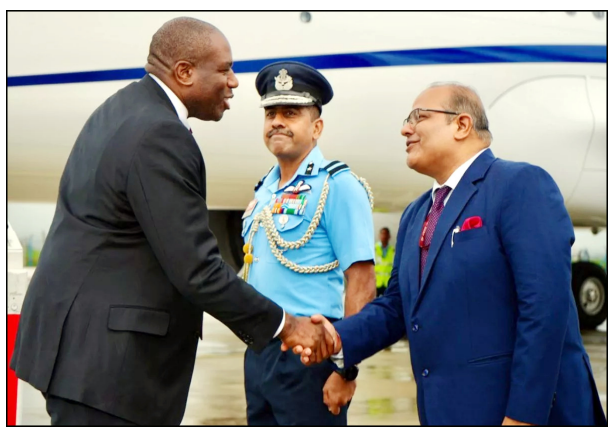
In the talks, the two sides agreed to deepen defence and security cooperation, in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, and to enhance capacities to address growing threats from "non-state actors", the MEA said in a statement.

The British foreign secretary arrived in Delhi this morning for the first high-level engagement with New Delhi three weeks after Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government came to power.

Ahead of his talks with Jaishankar, Lammy called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said India remains committed to elevating its ties with the UK and welcomes the desire to conclude a mutually beneficial free trade pact.

The British foreign secretary also held separate talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

In their talks, Jaishankar and Lammy also discussed the migration and mobility partnership between the two countries with a view to strengthen people-to-people ties.



The MEA said the collaboration under TSI will include government, private sector, academia and research and development institutions. The initiative was "spearheaded and agreed" by the NSAs of the two countries.

The TSI seeks to build upon the ambitious cooperation agenda set out in the India-UK Roadmap 2030.

In the talks, Jaishankar and Lammy also discussed India-UK collaboration in the field of climate and green economy.

The two sides deliberated on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the situation in West Asia and the Red Sea.

However, the major highlight of Lammy's engagements with the Indian interlocutors was the unveiling of the TSI which focuses on expanding collaboration in critical and emerging technologies (CET) across priority sectors.

Besides telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors and artificial intelligence, the other areas identified for cooperation are quantum, biotech and advanced materials.

"Recognising the increasing role of technology in national security and economic development, the prime ministers of India and the United Kingdom are launching a new 'Technology Security Initiative' (TSI) to elevate the strategic partnership between the two countries to the next level," a fact-sheet released by the MEA said.

On proposed cooperation in the telecommunication sector, the MEA said the two countries will build a new and enhanced "future telecoms partnership in order to collaborate on joint research on future telecoms, focussed on Open RAN systems, telecom security and spectrum innovation".

Under the critical minerals pillar, the two sides will work together to improve supply chain resilience and explore possible research and technology partnerships along the complete critical minerals value chain including exploration, processing and manufacturing.

The TSI would also provide a framework for building a broad UK-India semiconductor partnership that will leverage each other's strengths and incentives and explore mutually beneficial research and development as well as supply chain resilience.

On the TSI, a British readout said it has been spearheaded and agreed to the NSAs following negotiations between both countries to expand collaboration in critical and emerging technologies across priority sectors.

"It will set out a bold new approach for how the UK and India work together on the defining technologies of this decade -- telecoms, critical minerals, AI, quantum, health/bio tech, advanced materials and semiconductors," it said.

Indian space startups ink pacts with Australian platform to demonstrate refuelling satellites

New Delhi (Agency): The Indian space sector startups have inked pacts with an Australian platform to collaborate on demonstrating refuelling satellites in orbit and grant access to students in the southern continent to use AI platforms to test their model on



satellites in real time. The two memoranda were signed between HEX20, an Australian satellite platform, and Indian startups OrbitAid and TakeMe2Space on the sidelines of the 17th Australian Space Forum in Adelaide on Wednesday. The Indian delegation to the forum was led by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) officials Vinod Kumar and Shashank Saxena.

The delegation included representatives from Agnikul Cosmos, TakeMe2Space, Dhruva Space, Bellatrix Aerospace, XDLINX Space, mistEO OrbitAid Aerospace and Skyroot Aerospace, a statement from IN-SPACe said. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between HEX20 and OrbitAid, the two companies will collaborate to demonstrate technologies for in-orbit refuelling of satellites.

The MoU between HEX20 and TakeMe2Space will allow the Australian firm to use the Indian startup's AI modules and subsystems in their flatsat.

TakeMe2Space will give access to HEX20 to its OrbitLab platform for researchers and students to test and run their models on an actual satellite in real-time.

"These MoUs represent a significant step towards strengthening ties between our two nations in the space sector," said Dr Vinod Kumar, Director Promotion, IN-SPACe.

India successfully flight-tests Phase-II ballistic missile defence system

New Delhi (Agency): India on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the second phase of its ballistic missile defence system, demonstrating home-grown capabilities to defend against hostile missiles having a range of 5,000 km.

The flight test fully met all the trial objectives validating complete network centric warfare weapon system, the defence ministry said. The missile was tested at the integrated test range (ITR) in Odisha's Chandipur.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the successful flight test and stated that it has again demonstrated India's ballistic missiles defence capability. "The DRDO successfully flight-tested Phase-II



Ballistic Missile Defence System on July 24," the ministry said.

The target missile was launched at 1620 hours mimicking an adversary ballistic missile, which was detected by weapon system radars deployed on land and sea and activated the interceptor system.

"The Phase-II AD Endo-atmospheric missile was launched from LC-III at ITR, Chandipurat 1624 hrs," the ministry said.

The phase-II AD endo-atmospheric missile is an indigenously developed two stage solid propelled ground launched missile system meant for neutralising many types of enemy ballistic missile threats in the altitude bracket of endo to low exo-atmospheric regions.

The exo-atmospheric missiles are capable of completing missions in the upper-most region of the earth's atmosphere.

The endo-atmospheric missiles are the ones that operate within the earth's atmosphere that covers an altitude below 100 km, according to experts.

The defence ministry said the flight test fully met all the trial objectives validating a complete network centric warfare weapon system consisting of long range sensors, low latency communication system and advanced interceptor missiles.

"The test has demonstrated the nation's indigenous capability to defend against the ballistic missiles of 5000 km class," the ministry said in a statement.

Olympic Order for Abhinav Bindra makes every Indian proud: PM Modi

New Delhi (Agency): Lauding shooting legend Abhinav Bindra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that it makes every Indian proud that he has been awarded the Olympic Order. Bindra, an Olympic gold medallist, has been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement. The award ceremony will be held during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10, a day before the closing of the Olympics. In a post on X, Modi said,



"It makes every Indian proud that @Abhinav_Bindra has been awarded the Olympic Order. Congratulations to him. Be it as an athlete or a mentor to upcoming sportspersons, he has made noteworthy contributions to sports and the Olympic Movement.

Methodology used by organisations to evaluate press freedom not reliable: Vaishnaw

New Delhi (Agency): Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday that the methodology used by organisations attempting to evaluate press freedom across the world is questionable and not reliable. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Vaishnaw said some organisations have attempted evaluation of press freedom using very low sample size and with little or no understanding of the country and its vibrant democracy. "Such organisations and their methodology are questionable and not reliable," the minister said.

An international organisation had ranked India 159th out of the 180



nations considered in the 2024 edition of the press freedom index this year. Vaishnaw said the government is committed to ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under the Article 19 of the Constitution of India. "India has a robust and flourishing press. This is reflected in the fact that during the last 10 years from 2014-15 till date, the number of registered periodicals has gone up 43.9 per cent from 1,05,443 to 1,51,734," he said. Similarly, the number of private satellite TV channels has also significantly gone up during this period from 821 to 910, which includes 393 news channels, the minister said.



India Kuwait agree to strengthen cooperation in trade other areas

New Delhi (Agency): India and Kuwait on Wednesday undertook a comprehensive review of the bilateral relationship and both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in various areas, including political ties, trade and investment, education and people-to-people contacts. The sixth round of India-Kuwait Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held in Kuwait, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

During the FOC, both sides undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral relationship and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. "Expressing satisfaction with the traditionally strong bilateral ties, both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in various areas, including political ties, regular high-level exchanges, trade and investment, education, technology, health, culture and people-to-people contacts," it said.

The Indian delegation was led by Aseem R Mahajan, Joint Secretary (Gulf) (JS), Ministry of External Affairs.

Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs of Kuwait (AFM), headed the Kuwaiti delegation.

Also, the joint secretary called on Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. At the meeting, he discussed avenues and new initiatives to deepen the India-Kuwait partnership, the statement said. Earlier on Tuesday, he met Ziyad Al-Najem, Under Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and discussed avenues to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation including further boosting bilateral trade, diversifying the trade basket, deepening energy cooperation and "new initiatives in technology and fintech," it said.

"In his meeting with Tahani Rashid Al-Naseer, Assistant Foreign Minister (Legal), MoFA, discussions pertained for early finalisation of ongoing negotiations of various agreements and MoUs," the statement said.

The timely convening of the FOC in continuation of the previous FOC in May 2023 is expected to "impart further momentum in bilateral relations". Both sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the consultations. It was agreed to hold the next FOC in New Delhi at a mutually convenient time, it added.

SC says there is trust deficit between farmers and government; directs Haryana, Punjab to maintain status quo at Shambhu border

New Delhi (Agency): The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the governments of Punjab and Haryana to maintain status quo at the Shambhu border till next week to prevent the situation from flaring up as it declared forming an independent committee to negotiate with the protesting farmers to find an amicable resolution to the issues.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Surya Kant directed the states of Punjab and Haryana to suggest names of "suitable individuals" who can be included in the committee.

"Till such time both the states are directed to maintain status quo at the site to prevent the flaring up of the situation at the Shambhu border," the Bench said.

Highlighting the "trust deficit" between the government and the protesting farmers, Justice Kant said the issues could be resolved through negotiations.

"Have you taken any initiative to negotiate with the farmers? Your ministers might go to the farmers without realising the local issues. There is a trust deficit. Why don't you have some neutral umpires? There have to be confidence-building measures," Justice Kant said.

Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh told the Bench that the blockade of the highway was resulting in "huge and grave ramifications on the economic health of Punjab because goods are not able to come to Delhi."



Suggesting a "result-oriented approach", Singh said the national highway cannot be blocked endlessly. The Bench – which also included Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan – asked both the states to suggest proposals for removal of barricades at the Shambhu border to prevent inconvenience to the general public. The matter will be taken up next week.

The order came during a hearing on the Haryana government's petition challenging the July 10 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court requiring it to remove within a week the barricades at the Shambhu border near Ambala where farmers have been camping since February.

On behalf of the Haryana government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Haryana Senior Additional Advocate General Lokesh Sinhal submitted that over 500-600 tractors -- which have been modified as "armoured tanks" -- were stationed at the site and if they were allowed to travel to Delhi, law and order problems would arise.

"You need to make some effort, after all, you have to reach out to the farmers. Why would they otherwise need to come to Delhi?" the Bench commented.

As Justice Bhuyan said, "You also can't block the highway…it's been for over a year," Mehta responded, "NH can't be used for JCBs trolleys etc as the Motor Vehicles Act prevents the use of such vehicles on national highways."

On tractors being modified by farmers, the Bench said the protesters, too, might need some shelter and that it was a common practice among farmers in Punjab and Haryana to modify their tractors.

While hearing a related case on July 12, the top court had asked the Haryana government to remove the barricades at the Shambhu border. "How can a state block a highway? It has a duty to regulate traffic. We are saying open it but regulate," it had said.

The Haryana government has submitted that "despite the categorical submission regarding law and order issue that may arise, the threat to life and property and despite a plea to shift the agitators out of the National Highway, the high court has on an 'experimental basis' directed for opening of the Shambhu border without passing any directions against the agitators".

The Haryana government said law and order is a state subject and it is entirely the state's responsibility to assess ground realities, threat perception, likelihood of breach of peace and violation of law.

It said the high court order recorded that 400-500 trolleys and 50-60 other vehicles with a gathering of around 500 agitators are still at site at the Shambhu border but no directions had been issued to these "illegally agitating groups" to vacate the highway, to stop causing inconvenience and creating law and order issues.

More than five months after the "unlawful sealing of the border between Haryana and Punjab" to prevent farmers from "protesting peacefully", the Punjab and Haryana High Court had on July 10 directed the state of Haryana to open the Shambhu border on an experimental basis to prevent inconvenience to the public. A High Court Bench of Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Vikas Bahl had said it was apparent that the "lifelines of the state of Punjab" were blocked on mere apprehensions, while "the cause has dwindled".

As such, it would be in the general public's interest that "the state of Haryana now does not continue to block the highways for all time to come," the High Court had said.

India-UK relationship has enormous possibilities: Jaishankar

New Delhi (Agency): The India-UK relationship has enormous possibilities and realising them meaningfully is the task at hand, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday during talks with his British counterpart David Lammy that focused on galvanising the ties including to push for a free trade pact.

Lammy is on a two-day visit to India primarily to reset the overall partnership between the two countries in crucial areas such as trade, defence and security, clean energy, new technologies, digital domain and mobility of people.

The British foreign secretary called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said India remains committed to elevating its ties with the UK and welcomes the desire to conclude a mutually beneficial free trade pact. Lammy's visit to New Delhi is the first high-level engagement between India and the UK after Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government came to power on July 5. "I do believe that



our relationship, it is a very important relationship at the enormous possibilities there," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks at the meeting with Lammy.

"And how we explore those possibilities, how do we realise our potential in a more meaningful way, is one of the tasks that I look forward to undertaking with you," he said. "We are both countries which have a big global presence in different ways. So I think it's also important that India and the UK work together on global issues and in global platforms," Jaishankar said.

As he embarked on the high-profile trip, Lammy described the negotiations for the trade deal as the floor and not the ceiling of the ambitions to unlock shared potential and deliver growth.

"India is the emerging superpower of the 21st century, the largest country in the world with 1.4 billion people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world," Lammy said.

"Our Free Trade Agreement negotiations is the floor not the ceiling of our ambitions to unlock our shared potential and deliver growth, from Bengaluru to Birmingham," he said. A British government readout said Lammy will push for a "reset" of the UK-India partnership including through reinforcing London's commitment to securing a free trade agreement that will benefit both economies.

It said the foreign secretary will also galvanise support for accelerated action on the climate crisis with India as an "indispensable partner", driving forward the clean energy transition and creating opportunities for British and Indian businesses.

"We have shared interests on the green transition, new technologies, economic security and global security," Lammy was quoted as saying in the readout.

In their talks, Jaishankar and Lammy are learnt to have reviewed the implementation of the India-UK roadmap that seeks to broad-base the ties in a range of areas.

In 2021, India and the UK adopted the 10-year roadmap to expand ties in the key areas of trade and economy, defence and security, climate change and people-to-people connections among others.

Dhankhar reacts sharply after Opposition's walkout in RS, makes observations again on Rule 267

New Delhi (Agency): Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday reacted sharply after Opposition MPs staged a walkout in the Upper House in protest against the Union Budget saying that democracy will be "seriously threatened" if such disruption of parliamentary proceedings is weaponised as "political strategy."

Addressing members of the Rajya Sabha, Dhankhar said "Members, I strongly plead with you. Democracy will be seriously threatened if disruption and disturbance are weaponised as a political strategy as has been done now."

Dhankhar said though he allowed Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge to speak in the House, he found that it was used as a "ploy" and "strategy" by Opposition MPs.

"Members, discussion on the Budget was listed today and I gave the floor to the Leader of the Opposition in expectation that rules will be followed. I find it has been used as a ploy and a strategy," Dhankhar



said. Following the walkout, the Rajya Sabha Chairman said he would take a serious exception to the "unwholesome practice" adopted by Kharge.

"Parliament is a citadel of Constitutional and democratic values and liberties. I am aghast as a matter of fact when during the day and days following, we will have ample opportunity to reflect on the budget presented by the Finance Minister, there was absolutely no occasion or justification, even remotely, to avail the facility accorded by me for this purpose," Kharge said.

"I cannot persuade myself but to take serious exception to this unwholesome practice adopted by a senior Member, Leader of the Opposition. I will call upon leaders of the parties to soul-search…," he added.

Speaking on the Suspension of Business Notices in the Rajya Sabha given under Rule 267 by MPs, Dhankhar said, "Members, this is regarding Rule 267. For your benefit, my observations on Rule 267 have been uploaded today for your consideration. I call upon you and strongly urge you to seriously bestow your attention on the same."

8 killed, over 800 relocated as heavy rain batters south, central Gujarat; train services hit

Ahmedabad (Agency): As many as eight persons were killed in rain-related incidents and more than 800 people evacuated after swollen rivers and overflowing dams cut off several villages and inundated low-lying areas in large parts of Gujarat amid torrential downpour on Wednesday, officials said.

Normal life was thrown out of gear as heavy rain pounded south and Gujarat districts like Vadodara, Surat, Bharuch and Anand since the morning, prompting authorities to declare a holiday for schools and colleges in some places for the day, they said. Train services were also affected in some areas.

"Eight persons have died due to heavy rains which lashed several parts of Gujarat during the last 24 hours. We have also shifted 826 persons to safer places during that period. In view of the present situation, we have deployed 20 teams of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and 11 teams of NDRF in affected districts" said state Commissioner of Relief, Alok Kumar Pandey. In view of the widespread rain and 'red alert' for extremely heavy showers issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for several districts, control rooms are working round the clock to monitor the situation and help stranded people, he said.

Pandey said all the 206 major dams in the state are receiving fresh inflow of water and the Sardar Sarovar Dam, the biggest in Gujarat, is now 54 per cent full.

The administration in rain-battered districts of Vadodara, Surat, Bharuch and Anand deployed personnel from the NDRF and SDRF and local fire brigade teams to rescue people from flooded areas and relocate them to safe places.



Borsad taluka in Anand district received 354 mm of rainfall in a 12-hour period (between 6 am and 6pm, State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) data showed. Many people were shifted to safer places after low-lying areas were flooded, officials said. Borsad was followed by Tilakwada of Narmada district (213 mm), Padra of Vadodara (199 mm), Vadodara taluka (198 mm), Bharuch taluka (185 mm), Nasvadi of Chhotaudepur (156 mm) and Nandod of Narmada district (143 mm).

Anand Collector Praveen Chaudhary said an NDRF team was pressed into service and the administration was working to rescue stranded people. Heavy rain that hit Surat on Tuesday flooded the city and cut off several villages, necessitating relocation of around 200 persons, the officials said.

The administration in Bharuch and Navsari announced a holiday for educational institutes due to incessant showers. A team of NDRF personnel rushed to Limbada under Mangrol taluka of Surat district to rescue stranded people, an official said.

As many as 132 roads in the district were blocked as a precautionary measure. Due to heavy rain, the Bharuch district administration declared a holiday for educational institutions.

As many as 11 long-distance express trains were "regulated" due to the rise in water level under a railway bridge in the Vadodara division, while four local passenger trains were cancelled, Western Railway officials said. The train movement was later restored in the down line, they said.



Devotees of Mahadev are getting Mahadev's tattoo done in their body during Sawan



Mahadev decorated in the form of Chandra Shekhar in Sawan



Rail coach restaurant is being built for passengers at Subedar Ganj station

Murderer of mother is in custody of police

Concocted story of robbery, police and SOG revealed incident

ALOK MALVIYA

Prayagraj: Police revealed the murder of a woman in Bhavapur, the son turned out to be the mother's murderer, spread the rumour of robbery to mislead the police, two alleged journalists also in custody, DCP City Deepak Bhukar, ACP Kareli Pushkar Verma and his team investigated closely. Did a workout of murder, SOG district in-charge Anup Saroj and city in-charge Ashish Choubey with the help of their team made a big revelation, son Sachin Pal turned out to be mother's murderer and was arrested. Also a fake journalist has been caught. The SOG team is investigating the entire matter. In fact, Sachin Pal used to supply photo-stating paper. Due to loss in business, he tried to compensate the loss from stock market but he also suffered loss in that. Then Sachin went into depression. During this time, after hearing what he said to his mother, he got angry and killed his mother by hitting her on the head with an iron rod. To save himself from the murder, he asked his journalist friend about the way to escape by narrating the incident and tried to escape by telling it about the incident of robbery, but he got lost in the pursuit of the police and the police revealed the incident.



Former MLA Uday Bhan Karwariya's license reached Naini Central Jail, will be released today

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: BJP's strong leader, former MLA and former legislative party whip Uday Bhan Karwariya got bail, will be released from Naini Jail, Jawahar Pandit murder case since eleven years Uday Bhan Karwariya along with his two brothers, former MP Kapil Muni Karwariya and MLC Suraj Bhan Bhan Karwariya, are under arrest, bail has been granted on the recommendation of Governor Anandi Ben Patel, CM Yogi's approval and exercise of powers under Article 161 by the Governor. While doing so, Udaybhan Karwariya, the biggest face of Brahmins in Prayagraj division, has been freed from punishment.



Students visited Heritage Museum at CAC

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: To encourage and create awareness amongst the youth, visits by students of Govt Inter College, Prayagraj and KV Bamrauli at the Heritage Museum, Central Air Command (CAC) were conducted in coordination with the civil administration of Prayagraj on 22 and 23 July 2024. The students from both the schools saw the displayed history and legacy of Indian Air Force and Central Air Command. The enthusiastic students went around the museum and familiarised themselves with some of the vintage aircraft, missiles, weapons and significant artefacts used by the IAF in past. They were also made aware about the operational capabilities of Indian Air Force both in peace and war as well as its prominent role in safeguarding the nation, carrying out surveillance along with search, rescue and disaster relief operations.

On culmination of the visit, students also witnessed the Light, Sound and Laser Show in the museum premises. The show, a joint venture of IAF and Prayagraj Smart City Limited showcases the rich legacy of CAC since its inception to the recent operations carried out by the Central Air Command. The visit and show at the museum created a lasting impression on the younger minds, inspiring them to join the IAF, informed Shantanu Pratap Singh, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha and Rudrabhishek kicks off with Mangal Kalash Yatra

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha organized in Bagiya Narayan Vatika of Munshi Ram Prasad under the auspices of Dutva Path Pariwar. Inauguration of Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha with Mangal Kalash Yatra. On the first day of the Katha, Acharya Satanand Maharaj, while making the story interesting, said that the story of Shri Shiv Mahapuran is important for the society. It works to connect the people and the nation and without any discrimination, Lord Shiva showers blessings on his devotees and said that the story of Shri Shiv Mahapuran is the story of taking man across the ocean of life in Kalikal and said that any person can worship Lord Shiva. If the person recites the story as per the complete rituals, then that person overcomes untimely death. Before this, following the tradition of Sanatan Dharma, Mangal Kalash Yatra was taken out for the welfare of the world as per the complete rituals, which was organized at Hatia Police Booth intersection, Muthiganj Bada intersection. Motiganj Chota Chauraha via Salikganj Chauraha, came to the venue Narayan Vatika and took rest. On this occasion, Kumar Narayan, Satish Chandra Kesarwani, Mohit Kesarwani, Ram Ji Kesarwani Shaurya Mishra, Sadhna Chaturvedi, Sapna Arya, Urmila Kesarwani, Vijay Vaish, Rajesh Kesarwani, councilor. Hundreds of women like Neeraj Gupta, Shailendra Gupta, Sai Baba, Pintu Kumar, Abhilash Kesarwani, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Ajay Agrahari, Sumit Jaiswal, Asha Kesarwani, Usha Kesarwani, Dhirendra Chaturvedi, etc. participated in the Mangal Kalash Yatra.



Feedback will be collected from public representatives for Kumbh, special trains will run in big numbers, & CM is reviewing: Ashwini Vaishnaw

KULDEEP SHUKLA

Prayagraj: Feedback will be taken from public representatives for Kumbh, special trains will be run in large numbers, Chief Minister is reviewing Here is the review, Ashwini Vaishnav. During the tenure of Modi, the railway budget in Uttar Pradesh increased 18 times, in the last 10 years, 4900 kilometers of railway tracks have been built in Uttar Pradesh, which is more than the length of the railway tracks of the entire Switzerland. Central Railways Addressing the journalists, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that a total investment of Rs 92000 crore is being made for the development of railways in Uttar Pradesh. He said that during the tenure of UPA from 2009 to 2014, Rs 1109 crore was allocated for the development of railways in Uttar Pradesh, which has been increased to Rs 19 thousand 848 crore during the tenure of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which is compared to the previous government. It is 18 times more in India. Ashwini Vaishnav said that in the last 10 years, 4900 kilometers of railway tracks have been built in Uttar Pradesh, which is more than the length of railway tracks of entire Switzerland. He said that 100 percent electrification of all the railway tracks of Uttar Pradesh has been done. The Union Railway Minister said that 1490 flyovers/underpasses have been constructed in Uttar Pradesh in the last 10 years, which has eased the lives of people in rural areas and reduced the number of accidents.



Communication will be held with public representatives for Kumbh, special trains will run, Chief Minister is reviewing. Union Railway, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that Kumbh should run smoothly and the devotees should not face any kind of problem. More than 40 projects have been identified.

He said that the redevelopment of Prayagraj railway station will take place in several phases. Ashwani Vaishnav said that the Chief Minister himself is reviewing the preparations for Kumbh, feedback is being taken from the public representatives to ensure that there are no shortcomings. 157 stations will be developed as Amrit stations.

EDITORIAL

High Court becomes strict on the strike of district courts

Allahabad High Court cited the orders of the Supreme Court while banning the strike of lawyers in Uttar Pradesh.



LEGAL MARGIN

Vikas Gupta "Advocate"
District and Sessions Court Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court has taken an important decision against the frequent strikes by lawyers in Uttar Pradesh,* placing a complete ban on such actions in the entire state. The court said that going on strike would be a violation of the Supreme Court's instructions and could be considered contempt of court. During the hearing of criminal contempt proceedings against the District Bar Association of Prayagraj, a bench of Justice Ashwini Kumar Mishra and Justice DrThe division bench of Gautam Chaudhary* said that the practice of striking by lawyers obstructs judicial proceedings and weakens the legal process.

The Bar Council of India has expressed commitment to ensure smooth conduct of court proceedings without unnecessary disruptions caused by the strike. They are actively working towards maintaining discipline and decorum in legal practices across the State. are doing.

Court's direction to Bar Associations: This decision of the Court reacts to the continuous disruptions caused by the District Bar Association of Prayagraj, which not only affects the functioning of the judiciary but also causes a lot of inconvenience to the petitioners. As a result, the Court has taken a strong stand and directed not only the Bar Council of India but also the local Bar Associations to strictly comply with this direction to prevent any strike in the District Courts.

Future Compliance and Hearing

The high court has scheduled the next hearing for August 7, where it is expected to receive reports from district courts across Uttar Pradesh on compliance with its orders Initial reports had revealed that the lawyers' strike had significantly disrupted judicial work in most of the district courts, prompting the Court to take this proactive step

Historic Transition

President Joe Biden's decision to step down from the 2024 presidential race is a seismic shift in American politics, setting the stage for one of the most unpredictable elections in recent history. Mr Biden's withdrawal, prompted by a faltering debate performance and mounting concerns over his age, underscores the increasing pressures faced by ageing political leaders in an era that demands both physical stamina and mental acuity. Mr Biden's exit has left the Democratic Party in a scramble, but it has also opened the door for a historic opportunity. Vice President Kamala Harris, now endorsed by Mr Biden, stands poised to become the first woman and the first person of African-American and South Asian descent to win the presidency. Her candidacy signifies a potential turning point for the country, reflecting its evolving demographics and the growing influence of women and minorities in American politics. Ms Harris's journey to secure the nomination and defeat former President Donald Trump will be fraught with challenges. She must quickly unify the Democratic Party, secure the support of delegates, and pivot a campaign apparatus that was initially built to re-elect Mr Biden. This rapid shift will test her leadership and political acumen, but it also presents a unique chance to galvanise a diverse coalition of voters who are eager for change.

Mr Biden's decision to endorse Ms Harris demonstrates recognition of the critical need for fresh leadership that can energise the party and the nation. His departure is a strategic move aimed at ensuring the Democratic Party remains competitive against Mr Trump's relentless campaign. Mr Biden's legacy, though now marked by this unexpected exit, includes significant accomplishments such as steering the nation through pandemic recovery and passing major bipartisan legislation. The political landscape is now rife with uncertainties. While Ms Harris gains momentum, other potential contenders may emerge, adding to the complexity of the Democratic nomination process. Figures like California Governor Gavin Newsom and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg have already shown their support for Ms Harris, signalling an early consolidation of power within the party. However, the possibility of new challengers cannot be discounted, especially as the party seeks a leader who can effectively counter Mr Trump's polarising rhetoric and divisive policies. Mr Trump, for his part, must recalibrate his strategy to address a new opponent. His campaign has been predominantly focused on Mr Biden, and the shift to targeting Ms Harris will require a different approach. Ms Harris, known for her sharp debating skills and progressive stance, presents a formidable challenge to Mr Trump's re-election bid. Mr Biden's departure is a profound reminder of the importance of adaptability in politics. As the oldest president in American history, his decision to step aside reflects the inevitable reality that leaders must sometimes make way for new voices and perspectives. It is a testament to his commitment to his party that he recognised the need to pass the torch.

By becoming nath of orphan "Nagina", District Court Prayagraj gave justice to accused who was imprisoned without any legal representation for 7 years, thereby raising hopes of his release from jail

ALOK MALVIYA

Recently, a different kind of case was presented before the court ADJ 13 Poonam Trivedi, in which the trial of the undertrial prisoner Sunil Nagina could not start before the court for the last 6 years.

Prayagraj. In this strange case in the District Court, undertrial prisoner Sunil Nagina was accused of sections 399 and 402 of IPC, who was already lodged in Naini Central Jail for the last 7 years, the hearing of which could not start. Due to Bandi Nagina being poor, she could never hire a lawyer and due to lack of charity, her case could never be made known to the court at any level, due to which no progress could be made in her case and even before the court. He could not go to the hearing, after all a helpless common Indian citizenIn the hope of justice, his file as an accused kept dying in the lower court gathering dust.Meanwhile, through Jail Superintendent Rang Bahadur Patel, Jailor KB Singh and Jail PLV Rakesh Tiwari, Ashok Naqvi, this case was handed over to District Legal Services Authority Chief Defense Counsel Vikas Gupta for disposal through Legal Aid Defense Council System.



During the advocacy, the Chief Defense Council found that the file related to the prisoner was missing somewhere in the Lower Court, due to the lack of advocacy and due to the prisoner not being able to appear for the hearing due to his ignorance, his case was never given attention, although Advocate Vikas Gupta. By making continuous efforts, the letter from the lower courtAfter getting the accused committed, the documents were presented before District and Sessions Judge Santosh Rai, in which advocate Vikas Gupta and his assistants Abhishek Tripathi and Neeraj Pandey requested to release the accused with immediate effect by giving him the benefit of 436A CrPC. Was done, in which the said District JudgeOn the basis of merits, the file was transferred to ADJ 13 for speedy disposal keeping in view all the technical aspects of the file.

Due to the continuous advocacy of this specific case by the Defense Council and their legal team since the transfer, ADJ 13 laid down the principle of "Justice delayed is injustice" and filed the related file within just one month While separating the files of prisoner Sunil Nagin from other accusedAfter hearing him and disposing of the case on merits, the way for the acquittal of the accused was made easier.

On 24.07.24, as soon as ADJ 13 pronounced the order to Sunil Nagina, after lunch in the afternoon, prisoner Sunil Nagina started crying bitterly in the crowded court and prayed to the court with both hands for the victory of justice and the victory of truth. He obeyed all the orders of ADJ 13.

On this occasion, while giving special congratulations to Vikas Gupta, Chief of Legal Aid Defense Council System, for the free legal aid being provided by the District Legal Services Authority, the Chief Justice of India praised his work towards the poor and disabled people. Reiterating the message of DY ChandrachudHe said that "in a democracy, the judiciary was, is and will remain fully accountable to the public.Along with this, he also praised the legal team of advocate Vikas Gupta who is supporting the socio-economically weak accused in his campaign to free him from jail due to corrective punishment process.

On this occasion, an emotional atmosphere was created in the court in which prosecution advocate Shivsharan Srivastava, Radha Rani, defense advocate Vikas Gupta, Basant Kumar, Neeraj Pandey, Basant Kumar, Mohit Singh, Lavlesh Tripathi, Gaurav Singh, Lalit Tripathi and law trainee students were present in the court. And paralegal volunteer Sachin TripathiKifayatullah, Santosh Singh, Pankaj Saroj etc. were present.

Greater likelihood of major conflicts

A worrying aspect of some extremely costly and threatening conflicts in recent times has been that they seem to be getting prolonged.

BHARAT DOGRA

Aworrying aspect of some extremely costly and threatening conflicts in recent times has been that they seem to be getting prolonged. The added risk is that the more prolonged they are, there are increased chances of escalation and a wider conflict which would be even more threatening for world peace. In the case of the Gaza conflict, at least several efforts for achieving ceasefire and peace have been made (all such efforts have also included the release of Israeli hostages) and for a considerable stretch of time there were reports on an almost daily basis regarding the progress (or otherwise) of these efforts.

Qatar and Egypt in particular have been involved in these efforts but they have been seeking the cooperation of others too, particularly the USA, in their efforts. The USA also claimed to have taken the initiative for peace at times. Then, even more significantly, there have been UN resolutions calling for a ceasefire. Despite this nothing has been achieved and the extreme distress of the people of Gaza is nowhere near ending despite increasing worldwide concern. On the contrary, other fronts of this conflict, which have existed from the beginning, appear to show a worsening situation. In this context, there was much concern recently regarding the increased chance of a bigger conflict between Israeli forces and Hezbollah on the Lebanon front.

In addition there have been several reports regarding the increasing violence and aggression in the West Bank region also. While in Gaza at least peacemaking efforts have been seen somewhat frequently, even though without raising much hope, in the Russia-Ukraine conflict the visibility of any serious efforts is even less. Of course, a significant peace effort was made at a very early stage of the war which had raised hope of ending this war within two months or so. But this effort was sabotaged by powerful forces. After this, no serious and sincere effort involving both sides has been seen. This is extremely sad and worrying due to the high risks of escalation and widening of this particular war. As it is, it is proving to be the most costly on-going war in terms of loss of human lives. However, the even bigger danger is that this war has the highest chances of leading to a direct confrontation between USA/Nato and Russia.

These two sides have about 11,000 nuclear weapons with them. Any possibility of a direct confrontation is widely seen to be a very serious threat not just to world peace but even to world survival. Keeping in view all these factors, the prolonging of the Palestinian and Ukraine conflicts is deeply worrying. At the same time, several other serious conflicts, like the civil war in Sudan, which are relatively much easier to resolve, have also dragged on for a long time inflicting high costs, particularly in terms of displacement of people. An overview of all the conflicts in the world also reveals that early solutions are getting more elusive. The Global Peace Index (GPI) which ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness, covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population, can provide an overview of the existing situation.



Produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), the GPI has been frequently mentioned as the world's leading measure of global peacefulness. Its 18th edition in 2024 has presented important data which show the rising incidence and costs of conflicts and wars. One of the most significant findings of the report is that many of the conditions that precede major conflicts are greater now than they have been since the end of the Second World War. This is in line with several warnings voiced by leading commentators regarding the possibilities of the Ukraine war or the Gaza conflict escalating into much wider wars.

In addition, the number of conflicts is also increasing in various parts of the world. As the GPI tells us, there are currently 56 active conflicts, the most since the end of World War II, with fewer conflicts being resolved, either militarily or through peace agreements. This is deeply worrying, as this means that wars now tend to drag on for longer periods and the capacity of the international community or the United Nations to end them soon has decreased. This also means that the distress suffered by people due to conflicts and wars has increased. The GPI tells us further that the number of conflicts that ended in a decisive victory fell from 49 per cent in the 1970s to nine per cent in the 2010s, while conflicts that ended through peace agreements fell from 23 per cent to four per cent over the same period. If only four per cent of the conflicts are now ending with peace agreements, this is surely bad news for the forces of peace.

What has gone wrong? This question should be discussed very widely and seriously by all those who are committed to world peace. The latest GPI tells us that conflicts are also becoming more internationalised, with as many as 92 countries now engaged in conflicts beyond their borders, the most since the inception of the GPI in 2008, complicating negotiation processes for a lasting peace and prolonging conflicts.

Trying to explain this worrying phenomenon, the GPI argues that the "internationalisation of conflict is driven by increased great power competition and the rise of middle level powers, who are becoming more active in their regions." Further, GPI 2024 tells us that although the measures of militarisation had been improving for the first 16 years of the GPI, the trend has now reversed and in 2024, militarisation deteriorated in 108 countries. The combination of these factors, GPI argues, means that the likelihood of another major conflict is higher than at any time since the inception of the GPI. This should be a wake-up call as this finding is based on a lot of data and information. While the GPI indicates disturbing trends at several levels, its findings relating to increased possibilities of a bigger conflict and the decreasing possibilities of peace agreements contributing to the end of conflicts are the most worrying. Clearly there is much greater urgency for strengthening all forces of peace. The peace movements all over the world should be stronger and there should be much greater continuity of many-sided activities with the aim of strengthening peace.

GROWTH BUDGET

The first post-election Union Budget has sparked significant interest, particularly due to its dual focus on job creation and rural development. This strategic move, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, aims to address the economic challenges that played a crucial role in the government's recent electoral setback. The budget's allocation of substantial funds for both urban and rural development reflects a balanced approach designed to foster inclusive growth across the nation. One of the standout features of the budget is the allocation of Rs 2 lakh crore over the next five years for job creation. This significant investment is poised to invigorate the job market, which has been under scrutiny for its perceived inadequacies. By introducing incentives for companies, especially in the manufacturing sector, and launching three employment-linked incentive schemes, the government aims to stimulate job growth and skill development. The focus on providing subsidised loans for higher education and enhancing skill programmes is expected to equip the youth with the necessary tools to succeed in a competitive job market. In addition to urban employment, the budget dedicates Rs 2.66 lakh crore to rural development, a move that underscores a broad commitment to uplifting rural India. This allocation is intended to address the distress in rural areas that analysts believe contributed to the BJP's electoral challenges.

The provision of state aid for affordable housing, particularly in urban and rural areas, is a step towards ensuring that development reaches the grassroots level. Furthermore, the specific support earmarked for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh through multilateral loans highlights the government's strategy to address the aspirations of states ruled by key allies. The budget's approach to fiscal prudence is evident in its target to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of GDP for 2024-25. This careful balancing act between expenditure and fiscal responsibility is crucial for maintaining economic stability while driving growth. The continuation of spending on long-term infrastructure projects, with an outlay of Rs 11.11 lakh crore, is another highlight.

These projects are expected to catalyse economic growth, create jobs, and improve the overall infrastructure landscape of the country. Tax reforms also feature prominently in the budget, with the revision of the Income Tax Act and the abolishment of the angel tax for start-ups being notable measures. The new tax regime, with revised slabs, is designed to provide relief to the middle class and stimulate economic activity. The reduction of corporate tax rates for foreign companies from 40 per cent to 35 per cent is a strategic move aimed at attracting foreign investment. However, the removal of indexation benefits from property sale, and increases in capital gains tax, have predictably caused distress. Inflation control measures, such as supply-side interventions to contain food inflation, and the allocation for new airports, medical colleges, and sports infrastructure in Bihar reflect the government's approach to economic management. The emphasis on developing small and modular nuclear reactors in partnership with private players also signals a forward-looking vision for India's energy sector. Overall, India's first postelection budget is a well-rounded document that seeks to address immediate challenges while laying the groundwork for sustained long-term growth.

Visit of Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta UYSM, AVSM, YSM GOC-IN-C Surya Command to Jabalpur, HQ

UMA SHANKAR MISHRA

Jabalpur: Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, visited Jabalpur Cantonment on 23 April 2024. He took charge as The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Command on 01 July 2024. This was his first visit to Jabalpur after assuming the prestigious appointment . Firstly, Army Commander reached the War Memorial of Jabalpur, where he paid tribute to the brave martyrs of the Indian Army on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. After this, he arrived at Headquarter Madhya Bharat Area, where he was welcomed by Lieutenant General Padam Singh Shekhawat, General Officer Commanding, Madhya Bharat Area. Lieutenant General PS Shekhawat gave a comprehensive briefing to the Army Commander about the ongoing training, administrative and operational preparedness of Madhya Bharat Area and its subordinate formations and training institutes. He said that with the advent of new generation weapons and technology, Indian Army is also modernizing by inventing new technologies and remodelling existing technologies. On this occasion, Army Commander also felicitated deserving Army personnel with commendation cards for their utmost dedication and exemplary works.



Thereafter, Army Commander Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta reached 1 Signal Training Center under Madhya Bharat Area, where he was welcomed by Brigadier T Suresh, Commandant 1 Signal Training Centre. Brigadier T Suresh apprised him about the administrative and training programs going on at the centre. During his visit, he inspected the operational preparedness, IT Labs, infrastructure development, equipment and stores of the Signal Training Centre. He had a close look at the training of Agniveers and also reviewed the facilities being provided to transform them into professional soldiers.

After this, Army Commander visited 506 Army Base Workshop under Madhya Bharat Area, where Brigadier KK Sharma, Commandant 506 Army Base Workshop briefed the Army Commander about the ongoing operational preparations at 506 Army Base Workshop. He informed that self-production in the defence sector under 'Make in India' is being encouraged by the Government of India. Emphasis is being laid to raise it to a higher level by 506 Army Base Workshop, which is the major stakeholder for repair and maintenance of highly advanced weapons used by the Indian Army. During the visit, he took stock of the preparations made in the workshop for proper maintenance of weapons and equipment. Apart from this, Army Commander also visited the country's largest arms and ammunition depot COD, Jabalpur. The Army Commander was briefed by the Commandant and officers of COD Jabalpur about the ongoing operational and administrative preparations. Army Commander's visit to COD Jabalpur highlights the Army's commitment in ensuring the highest standards of maintenance, supplies and logistics support for its defence personnel and equipment.

Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, appreciated the technical prowess displayed by the formations in evolving the services. He also exhorted all ranks to maintain high standards of physical fitness, equipment readiness and combat skills. During the visit, the Army Commander interacted with the soldiers and inspired them to continue with enthusiasm and be prepared for any future challenges. He highly appreciated the operational preparedness of the Madhya Bharat Area and congratulated Lieutenant General Padam Singh Shekhawat for a stellar development in all fronts.

Budget to make Uttar Pradesh a Uttam Pradesh from sick state: Prof. Harendra Kumar Singh

SUSHIL KUMAR MISHRA

Ujala Shikhar Varanasi: The budget will prove to be a visionary one providing India with a developed model and vision. This will create employment opportunities along with education sector, research development and agricultural aspirations. This was said by the Head & Dean Prof. Harendra Kumar Singh. Prof. Singh termed this budget as inclusive and said that providing internship of Rs. 500 per month to one crore youth in 500 best companies is a laudable step. This budget will pave the way to make Uttar Pradesh a Uttam Pradesh from a sick state. This budget of Modi government will stimulate organic farming, financial discipline, urbanization and capital market. The Purvodaya scheme in this budget will accelerate the rapid progress of backward states, but the relief in the income tax will prove to be 'sweet & sour' for the middle class population. In the budget discussion organized in the Platinum Hall of the Faculty of Commerce, the Head & Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Prof. S.K. Dubey said that reducing the interest rate on the education loan from 7% to 3% is encouraging. He said that the focus of the budget in Infrastructure is development oriented and progressive, which will pave the way to make India a 'Vishwa Guru'.

In this discussion, CA Vishal Singh said that Budget-2024 has brought great relief to the middle class salaried people. In this budget, young students will be given professional training for training in top companies and Rs 5000 per month will be given as stipend from the CRS fund. In this budget, attention has been given to the youth, which includes women and farmers. This budget has also given boost to the MSME sector by increasing the Mudra Loan from Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 20 Lakhs. On this occasion, Prof. F.B. Singh, Prof. D. Sahu, Dr. Lal Baboo Jaiswal, Dr. Meenakshi A. Singh and others were present.

Bhajan tunes of Sai Brothers echoed in Shirdi Sai Baba Temple M'rashtra

Sai Brothers of Prayagraj spread glory in 3-day Gurupurnima festival

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Sai Brothers Prayagraj presented bhajans on the centenary stage of Shirdi Shri Sai Baba Temple on Gurupurnima 2024. During the three-day Gurupurnima festival in Shirdi, the song "Sai Naam Jable Re Bande" composed by Sai Brothers was released on the world's largest channel Sai Leela TV. After the presentation of bhajans of Sai Brothers Prayagraj on the Shatabdi stage, Sai Brother was also honored by the Chief Executive Officer (IAS) of Shirdi Sai Baba. With the bhajans of Sai Brothers Prayagraj, the whole of Shirdi became intoxicated with Sai and mesmerized all the Sai devotees present. The program started with Guru Vandana and after that he recited many popular bhajans and won the applause of the audience.

Devotees from India as well as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Australia and Canada and other countries were present throughout the three-day program. After listening to the bhajan presented by Sai Brothers, all the listeners were stunned.



Let us tell you that Ashit Sai and Aarav Sai, both residents of Prayagraj, are real brothers, whose age is very young, in such a situation, both the brothers have showcased their art in Prayagraj as well as in the Taj Mahotsav of Agra or on the big stages of Lucknow and Gorakhpur. The splendor is spread everywhere.

TODAY's EVENT

Construction and Rudrabhishek of Parthiv Shivlinga will be organized by the Dutva Path Parivar at Munshi Ram Prasad's Bagiya Narayan Vatika in Mutthiganj on 25th July at 9:00 am and Shiv Mahapuran Katha at 4:00 pm.

BJP Yuva Morcha will take out a torch procession from Azad Park on 25th July at 5:00 pm on the eve of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

Three wire thieves arrested, 15 quintals of stolen wire recovered in UP

Baghpat (Agency): Khekra Kotwali police of Baghpat district has arrested three wire thieves after an encounter. 15 quintals of wire along with pistol cartridges and Mahindra pickup vehicle have been recovered from the thieves. Two injured are undergoing treatment in the hospital. One companion is absconding. JE Vinay Kumar of Sunhera power house of Khekra police station area had written a report of wire theft at Khekra police station on 23 July. It was told that a 33 KVA power line wire had been cut and stolen by unknown thieves.

The police registered a report of theft and started investigation. The police got success in this on Tuesday late night. Police arrested two thieves Sairabh and Manoj after the encounter. Two pistols, cartridges, wire cutters and motorcycle have been recovered from them. After interrogating both of them, the police arrested Wasim resident of Seemapuri Delhi. Police have recovered a Mahindra pickup vehicle, 15 quintals of stolen wire and a Pulsar motorcycle from them. CO Khekada says that three wire thieves have been arrested.

Modi's betrayal of govt employees, working class: Manoj Pandey

Completely ignored concerns and plight of working people

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation and North Central Railway Workers Union General Secretary Comrade Manoj Pandey said that in line with its dictatorial character, the Modi government in its third term has arrogantly rejected the mandate of the Lok Sabha elections and is adopting the same destructive policies against workers and in favour of corporates. The Budget 2024-25 has completely ignored the concerns and plight of the working people and betrayed the government employees. Forced by the alarming situation of unemployment, the Budget talks about it, but only in the form of mere rhetoric because This is not supported by any roadmap to create jobs. The budget only provides incentive schemes like Mudra loans and others. Moreover, the government is silent on filling government vacancies, which could boost employment opportunities. More than employment, the budget has focused more on skills or employability.



Comrade Manoj said that the budget also addresses one of the most burning issues of government employees i.e. restoration of OPS (Old Pension Scheme) as well as the formation of the 8th Pay Commission. The demand has been ignored. The income tax slab has also not been increased, leading to disappointment among the employees and the budget is completely anti-employee. Despite the tall talk of women empowerment, the budget does not address the issues of women workers including the declining female participation rate except for a few Showy proposals like opening hostels and creches in PPP model. Similarly, public health, education and other basic issues of common people have also been ignored. The employee leader said that the Modi government will have to bear the brunt of the anti-employee budget.

Revati shots off letter to CM, demanding 18 hrs power supply in trans-Yamuna

Jamunapar gets supply from both the power projects

Prayagraj: Former Electricity Minister, former MP Kunwar Revati Raman Singh shot off a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and demanded that like before, by declaring Jamunapar as Bundelkhand area, 18-hour power supply should be ensured because most of the areas of Bara Meja and Koraon of Jamunapar are rocky. The ground water level is very low and even drinking water is hardly available to humans and animals in summer. He said that when I was the Electricity Minister, I had declared Jamunapar as Bundelkhand region, due to which there was 18 hours of electricity supply for many decades, but in the last few years, the electricity system of Jamunapar has collapsed. He said that only 4-5 hours of electricity was available. The supplies are not being made continuously due to which even the tube wells are not functioning nor the pumps and canals are functioning as a result of which paddy is not being planted nor Kharif sowing is being done. There is an outcry regarding electricity in all four tehsils Karchana, Meja, Koraon and Bara. The former MP also had a telephone conversation with Divisional Commissioner Prayagraj and asked him to find a solution to this problem as soon as possible. SP State Secretary Vinay Kushwaha chuckled over the issue and quipped. "What was the benefit of setting up two power generation plants in Jamunapur? Chiraag Tale Andhera (darkness under the lamp)," lamented Kushwaha. He suggested that before giving the entire production to the National Grid, some part of power supply should be given to Jamunapur from both the power projects. The State Secretary said that the thing which is being produced, villagers are consuming the smoke but are being deprived of the fruits of the same production (electricity). This is atrocities being committed on the people across the trans-Yamuna area.



Rs 362.91 cr released to over 4 lakh depositors of Sahara Group till July 16: Shah

New Delhi (Agency): Asum of Rs 362.91 crore has been released to 4,20,417 depositors of Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies as on July 16, said Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

He further stated that applications received on the portal are being processed in a transparent manner, on proper identification and on submitting proof of their identity and deposits.

The payment is being deposited directly in the Aadhaar seeded bank account of the genuine depositors. Presently, payment only upto Rs.10,000/- is being disbursed to each genuine depositor of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies against verified claims through Aadhaar seeded Bank account, he said. It is to be highlighted that in compliance with the order from Supreme Court, dated March 29, 2023, an Online Portal "CRCS-Sahara refund portal" https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in was launched on July 18, 2023. The portal aimed at submission of claims by the genuine depositors of four Multi-State Cooperative Societies of Sahara Group, namely; Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Lucknow, Saharayn Universal Multipurpose Society Ltd., Bhopal, Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Kolkata and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd., Hyderabad for refund of their legitimate deposits.



Entire process of disbursement is digital and paperless and is being carried out under the supervision and monitoring of Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge of Supreme Court with the assistance of Gaurav Agrawal, Amicus Curiae. In its order, the Apex Court has said, "Out of the total amount of Rs 24,979.67 Crores lying in the "Sahara-SEBI Refund Account", Rs 5000 Crores be transferred to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, who, in turn, shall disburse the same against the legitimate dues of the depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies, which shall be paid to the genuine depositors in the most transparent manner and on proper identification and on submitting proof of their deposits and proof of their claims and to be deposited in their respective bank accounts directly."

Mystery shrouds death of two youths in Kanpur Leather Factory

THEY HAD GONE FOR NIGHT SHIFT

Kanpur (Agency): Two young labourers died under suspicious circumstances in the leather factory located in Jainpur of Akbarpur police station area of the district. Police reached on the information and started investigation. Shivam and Pankaj, residents of Bhikhanapur in Rura police station area of the district, used to work in Prachi Leather Factory in Jainpur. Both the young labourers had gone for night shift on Tuesday. Both the youth died under suspicious circumstances in the factory while working on Wednesday morning. As soon as the information was received, the police reached the spot and started investigating about the incident. For treatment of both the youths, the factory management took them to the district hospital where the doctors confirmed youths dead. As soon as the information was received, the villagers also reached the district hospital. Both the labourers were residents of the same village. At present the cause of death of the youth is not yet clear.

Singapore reclaims title of world's most powerful passport; India at 82

New Delhi (Agency): Singapore has reclaimed the title of the world's most powerful passport as owning a Singapore passport now gives one visa-free access to a record 195 global destinations. This puts the city state at the top on the Henley Passport Index.

According to the official data released from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain-dropped to joint-second spot. Each of these passports give visa-free access to 192 destinations

The seven-nation cohort — Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, and Sweden — with access to 191 destinations without a prior visa sit in third place on the ranking.

The Henley Passport Index puts India's passport at the 82nd spot, allowing Indians visa-free entry to only 58 countries. India's current rank ties it with nations like Senegal and Tajikistan.

Maldives is ranked 58th, with its citizens having visa-free access to 96 countries. China is ranked at 59th position, as the country grants visa-free access to 85 countries.

The US, on the other hand, continues its now decade-long slide down the index, dropping down to 8th spot, with access to just 186 destinations visa-free.

The UK and the US jointly held 1st place on the index 10 years ago in 2014. The UK now ranks fourth. Afghanistan remains firmly entrenched as the world's weakest passport, losing access to yet another destination over the past six months, leaving its citizens with access to only 26 countries visa-free — the lowest score ever recorded in history of the 19-year-old index.

The UAE makes it into the Top 10 for the first time, having added an impressive 152 destinations since the index's inception in 2006 to achieve its current visa-free score of 185, and rising a remarkable 53 places in the ranking from 62nd to 9th position in the process. The ranking, published by London-based immigration consultancy Henley & Partners, uses data from the International Air Transport Association to rank 199 passports' access to 227 travel destinations.

Financial assistance of Rs 1 cr 4L given to 44 patients in June

UJALA SHIKHAR

Case - 1: Muthiganj resident Navratan Kumar is suffering from cancer. He needed money for treatment. For which he wrote a letter to Prayagraj City South MLA and Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi for help. Minister Nandi wrote a letter to the Chief Minister's office and provided financial assistance of Rs 3.10 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, with the help of which Navtaran Kumar is getting better treatment.

Case - 2 Shivansh Srivastava, resident of Chak Madhav Singh Lane Prayagraj, was suffering from pain problem. He needed financial assistance for treatment. For which he wrote a letter along with Steemit to Prayagraj City South MLA and Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta. Minister Nandi wrote a letter to the Chief Minister's office and got financial assistance of Rs 2.80 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. On the basis of which Shivansh Srivastava is now fine after getting better treatment.

Case - 3 Bablu Sonkar, resident of Krishnanagar Kidganj, was suffering from serious leg disease. He needed money for his treatment. He wrote a letter to Minister Nandi demanding financial assistance. On the basis of which Minister Nandi wrote a letter to the Chief Minister's office and got financial assistance of Rs 1.75 lakh. After receiving financial assistance, Bablu Sonkar was able to get better treatment for his feet.

These three cases are just examples. Every month, 30 to 40 patients suffering from serious diseases are being provided financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund by Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government and Prayagraj City South MLA. In the month of June, financial assistance of Rs 1 crore 4 lakh 26 thousand 816 was provided to 44 patients from Prayagraj as well as other districts. Due to which many people got life. On the



initiative of Minister Nandi, every month, financial assistance is being provided to two to three dozen seriously ill people of Prayagraj city southern assembly constituency as well as other assembly constituencies and districts from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, so that the economically weaker people can also get the best treatment and save their lives. Minister Nandi said that the happiness and sorrow of the people of the area is our happiness and sorrow. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath considers 24 crore people of the state as his family and stands with the people in every difficult time. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has opened the government treasury so that people suffering from incurable and serious diseases and financially weak people do not have to wander or face trouble for treatment. The money received from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund is proving to be lifesaving for seriously ill people. There is no delay in providing assistance to the victims.

In the month of June, an amount of Rs 1 crore 4 lakh 26 thousand 816 was provided as financial assistance for the treatment of 44 patients suffering from serious diseases. Due to which, with better treatment, the lives of many people could be saved. Those who were provided financial assistance include Allapur, Rajapur, Naini, Sadiyapur, Mutthiganj, Kidganj, Karamat ki Chowki, Khuldabad, Pandariba, Begumsarai, Bairhana, Baluaghat, Meja Khas, Unchamandi, Dhumanganj, Kareli, Gaughat, Maheva, Bahadurganj. , along with Salori, people of Karailabagh are included.

Dr. Anand got Pride of Homeopathy Award in Dubai, Prayagraj's reputation soared

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Prayagraj's renowned homeopathic physician Dr. Anand Prakash was honored with the Pride of Homeopathy Award for his excellent work across the seven seas in Dubai. Former Union Health Minister Ashwani Choubey and other celebrities were present on this occasion. This event was organized in Dubai. The main objective of this event was to present the importance of homeopathy and its achievements to the society. According to the information, Dr. Anand Prakash Singh, a renowned doctor from Prayagraj, was honored for his special achievements in the field of homeopathic medicine. Senior homeopathic physician Dr. Anand Prakash was honored for his outstanding achievements in the field of medicine in a grand and historic event organized at Burj Al Arab, Dubai. This special program was organized by CEO of Burnett Homeopathy Pvt. Ltd. Organized under the able leadership of Dr. Nitish Dubey. In which more than 300 doctors from India and abroad along with many eminent personalities from the world of politics, health, cricket and cinema registered their presence. When Dr. Anand was being honored in Dubai, thousands of people here were feeling proud and those who knew him were very happy. The reason was clear that Dr. Anand has become a big name in homeopathy. Dr. Anand Prakash Singh, President of Indian Homeopathy Welfare Society, has made a place in the medical world through his incomparable contribution and dedication in the field of Homeopathy. Dr. Anand is a renowned homeopathic physician who is widely recognized for his expertise and success in successfully treating patients in the country and abroad over the years. He was selected for the Pride of Homeopathy Award for his exceptional commitment to research, education, and generosity and service to patients. On this occasion, the chief guests were former Union Health Minister Ashwani Choubey, Dr. Ramji Singh, actor Anupam Kher, Vikrat Gupta, cricketer Chris Gayle, Jonty Rhodes, Sanath Jayasuriya, poet Kumar Vishwas and MP Manoj Tiwari.



Operator's hand entered machine, fingers severed, 8-hr surgery done

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: A 44-year-old factory worker from Dadri is fine after 8-hour marathon surgery at Yatharth Super Specialty Hospital, Omega 1, Greater Noida. The fingers of the victim's right hand were badly crushed and cut. Considering the emergency condition of the patient, a team of multi-disciplinary doctors was deployed for treatment. The patient was treated throughout the night. After the accident, there is a golden period of 6 hours in which the blood supply is restored, in such a situation it is necessary to consult doctors as soon as possible. Doctors arrived here quickly and preserved the full function of the hand while saving the victim's organs. Amod Kumar (name changed) works as a machine operator in a local company in Dadri. One day his right hand got stuck in the machine and was completely crushed, the fingers were cut off and separated from the hand. The patient was brought to the emergency of the hospital, at that time there was a lot of bleeding, the fingers were separated from the hand. When it came to reality, Aamod's condition was quite serious, bleeding was profuse. The bones of the hand were fractured and the blood supply was cut off as the muscles and nerves of the hand were also damaged.

Due to excessive bleeding, the patient was taken to the operation theater for further procedures within



an hour. Plastic surgeon Dr. Parth Pratim and his team immediately attended to the case. Dr. Parth Pratim, a plastic surgeon at Yatharth Super Specialty Hospital, Omega-1, Greater Noida, explained about this challenging procedure, "The patient was brought to life amidst heavy bleeding. He was brought in a critical condition and if there had been any delay in reaching the hospital, he could have lost his right hand. Fortunately, a multi-disciplinary team of emergency, anaesthesia, orthopedic and plastic surgery began the procedure. After carefully removing the machine from the arm, the tendons and nerves were repaired and the blood supply was restored. Unfortunately, the index finger could not be retransplanted due to extensive damage. After the operation, the patient's condition is fine, blood supply is good and hand movement is normal. Thanking the hospital staff and the entire medical team after the successful surgery, Amod Kumar said, "I am thankful to the doctors of Yathar Hospital for I am very thankful to Dr., who saved my right hand and gave me hope to survive. At the time of the accident, I was in a lot of trouble physically and mentally, I felt that I would never be able to get my right hand back. But without any problem, the doctors spent the whole night to perform the surgery and fix my hand. In a few weeks, Amod Kumar will be able to return to work and meet the financial needs of his family.

PWD employee retires sans pension after 34 yrs in service

Emotional Bid adieu accorded

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Keshav Prasad Meth's farewell ceremony was completed with grandeur. It is unfortunate for the employees who retired without pension after completing 34 years of superannuation from PWD. Senior employee leader Ravi Shankar Mishra addressed the farewell ceremony of Meth Keshav Prasad of Prayagraj Public Works Department Block 4. Employee leader Ravi Shankar Mishra said that it is unfortunate that the employee who gave his life to the department retired without pension. Junior Engineer Pramod Rawat wished Keshav Prasad good health and long life and remembered the moments spent with him. While saying that Keshav is a dutiful, honest, responsible towards work, there is a need to learn from him. District President Phoolchand Yadav said that the process of payment of his bill is going on and it will be paid soon. Shailendra was presiding and Ram Achal Pal conducted the proceedings. The program was addressed by Ramsuphal Burma and Dharamraj Yadav, Lalji Pal, Suryaprakash, Sandeep Kushwaha, Premshankar Patel. Hundreds of employees including Paras and Rajendra of Keshav Prasad Meth group were honored by giving them garlands, flowers, garments and household items.



Union Budget ignored states that voted against Central Govt: Samajwadi Party

Prayagraj: Samajwadi Party Metropolitan President Syed Iftekhar Hussain said that Central Government Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the first Union Budget of Modi 3.0 government, rained heavily on those states whose leaders supported the BJP government against the public sentiments. But those states were ignored which wiped out the BJP. Mr. Iftekhar said that the budget is completely contrary to the aspirations of the people.





Metropolitan General Secretary Ravindra Yadav Ravi described the Union Budget as being happy and sometimes sad and said that the budget is the worst budget in Indian history. Duplicity is visible in it and it is an injustice to the people of the country. Metropolitan Media In-charge Syed Mohammad Askari said that the people of Prayagraj There was a demand that AIIMS should be established in Prayagraj, but by not doing so, the people of Prayagraj were disappointed, while the BJP government, which trumpets Lord Ram and religious faith, did not give even a single penny in the budget in the name of Kumbh. While MP Praveen Patel A promise was also made to the public to build AIIMS across Ganga. Expressing her reaction on the budget, Mahila Mahanagar President Manju Yadav said that she was disappointed by ignoring women, poor and youth in the Union Budget. Nothing was found in the budget to improve health, education and law and order.





Vacation of your screams to your screens with 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14'

Varanasi: Fortune favors the bold, but in Romania, fortune favors the fearless! Get ready to redefine your notion of a 'tourist trap' as COLORS presents the 14th edition of India's favorite stunt-based show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi', rewriting the script of vacationingby taking its troop of phobia fighters to Romaniafor the first time. With the theme 'Darr ki Nayi Kahaniyaan in Romania', this fearsome getaway is sure to shake even the most daring preparations of its contestants.Amid all the novelty of this edition, one aspect of the show remains constant with theBlockbuster filmmaker and award-winning TV host, Rohit Shetty making a comeback and mentoring the daredevils with his legendary experience. Produced by Endemol Shine India, Hyundai presents 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14', SpecialPartners Indica Easy Hair Color and Vicks, Associate Partners Smith & Jones Pasta Masalaand Ambuja Cement,premieres on July 27th and thereafter will air every Saturday -Sunday at 9:30 pm only COLORS.

At the outset, viewers will be treated to a grand entrance as Rohit Shetty descends from the skies in a chopper, only to land in a high-octane car chase that leads him to boardthe iconicEuropean open-air red bus.

That's not all, the daredevil contestants will hop on this bus from thepopular Romanian landmarks. Little do they know; their sightseeing tour is about to become anadrenaline-packed adventure! This season'sitinerary of thrillswill stamp spine-chilling moments and panic on the contestants' passports with a new theme every week. After all, variety is the spice of fright! From planes to trains, buses to cable cars - no mode of transport is safe from its devious challenges. And in a hair-raising first, thesebravehearts will come face-to-face with Romania's fierce bears, making it an epic showdown of the khiladis vs. bears!



Alok Jain, President - General Entertainment, Viacom18 said, "For 13 thrilling years, Khatron Ke Khiladi has been at the fore of courage-testing entertainment, reserving its place in the hearts of millions. Going from strength to strength, the flagship show has created a legacy of fearless adventures, and this upcoming season will redefine it with new themes each week. The show will be taking its tradition of fear-conquering to new heights as it touches down in Romania for the first time. Its legacy, records of high viewership, strong social media presence, and loyal audience make it an ideal platform for advertisers seeking exceptional impact and reach within their intended demographic. This season, we're revving up the excitement with a groundbreaking partnership, welcoming Hyundai as our presenting sponsor for the first time.

Together, we'll be shifting gears, making the most of this thrilling ride of adventures. We are delighted to have Rohit Shetty mark a decade of hosting this show, bringing his signature style and blockbuster energy to inspire and guide the contestants through their adrenaline-pumping challenges."

Host Rohit Shetty said, "Facing fears head-on has been the very essence of Khatron Ke Khiladi and as we gear up for our 14th season in Romania, we're not just changing locations - we're rewriting the rulebook. This season, our contestants are in for the ride of their lives as we're cranking up the heat with challenges that will push their absolute limits. I am looking forward for viewers to experience the season's grand premiere."

Deepak Dhar, Founder & Group CEO, Banijay Asia and Endemol Shine India, said, "We at Endemol Shine India are proud to watch Khatron Ke Khiladi become the epitome of action & adventure- packed entertainment in India. Bringing the international format of Fear Factor to India in itself was an exciting stunt for us, which we have been successfully performing for 14 years now.

This year, Romania's stunning landscapes will serve as the backdrop for the most innovative challenges of its our most loved television faces. We thank our host, Rohit Shetty, who has been the backbone of this show for a decade, bringing his massive experience in action to the course of performing stunts. The stage is set for a season that will captivate and thrill like never before. Besides, we believe that our strong association with COLORS is what catapults this show to new heights every year."

This year, an all-star lineup of 12 fearless contestants is set to bring their unique brand of bravery to Romania. The roster includes 'Bigg Boss' alumni Shilpa Shinde, Abhishek Kumar, Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia, Shalin Bhanot, and Asim Riaz; Marathi superstar Gashmeer Mahajani,popular actress Sumona Chakravarti; fitness enthusiast Krishna Shroff making her TV debut; and fiction actors Karan Veer Mehra, Kedar Aashish Mehrotraa, Niyati Fatnani, and Aditi Sharma transitioning to reality TV. In the new season, viewers can expect entertaining dynamics, with Abhishek and Shalin tagged as "Chote Miyaan Bade Miyaan" for their newfound friendship, and Karan and Shilpa dubbed "ShiKaar" for their playful pranks. Abhishek's attempts to charm Romanian girls with his tooti-footi English and Sumona's surprising transition from comedy queen to stunt performer will be a treat to watch. With this explosive mix of charisma and courage, 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 14' promises to keep viewers on the edge of their seats, offering the only haven amid heart-racing action.

'Say it without fear': Srikkanth rejects Agarkar's explanation for Pandya's captaincy snub



NEW DELHI (Agency): Former India opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth was displeased with the reasons given by India's chief selector Ajit Agarkar for not appointing Hardik Pandya as the T20I captain.

According to Agarkar, the primary reason behind Pandya being overlooked for the captaincy role was the uncertainty surrounding his availability due to his history of injuries.

Suryakumar Yadav was last week named Rohit Sharma's successor in the T20 format for India's white-ball tour of Sri Lanka, which begins on Saturday.

Srikkanth launched a verbal assault on Agarkar in response to the chief selector's justification for Pandya's snub.

"I think they have gone from the feedback of the dressing room. It must have probably been from the IPL. Fitness is something that I will not agree. He played the entire IPL. He also bowled. Yes, he might not have done well (in the IPL). That's another issue. Mumbai Indians didn't qualify. At the World Cup, he was the vice-captain and he played well. So, fitness is something that I won't agree with," Srikkanth said on YouTube channel.

"Suryakumar is a fantastic person. I like him. So is Hardik. But the reasons that they are giving they could have said it in a straightforward manner 'we are dropping Hardik Pandya as captain, we want to move forward. We are looking at Suryakumar as a long term'. Make it clear. Say it without fear," he added.

Pandya was Rohit's deputy during India's T20 World Cup triumph last month but he has suffered from fitness problems and missed the 50-over World Cup last year with an ankle injury.

"Fitness has been something that he's struggled with," Agarkar told reporters in Mumbai alongside new coach Gautam Gambhir.

"As selectors, it becomes difficult then. The thought behind it was that we want someone who is likely to be available more."

He was "still a very important player," Agarkar said. "And that's what we want him to be, those skill sets are hard to find."

Agarkar explained that several factors contributed to Suryakumar's selection. The player's fitness level, along with positive feedback from the team management, played a crucial role in the decision-making process.

"Why Surya was made captain? Because he is one of the deserving candidates. The one we know has been around the dressing room over the last one year, you get feedback from the dressing room a lot. He has got a good cricketing brain and he is still one of the best T20 batters in the world," he said.

'In Virat Kohli's career, only thing left is...': Younis Khan

NEW DELHI (Agency): Legendary Pakistan cricketer Younis Khan has made an appeal to Indian batting star Virat Kohli, urging him to visit Pakistan and participate in the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025. The event is set to be hosted by Pakistan, but the involvement of the Indian team remains uncertain due to the BCCI's firm position against sending their players to compete in Pakistan.

Younis remarked that the only milestone left for Kohli in his illustrious career is to come to Pakistan and perform there. Although Kohli traveled to Pakistan with the India U-19 team in 2006, he has never played in Pakistan with the senior Indian national team.



Kohli has, however, faced Pakistan in numerous ICC tournaments and boasts an impressive record against the arch-rivals. "Virat Kohli yahan pe aayein aur aake wo waise hi perform kare. Ek feather reh gaya hai unke career mein ki unhone Pakistan mai nahi khela. Agar wo aayenge toh hum sabko bohot acha lagega (Virat Kohli should come to Pakistan for the 2025 Champions Trophy, it's our wish too. I think the only thing left in Kohli's career is to tour Pakistan and perform in Pakistan)," Younis told News24. India have not engaged in any bilateral cricket series with Pakistan since 2012, following Pakistan's brief visit to India for a limited-overs series. Moreover, the two nations have not competed in a Test series since Pakistan's tour of India in 2007.

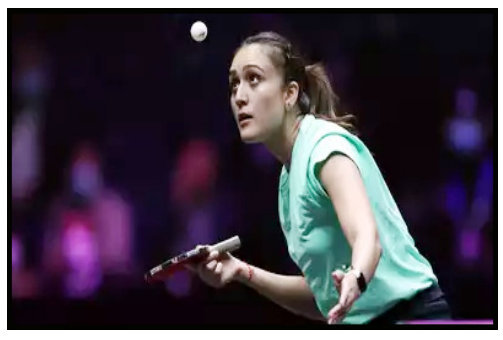
Even the participation of India in the Champions Trophy remains on tenterhooks with speculations doing rounds about Men In Blue wanting to play their matches outside Pakistan. The PCB has placed the responsibility on the ICC to persuade the BCCI to send their team to Pakistan for the forthcoming Champions Trophy. The tournament is planned to take place in the initial months of the following year. A source from the PCB revealed that although the budget for the Champions Trophy was approved during the recent ICC meetings held in Colombo, the schedule and format of the tournament were not discussed at all.

"The PCB now has done what was required of it as hosts of the Champions Trophy. It has submitted the draft schedule and format for the event and also submitted a budget for the event," a PCB insider said. "It is now up to the ICC how soon they circulate, discuss and finalize the schedule of the Champions Trophy. The PCB for its part in the draft schedule has suggested hosting all of India's games in Lahore including a semi-final (if India qualifies) and final," he said.

Paris Olympics: Manika to play Britain's Hursey, Sharath to take on Slovenia's Kozul in TT openers

NEW DELHI (Agency): Manika Batra, a top-ranked Indian table tennis player and gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games, is set to face Anna Hursey from Great Britain in the first round of the women's singles event on July 27.

The draws, which were released on Wednesday, as per news agency, also revealed that Achanta Sharath Kamal, an experienced men's player, will compete against Slovenia's Deni Kozul on the same day.



Manika, who holds the 18th seed at the Paris Games, made history at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 by becoming the first Indian woman to advance to the round of 32 in the singles competition.

Harmeet Desai, one of the Indian table tennis players, is set to face Abo Yaman from Jordan in the men's singles opening round. Meanwhile, Sreeja Akula, the 16th seed and 25 years old, will begin her tournament against Christina Kallberg of Sweden.

The Indian table tennis team, consisting of six members, is led by the experienced Sharath Kamal. At 41 years old, Kamal is gearing up for his fifth Olympic appearance. Manika, another prominent player, will be participating in her third consecutive Olympic Games. Gnanasekaran Sathiyan, who played a crucial role in India's triumphant campaigns at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and 2022, securing gold medals in the men's team events, has been named as a reserve player for the upcoming tournament. Despite his notable contributions, Sathiyan was unable to secure a spot in the main squad.

Meanwhile, Manika has achieved a new milestone in her career, reaching a personal best ranking of world No. 24 after delivering an outstanding performance at the recent Saudi Smash event.

India, seeded 11th in the women's team event, will commence their tournament against Romania, who are seeded fourth.

The Indian women's team consists of Manika, Sreeja, and Archana Kamath, with Ayhika Mukherjee as the reserve player. The victorious team in this match will directly advance to the quarterfinal stage of the competition.

The Indian men's team, which includes veteran Sharath Kamal, rising star Manav Thakkar, and reigning national champion Harmeet, is set to face a formidable challenge in the first round of the Olympics as they square off against the world's top-ranked team, China.

This year's edition of the Olympic Games will witness India's maiden participation in the team event for table tennis. The men's and women's team competitions were first introduced at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Harry Brook 'won't get ahead of myself' after first home Test hundred

NEW DELHI (Agency): Harry Brook, the rising star of England's cricket team, remains grounded despite achieving a significant milestone by scoring his first Test century on home soil.

The 25-year-old's impressive knock of 109 was instrumental in England's commanding 241-run victory against the West Indies at Trent Bridge, giving the hosts a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Brook's remarkable performance at Trent Bridge adds to his growing list of accomplishments, having previously scored four Test hundreds in overseas matches against Pakistan and New Zealand.

His current Test batting average of 62.54 after 23 innings is the highest since the legendary Australian batsman Don Bradman, who is widely regarded as the greatest Test cricketer of all time, among players with over 1,000 runs in the format.

As England prepares for the series finale at Edgbaston, Brook remains focused on his game and is determined not to be carried away by his recent success..

"I've only just started," said Brook, as quoted by AFP. "That could definitely fluctuate either way. I've not even played 25 innings in Test cricket yet so I won't be getting ahead of myself.



"I'll just keep enjoying playing Test cricket. Hopefully I can keep it that high but if not, so be it."

Brook and his Yorkshire colleague, Joe Root, formed a formidable partnership at Trent Bridge, amassing 189 runs together. This innings also marked Root's first Test century of the current season.

Having scored an impressive 363 runs against Australia in the previous year, which contributed to drawing the Ashes series, Brook expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to gain knowledge from Root. However, he also emphasized the importance of maintaining his own unique style and approach to the game.

"I want to be my own batter, I want to be Harry Brook, not anybody else."

But he added: "Rooty has just gone eighth in the all-time Test runs list, so I'd be stupid to not be tapping into his cricket knowledge.

"I was glad to get it (the hundred) on the board, being my first in England.

"I was nearly getting to the spot where I thought, 'God, I need a hundred in England'. I didn't get a big one in the Ashes last year, but I was happy with my performances."

Brook withdrew from the Indian Premier League earlier this year following the death of his grandmother, having previously pulled out of England's five-Test tour of India in January due to personal reasons. He later revealed his grandmother was "ill and didn't have long left".

And it was his grandmother Pauline, one of his biggest supporters, who was uppermost in Brook's mind when he reached three figures in Nottingham.

"It was the first (century) with family there and obviously loads more English fans as well, it was a very nice moment.

"I'm not a massive celebrator at a hundred, I just try to soak it all in. I did it all for my grandma.

"As soon as I got it, it was just like, 'Yes, a hundred'. But a couple of moments later I got a bit emotional inside, I just didn't show it. I was thinking about her."

England have four Tests left to play this season, with Sri Lanka arriving for a three-match campaign starting in August.

And for Brook, an in-demand multi-format player, Test cricket is still the pinnacle. "I want to play every Test match I can for England," he said. "Test cricket and playing for England is my priority."

Women's Asia Cup: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh register big wins to enter semifinals

NEW DELHI (Agency): Sri Lanka and Bangladesh secured their spots in the women's Asia Cup T20 tournament semifinals after convincing wins against Thailand and Malaysia, respectively, in Dambulla on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka overpowered Thailand, winning by a massive 10-wicket margin in the tournament's last group stage encounter. The host nation put on a dominant performance to book their place in the final four.

Earlier, Bangladesh set the tone with a resounding 114-run victory over Malaysia.



The Bangladeshi team's impressive total of 191 for 2 was largely thanks to opener Murshida Khatun's blistering 80 off 59 balls and captain Nigar Sultana's quick-fire 62 from just 37 deliveries.

Bangladesh's decision to bat first proved fruitful as Khatun and Dilara Akter, the wicket-keeper, formed a solid 65-run partnership for the first wicket. Akter contributed a valuable 33 runs before Khatun teamed up with Sultana to add another 89 runs for the second wicket, laying the groundwork for an imposing total.

The Bangladeshi bowlers then took center stage, limiting Malaysia to a mere 77 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. This dominant performance secured Bangladesh a resounding victory and earned them a well-deserved spot in the semifinal.

Thailand struggled with the bat in their final group match, only managing to score 93 for 7 after choosing to bat first.

Wicket-keeper batter Nannapat Koncharoenkai top-scored for Thailand with a 53-ball 47.

Sri Lanka's off-spinner Kavisha Dilhari was the standout bowler, taking 2 wickets for just 13 runs.

Sri Lanka had no trouble chasing down the target, with captain Chamari Athapaththu remaining unbeaten on 49 and Vishmi Gunaratne contributing 39 not out. The Sri Lankan openers made light work of the chase, comfortably leading their team to victory.

The Thailand bowlers were unable to make any significant impact against the dominant Sri Lankan batting performance.

The tournament now moves to the semifinal stage, with India, the reigning champions, set to face Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka will take on Pakistan on Friday.

Deepika unafraid to embrace 'fear' in quest for elusive medal

PARIS (Agency): The Eiffel peeps out from above Parisian terraces - that architectural mix of Renaissance and the Revivalist - gazing upon you without plan or preamble, rhyme or reason. Everywhere you go, the city's labyrinthe lanes, its leafy, shaded avenues, past their many cafes and their patrons for life, everywhere you look - and Paris compels you to look up from your phones -- the Eiffel will be looking back, in that giant, all-metal silent stalk that only the Eiffel can do.

Under its unrelenting watch then, Deepika Kumari was shooting arrows into the warm Parisian air at the Les Invalides, a 17th century military complex in the heart of the French capital, with a 7600-seating gallery and tickets for all stages of the archery competition sold out.

As you watched, shading your eyes from the harsh afternoon sun, you could almost see a 'Queen' parallel playing out here in Paris.

Haunted initially by the wrought-iron tower's constant presence, the protagonist in the 2013 film, travelling alone, found friends and eventually found herself. The 30-year-old 'veteran' of the Indian women's archery team, you could say, is on a similar journey here. She has the comfort of an old, familiar set-up but somewhere, she knows she must travel alone. Will she find what she has been looking for?



Ask her about her evolution from a prodigious teenager to team elder, and Deepika normally lists "experience" as one of the key aspects of her evolution.

"Darr lagta hai, nervousness hoti hai. You suddenly learn to experience fear, especially as you grow older. You become very aware of fear," Deepika smiles gently, attempting to articulate the feeling of growing up and the task ahead of her. "But the key, is to be in control of that darr, not let that nervousness overpower you."

A major recent part of her evolution has also included motherhood when she and archer husband,

Atanu Das gave birth to a girl in December 2022. "Call it a type of selfishness," she says, slowly, "But I haven't experienced so many moments of her growing up - her first steps, first words, I haven't been there for any of that. I miss it, I miss her so badly, but I guess it's one of the biggest sacrifices I've had to make. Bahut khatakta hai, but kyaa karein, yeh jo ek ambition fulfil karna hai…









Plane crashes after takeoff at Nepal airport, 18 killed

KATHMANDU (Agency): A Nepalese airliner crashed and caught fire shortly after taking off from Tribhuvan International Airport here on Wednesday, killing 18 people aboard, including a child, and seriously injuring the pilot — the lone survivor — in the latest aviation disaster to hit the Himalayan nation.

The Bombardier CRJ-200 aircraft of Saurya Airlines, carrying 19 people, including two crew members and technical staff of the airline, was bound for Pokhara International Airport for regular maintenance service when the accident occurred.

"Shortly after takeoff from runway 02, the aircraft veered off to the right and crashed on the east side of the runway," said a statement issued by the civil aviation authority of Nepal. It said rescue operations were initiated immediately and fire was brought under control. "One injured person (Captain Manish Ratna Shakya) was rescued and taken to the hospital, and 18 people were found dead," it added.

The deceased were identified as co-pilot S Katuwal, the employees of Saurya Airlines and a Yemeni national (Aref Reda).

Manu Raj Sharma, a technician of the airline, his wife Priza Khatiwada and their four-year-old son Adhi Raj Sharma were among the deceased. Priza worked as an assistant computer operator at the ministry of energy, water resources and irrigation.

A statement issued by the airline said that Priza and her son were initially identified as employees of the company, but it was later revealed that they were passengers.

Videos posted online showed the plane being enveloped in fire and smoke. Fire engines and ambulances were rushed to the spot after the incident.

"I came out and saw a plane had crashed and there was smoke and fire coming out," said Ram Kumar Khatri Chetri, who own a car parts store barely 100 metres from the crash site. "There was chaos and confusion. There was no way that anyone could go near the plane and help out," he said.

It is monsoon season in Kathmandu but was not raining at the time of the crash. Visibility was low across the capital, however.

Of the deceased, 15 died on the spot while three died during treatment at a local hospital, authorities said.

The bodies of the deceased have been shifted to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital for post-mortem. Grieving relatives gathered to collect the bodies of their loved ones, though they are not likely to be released for a day or two.

Pilot Shakya, 37, is undergoing treatment at Kathmandu Model Hospital. Officials said that he remains in critical condition following injuries sustained in the accident. He is currently undergoing a crucial eye and spinal cord surgery and is admitted to the neuro-intensive care unit.

Co-pilot Sasant Katuwal had been flying only for the past three years after completing training in France, his uncle Dhyan Bahadur Khadka said. He had just received a visa to go to Germany for further training and was excited about that, Khadka said.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and home minister Ramesh Lekh separately visited the accident site to gather details about the incident and provide necessary directives.

Oli said he was deeply saddened by the tragic deaths in the crash and was at the site to enquire about the cause of the air crash with the civil aviation authority's officials. He urged all for patience at this hour of grief.

According to Tribhuvan International Airport chief Jagannath Niraula, the plane flying from Kathmandu to Pokhara turned in the wrong direction.

"As soon as it took off, it turned right instead of turning left," Niraula was quoted as saying by the BBC News Nepali. However, "the cause of the accident has not been revealed yet", he said. The accident happened less than a minute after the plane took off, Niraula said.

Nepal has been criticised for its poor air safety record, where many airlines fly to small airports in remote hills and near peaks shrouded in clouds. The country is home to eight of the world's 14 tallest mountain peaks.

A cabinet meeting held in Singhadurbar decided to form a five-member committee led by former director general of the civil aviation authority, Ratish Chandra Lal Suman, to investigate the crash. The committee has been given 45 days to submit a report.

The aircraft, manufactured by the Canadian company Bombardier in April 2003, was the sixth of its kind purchased for use in Nepal, according to information from planesspotters.com. Following the accident, services at the Kathmandu airport were halted briefly before being resumed, the airport authorities said.

According to the company's website, Saruya Airlines operates flights to five tourist destinations within Nepal, with a fleet of three Bombardier CRJ-200 jets.

Nepal has been criticised for its poor air safety record in recent years but the reasons also include sudden weather changes and airstrips located in hard-to-access rocky terrains, apart from human error.

According to Nepal's civil aviation body, 914 people have died in air crashes in the country since the first disaster was recorded in August 1955.

In Jan last year, all 72 people on board, including five Indians, were killed when a Yeti Airlines aircraft crashed in the resort city of Pokhara. The crash was attributed to a human error.

Social decay, drug abuse are main US problems, says Mexican President

New Delhi (Agency): Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has said the main problem facing the US is social decomposition, which has led to widespread drug abuse among its youth. At his usual daily press conference on Tuesday, the Mexican President urged the US government to improve policies regarding the youth and address the causes that lead to drug addiction and the use of narcotics such as fentanyl. The drug crisis in the US is linked to the "loss of values," Lopez Obrador told reporters at the National Palace in Mexico City, Xinhua news agency reported. "I think they began to forget about that, and individualism, materialism and consumerism began to predominate, and that is part of the crisis," he said, adding it "is not an easy issue to resolve… they must address the causes". Unlike the US, Mexico preserves many of its traditions and family values, which strengthen society, he said. Lopez Obrador again called on the US government to stop blaming Mexican migrants for its drug problems and address the "vacuum" left by family disintegration.



US Secret Service Deputy Director tapped as acting chief

New Delhi (Agency): Deputy Director of the United States Secret Service Ronald L. Rowe, Jr. was tapped to serve as the agency's acting chief, following Director Kimberly Cheatle's resignation amid mounting pressure.

"I have appointed United States Secret Service Deputy Director Ronald L. Rowe, Jr. to serve as Acting Director of the Secret Service," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said on Tuesday in a statement.

The statement noted that Rowe, a 24-year "veteran" of the Secret Service, has been the agency's Deputy Director since April 2023, Xinhua news agency reported.

"I appreciate his willingness to lead the Secret Service at this incredibly challenging moment, as the



agency works to get to the bottom of exactly what happened on July 13 and cooperate with ongoing investigations and Congressional oversight," Mayorkas added. Rowe's appointment came just a few hours after Cheatle's resignation, which followed a Congressional hearing on Monday when Cheatle acknowledged that it was "the most significant operational failure at the Secret Service in decades".

During the hearing held by the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, lawmakers from both parties grilled Cheatle about the "egregious security lapses" that led to the attempted assassination of former US President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, earlier this month.

"Director Cheatle could not or refused to answer basic questions from committee members, leading Republican and Democrat members to call for Director Cheatle's immediate resignation," the Committee said in a statement.

The US Secret Service has been facing scrutiny after a 20-year-old man, identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as Thomas Matthew Crooks, armed with an AR-style rifle, was able to get close enough to shoot and injure the former President.

The attack marked the first shooting of a former US President or major party presidential candidate since the 1981 attempted assassination of Republican President Ronald Reagan.

South African President signs into law Climate Change Bill

New Delhi (Agency): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law the Climate Change Bill, which seeks to set out a national response to climate change, including mitigation and adaptation actions, the presidency said. "The Climate Change Act enables the alignment of policies that influence South Africa's climate change response to ensure that South Africa's transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and society is not constrained by policy contradictions," the presidency said on Tuesday in a statement as reported by Xinhua news agency. The law also sets out to enhance the country's ability and capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience, while reducing the risk of job losses and promoting opportunities for new job opportunities in the emerging green economy, according to the statement.

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Editor
Alok Malviya
Mob-9335153330
Co-editor-Piyush Pandey,
Yamunapar bureau chief-Vineet Sethi,
Karchhana in-charge-Abhay Singh,
Jabalpur bureau chief-Uma Shankar Mishra
Email-alokallahabad@gmail.com
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3 people forcibly disappeared while distributing pamphlets in Karachi ahead of Baloch National Gathering

New Delhi (Agency): Baloch activist Mahrang Baloch lamented the worsening situation in Balochistan and accused the DySP of the Kalakot police station of forcibly disappearing three people when they were engaged in wall chalking and distributing pamphlets in Lyari, Karachi, ahead of the upcoming national gathering.

Mahrang Baloch said that the state machinery is scared of the upcoming Baloch national gathering and is trying to spread fear among people.

"The state machinery is so scared of our upcoming national gathering that it is using all its power to spread fear and intimidation among the general public, transporters, and BYC activists. Several of our friends and their family members were illegally arrested yesterday and last night in Quetta," she said in a post on X.

"Tonight, our friends who were engaged in wall chalking and distributing pamphlets in Lyari, Karachi, were forcibly disappeared by the DySP of the Kalakot police station. He now claims that intelligence agencies took three young men from us. We won't succumb to such pressure," she added.

Further, Mahrang emphasised that the Baloch people will continue their peaceful resistance against the exploitation of their natural resources and the Baloch genocide. "Such pressure tactics will no longer deter our struggle," she added.

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee also took to X and named those three people who were forcibly disappeared by the DySP.

"Today, three activists of the Baloch Solidarity Committee, Shahdad Baloch, Saddam Baloch and Basit Baloch, were illegally arrested by DSP Kalakot while wall chalking and distributing pamphlets regarding Baloch Raji Machi in Nawaleen Karachi," they stated. Further, they said that those three youth were later handed over to the intelligence agencies.

"After taking the three Baloch youths to the police station, they have been handed over to the intelligence agencies, and they are not present in the police station at the moment," they said.

Later, one more worker of the BYC Karachi zone, was also picked up from his house.

"A few hours ago, one more worker of BYC Karachi Zone, Abdul Rahman Shahmir Baloch, was also picked up by the forces from his house," the BYC posted on X.