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#### NEW DELHI, MONDAY AUGUST 22, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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# Excise case: Look out notice against 8 by CBI

Sisodia, officials named in FIR not included in circular

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI** 

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday issued Look Out Circulars (LOC) against eight private entities named in the FIR registered in the alleged Delhi Excise Policy "scam case. According to the CBI officials, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, former Excise Commissioner Deputy

Commissioner Anand Tiwari and Assistant Commissioner Pankaj Bhatnagar's names are not mentioned in the LOC as they are public servants and they cannot leave the country without intimating the Government.

The agency has opened LOCs against eight of the nine private accused persons Vinay Nair, former CEO of Mumbaibased event management company Only Much Louder, Amandeep Dhal, Director of Brindco Sales Pvt Ltd., Sameer



Delhi Dy CM Manish Sisodia talks to the media regarding the CBI's Look Out Circular, at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday

Mahendru, Managing Director of Jor Bagh, Delhi-based Indospirit Group, Amit Arora, Director of Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd., Dinesh Arora, Sunny Marwah, authorised signatory of Mahadev Liquors, Arun

Ramchandra Pillai Telangana and Arjun Pandey of Gurugram. However, no LOC has been issued against Mano Rai, a former employee of Pernod Ricard so far.

Continued on Page 2

## CBI registers PE on bus purchase

Days after conducting raids at Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has now registered a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) into charges of corruption in the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses by the

Delhi Government.

The PE bearing number 04(A)/2021/CBI/ACB/New Delhi was registered on the reference of the Union Home Ministry, officials said. The Delhi Government

refuted the "allegations" of corruption in bus procurement and accused the BJP-led Central Government of "harassing" it by using the

The matter of alleged "corruption" in the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of bus procurement by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) was raised by the BJP in Delhi Assembly in March this tee formed by former Lt-Governor Anil Baijal in June had found procedural "flaws' in the AMC and recommend ed scrapping it.
The L-G had referred the

matter to the Union Home Ministry for its consideration. the officials said. A PE is the first step in ascertaining allegations in a

complaint and the same is converted into an FIR if there is prima facie substance in the alleged offence, they added.

On August 16, last year, Additional Secretary, Union Home Ministry, Govind Mohan in a reference to the then Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev, said, "I am writing this in connection with purchase of 1,000 Low Floor Buses by the Delhi Government and the report submitted by the three-mem ber committee constituted by the Government of NCT Delhi for a detailed enquiry into the

Continued on Page 2

## Yet another jolt to Cong as HP strongman quits post

Anand Sharma resigns as chairman of steering committee for poll-bound State over continued 'exclusion', 'insults'

 $I^{\rm n}$  yet another jolt to the Congress Party, former Union Minister Anand Sharma resigned as chairman of the Grand Old Party's steering committee for Himachal Pradesh. His resignation at this time assumes major significance as the State goes to polls a few months from now.

In a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the former Deputy Leader of Opposition in Ràjya Sabha said that he was kept out of the consultation process and his self-respect is "non-negotiable". However, Sharma asserted he will be a Congressman

"I have resigned with a heavy heart from the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee of the Congress for the Himachal elections. Reiterating that I am a lifelong Congressman and remain firm on my convictions," he said in a tweet. In a second tweet, Sharma said, "Committed to Congress ideology that runs in my blood, let there be no doubts about this! However, given the continuing exclusion and insults, as a self-respecting person, I was left with no choice."

His resignation comes soon after another leader of the G-23 dissident group Ghulam Nabi Azad resigned as chairman of the campaign committee in Jammu and Kashmir a

few days ago. Sharma told the Congress chief that he has been ignored in the consultation process. However, he conveyed that he will continue to campaign for the party candidates in the State. He was appointed as chairman of the Steering Committee in Himachal Pradesh on April 26.



In this file photo dated May 13, 2022, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra greets senior Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma during the party's 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' in Udaipur

Sharma, who is considered one of the tallest leaders of Himachal Pradesh, has reportedly told the Congress president in his letter that his self-respect has been hurt as he has not been consulted or invited to any of the meetings of the party.

The Congress is seeking to wrest power from the BJP in

Himachal Pradesh in the Assembly polls slated later this year. Sharma, who first contested Assembly elections in 1982 and was given a Rajya Sabha ticket by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, has been a Rajya Sabha member ever since and has occupied several key positions in the party.

#### **Cong looks beyond Gandhis as** party gears up for Sep 20 poll

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The Central Election Authority (CEA) of the Sunday Congress on announced that the party will elect a new president by September 20. With Rahul Gandhi not ready to jump into the fray and Sonia Gandhi out of the reckoning for health reasons, the party is forced to look beyond the Gandhi family for the revival of the Congress.

A section of the Congress is rooting for Priyanka Gandhi,

but her flop show in Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls has clearly dented her image.

The party is clueless about a prospective leader who could steer the Congress in these difficult times. If the Gandhi family chooses not to be in the race, there could be several claimants for the top posts. The search could zero in on some prominent Dalit faces like Sushil Kumar Shinde, Meira Kumar and Mallikarjun Kharge as well veterans like Ashok Gehlot

and Kamal Nath. Continued on Page 2

## Woman abuses guard at Noida society; held after video goes viral

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NOIDA

Ahurled choicest abuses and assaulted private security guards at the entrance of a group housing society in Noida in a repeat of the infamous Shrikant Tyagi episode. After the video went viral on social media, the Gautam Budha Nagar police arrested the woman

The Residents Welfare Association (RWA) of the Jaypee Wish Town society has also asked the woman, Bhavya Rao, to vacate the flat which she

rented in May. It is suspected that the woman was under the influence of alcohol and a medical report is awaited. Details of what triggered the argument were vet to be confirmed. Roy



fession. In the video, the woman can be seen manhandling one of the guards, dragging him by the collar of his uniform, hurling abuses, and also asking the guards to respect women. She also made indecent gestures and threatening remarks against them.

A complaint was also given by the victim, identified as Anoop Kumar, who was on duty at the gate between Towers 11 to 18 of the society.

Continued on Page 2

## Tyagi Mahapanchayat in Noida in support of jailed 'neta' Shrikant

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NOIDA

The Noida brat who shot into the limelight for heaping abuses on a woman and assaulting her at the Grand Omaxe Society in Sector 93B, and authorities on Sunday after thousands of his caste men held Mahapanchayat and expressed solidarity with

Members of the Tyagi community on Sunday organised the congregation in Noida in support of jailed self-styled politician Shrikant Tyagi who has been booked for abusing and assaulting a woman and misusing State Government symbols on his car.

Top police officials and local BJP MP Mahesh Sharma were targeted by the speakers at the gathering for the alleged mistreatment of Shrikant Tyagi's wife and his maternal aunt as well as for the arrest of several supporters of Tyagi.

The congregation started



Anu Tyagi, wife of Shrikant Tyagi, speaks during a Mahapanchayat by the Tyagi community, in Noida on Sunday

around 10 A.M. at the Ramlila ground in Gejha Village on the call of locals even as hundreds of community members from parts of western Uttar Pradesh like Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahr, Baghpat and Hapur reached there for the event.
"Humare gaon mein BJP

netaon ka pravesh band hai

(Entry of BJP politicians is prohibited in our village," read a banner displayed at the entry of Gejha Village which announced 'Mahapanchayat'.

Shrikant Tyagi was arrested on August 9 from Meerut after he remained absconding for four days

Continued on Page 2

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#### is said to be a lawyer by pro-**CAPSULE**

JD(U) EXEC, COUNCIL TO MEET ON SEPT 3 IN PATNA New Delhi: The Janata Dal (United) will hold its national executive and national council meetings in Patna on September 3 and 4 respectively, amid the buzz that its leader Nitish Kumar could emerge as the Opposition's prime ministerial candidate. P4

#### MEHBOOBA: I AM UNDER **HOUSE ARREST** Srinagar: PDP president

Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday claimed she had been put under house arrest to stop her from visiting the family of Kashmiri Pandit Sunil Kumar Bhat who was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian recently. P5

#### 25% EXTRA SEATS FOR **FOREIGN STUDENTS: UGC** New Delhi: Universities and

higher education institutions will create up to 25 per cent extra seats for foreign students in their undergraduate (UG)and postgraduate (PG) programmes while the students will not be required to go through the entrance test for admissions. P2

# Farmer moving dream house for expressway in Punjab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **CHANDIGARH** 

We have heard of many homes being uprooted and moved to a different location in the West, but in a poor country like India it's not something we can hope to see, especially in a rural area. But, Sukhwinder Singh Sukhi a Sangrur farmer is doing just that. He had the option of moving to a new house after his land was to be acquired for the Delhi-Jammu-Katra Expressway, but he chose to move his entire house instead,

making use of the technology

that is available now. His home,

spread over 1,000 square yards, tion but didn't want to build another house. I have spent is being moved on wheels to a new location — 500 feet away. Sukhi's family owned near-Sukhi told ANI. lv 10 acres in Roshanwala village and between 2017 and 2019, the family got their two-storey "dream home" con-It's my dream project, I did not

structed at an expense of about house," the farmer said.



being acquired for the expressway project. Sukhi refused the Punjab

Government's offer to pay him a huge compensation to demolish his house, which is coming in the way of a national road "I was offered compensa-

around ₹1.5 crore to build it," "It took me two years and ₹1.5 crore to build this house. house has been given to a pri-

want to construct another



vate contractor, involving a total cost of around ₹50 lakh.

more months has been moved by more than complete. 250 feet from its original loca-The work to "shift" the

The expressway being con-Bharatmala project is aimed at reducing the travel time, will pass through Haryana, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir.

expected that it would take two structed under the Centre's

## **Mistakes in DPRs** cause of road accidents: Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday said mistakes in detailed project reports (DPRs) prepared by consultants were to blame for road accidents that kill more than 1.50 lakh people annually across the country.

The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways was speaking at the National Convention of Civil Engineers

"Every year, five lakh road accidents take place in the country, which claim the lives of more than 1.50 lakh people. It is only because of the mistakes made in the detailed



project reports by consultants. Most DPRs are very conservative," he claimed.

He said there was need to bring about qualitative changes in the preparing of DPRs, with emphasis on improving blind spots. "I don't know why it is so (DPRs being faulty) and the reasons behind it," the senior

# for a separate Mithila state

Maithili.

Demonstration at Jantar Mantar

to six crore people, can have an Indian Institute of Technology,

a National Institute of Technology, IIIT, a central uni-

versity, why not Mithila which

also has six crore population,'

he told the gathering in

launch a door-to-door aware-

ness campaign later this year,

and urged people to donate

to pressure the central govern-

ment in the run up to the 2024

money for the exercise.

He also said the MSU will

Anup said the outfit wants

students union organised a Astudents union organical demonstration here on Sunday to press for a separate Mithila state carved out of Bihar, claiming the socially and culturally rich region in the north of the state has been 'neglected" by successive governments

The Mithila Students Union (MSU) programme at the Jantar Mantar was attended by hundreds of its activists, some of whom had come from Bihar, while some had gathered at the venue from different parts of Delhi.

'The Mithila region in north Bihar is extremely backward," said MSU founder president Anup Maithil, who changed his second name from Chaudhary to stress the impor-

Lok Sabha polls and the Bihar tance he attaches to the cause. government before the 2025 "If Gujarat, which is home

"No government has done anything for the development of the Mithila region," he

Neeraj Bhardwaj (22), who had come from Darbhanga to attend the demonstration, said he joined the protest as he felt governments in the state have not paid enough attention to the development of the region.

"If they had why is that the Mithila region is ravaged by floods year after year? The only hospital the region has is the Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital, and even that gets submerged after average rains, he said. "Bihar is our fake and false identity. We are not Biharis, we are Maithil," he said.

Ravi Ranjan (31), who is from Bihar and who works at the Delhi airport, said the poor in the region are unable to end their plight because they are hit by floods every year.

#### Ties in the wild: 'Mausi' tigress protects, trains cubs of her dead sister

PTI ■ BHOPAL

In a rare show of maternal sentiments among wild animals, a tigress in a Madhya Pradesh national park has not only been taking care of three cubs of her dead sister along with four of her own, but also giving them precedence in hunting training.

The 'mausi' (maternal

aunt) tigress - named T28 has become a centre of attraction at the Sanjay Dubri National Park and Tiger Reserve in Sidhi district for the way she has been taking care of her sister's cubs. It was not an easy journey

for the four cubs born to tigress T18. One of them fell prey to an adult tiger right after the death of their mother in a train

However, the maternal aunt of the three surviving cubs - T28 - took it upon her-



self to see that not only the little ones survived, but had proper training to get on in the fiercely competitive jungle

"We received information that a big cat was lying near railway tracks in the reserve's core area of Dubri range on March 16 this year. A forest department team reached the spot and found it was tigress Г18," Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve's Field Director YP Singh told PTI.

After being rescued, the

seriously injured T18 was released from a cage the next day following treatment, but it was hard for the big cat to move and finally she died a few

hours later, he said. Singh said, "After this, our major concern was the safety of T18's four cubs, who were nine-month-old at that time. Elephant-mounted patrolling teams were pressed for their monitoring and prey was given to them but unfortunately an adult tiger killed one of these

## 25% extra seats, no entrance test for foreign students: UGC's plan to increase international outreach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Universities and higher education institutions across the country will now be allowed to create up to 25 per cent supernumerary seats for foreign students in their undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programmes while the students will not be required to go through the entrance process for admissions in India, according to the

A decision in this regard was taken at a University Grants Commission (UGC) meeting last week on "internationalisation of UG and PG

programmes in India", officials

will be created over and above other requirements.

'Indian HEIs may admit international students based on the equivalence of entry qualification held by them. The equivalence is to be determined by UGC or any other

The supernumerary seats

the total sanctioned strength and the decision regarding these seats will be taken by concerned higher educational institutions (HEIs) according to specific guidelines and regulations issued by the regulatory bodies considering the infrastructure, faculty and body recognised by UGC for such purpose or the concerned regulatory bodies of the country. HEIs may adopt a transparent admission process for admitting the international students," UGC Chairman students," UGC Chairm Jagadesh Kumar told PTI.

"HEIs may create up to 25 per cent supernumerary seats for international students, over and above of their total sanctioned enrolment for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The decision regarding 25 per cent supernumerary seats has to be carried out by the concerned higher educational institutions as per specific guidelines/regulations issued by the regulatory bodies considering the infrastructure, faculty and other requirements," he added. The supernumerary seats

for international students will

not include the international students under exchange programmes and through Memorandum (MoU) Understanding between institutions or between Indian government and other countries.

The HEIs will also be permitted to admit international students using a transparent admission process as is done by the foreign universities and

that these students do not seats for international students have to go through the entrance process used for admissions in India.

"The seats shall be exclusively meant for the international students both in the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. A seat remained unfilled in the supernumerary category, shall not be allocated to anyone other than an international student. International students in this context shall be defined as the one who shall possess a foreign passport," the official explained. The commission has decided that the provision of creating supernumerary

should be formalised by way of approval of statutory body of the HEIs in accordance with the guidelines and regulations issued by the regulatory bodies from time to time.

"The supernumerary seats in professional and technical institutes shall be governed by the respective statutory bodies. All details regarding number of seats available for international students in each programme, fee prescribed for the same, admission process, eligibility conditions etc. Shall be made available on the website of the HEI," the official said.

According to Ministry of



External Affairs' data, a total of 23,439 foreign students arrived in India in 2021. However, the number used to higher in pre-

pandemic years. In 2019, over 75,000 international students had come to India for higher

#### Organisation bigger than Government, tweets UP Deputy CM Maurya

PTI LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Sunday said the organisation is bigger than the government, amid speculation of the BJP appointing a new party chief in the state. Swatantra Dev Singh, a

minister in the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, had earlier resigned from the post of the state BJP

In a one-line tweet in Hindi, Maurya said, "Sangathan sarkaar se barhaa



Despite repeated efforts, Maurya could not be contacted for comments.

A party office-bearer told PTI, "He' (Keshav Prasad Maurya) has always said from every forum and even in pubworkers should not consider place of Swatantra Dev Singh. | section 144 CrPC are necessary

themselves less than a deputy CM, and the officials should understand this. Today, he said the same thing in Ghaziabad, and also tweeted

An influential OBC leader, Maurya had served as the Uttar Pradesh BJP chief during the 2017 UP Assembly elections.

The appointment of the new UP BJP chief is also important from the point of view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Maurya was recently appointed the leader of the party's legislature party in

#### Lumpy Skin Disease: Gurugram imposes Section 144, bans transport of cattle also banned the inter-state and

PNS GURUGRAM

In view of the outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in some districts of Haryana, the Gurugram district administration has issued orders under Section 144, imposing a ban on inter-district and intra-district movement of cattle within the jurisdiction of district Gurugram, the orders said.

According to the order, an outbreak of LSD among cattle has been reported in several districts of Haryana and neighbouring states of Punjab and



to prevent, control and contain the spread of disease among the animals.

LSD is a contagious disease in which peculiar lumps or nodules appear on the skin of affected cattle.

Symptoms of the disease include fever, loss in milk production, nodules on the skin,

intra-state movement of animals within the jurisdiction of the district Gurugram. Which also includes a ban on organizing animal fairs and exhibitions/displays of animals in Gurugram.

'To check the spread of the LSD disease, infected animals are to be isolated from healthy stock. Also, carcasses of animals are not to be disposed of in the open and skinning of carcasses is also prohibited. Animal carcasses are to be disposed of under the supervision The administration has Husbandry department as per the order said.

protocol," read the order. The orders further said the police will check the movement of ani-

mals/cattle in Gurugram by the deployment of adequate force at the police checkpoints at inter-state and inter-district borders as well as within the district. The movement of all Trucks/Tractor trolleys/other vehicles carrying animals/cattle in/out/within the district shall be stopped with immedi-

The violation of this order is punishable under section f the Indian Penal

#### Tyagi Mahapanchayat in Noida in...

From Page 1

He was charged with assaulting and abusing a woman, a co-resident of Grand Omaxe Society in Sector 93B.

Four youth who had gone to jail for barging into Grand Omaxe Society in support of Tyagi and his wife Anu Tyagi were felicitated at the congre-

Until he went underground, Tyagi had claimed to be a BJP functionary but the party had denied any links

Speakers at the gathering said Srikant Tyagi should get but they castigated the police for misbehaving with Anu

Tyagi and their relatives. Police stepped up security in Noida with deployment of hundreds of policemen and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel. Security has also been stepped up at the offices and hospitals belonging to Gautam

Buddh Nagar Lok Sabha MP and BJP leader Mahesh Sharma, the police said. The Tyagi community is believed to be unhappy with

Sharma over his role during the Shrikant Tyagi episode earlier this month. They are also upset over Sharma's alleged use of derogatory words against the community, even as the former Union Minister has denied making such remarks.

Meanwhile, traffic was diverted on several routes in Noida in view of the event as scores of people landed in cars, motorcycles, and tractors from parts of western UP for the 'Mahapanchayat.'

## **Cong looks beyond Gandhis as party gears...**

From Page 1

Other prominent names doing the rounds in the Congress circles are: Sachin Pilot, Bhupesh Baghel and Mukul Wasnik.

Party sources said that like in the past, a majority of the members of the party desire that Rahul Gandhi should come back actively as the party's boss, given the fact that he is already taking all the decisions.

In May 2019, Sonia Gandhi had agreed to become the interim president of the party after Rahul Gandhi resigned following the Congress' loss in the Lok Sabha elections.

Even at that time, an extensive CWC consultation had

Earlier Sisodia had claimed

favoured Rahul Gandhi to continue and urged him to do so. After he declined, the party's highest decision-making body requested Sonia Gandhi to step in.

For several months after May 2019, there was complete silence within the Congress circles on the election of a fulltime party chief until late July 2020 when G-23 leaders in a urgent elections across all levels of the party, to revive its

sagging electoral fortunes. Subsequently, on October 16, 2021, the CWC approved a tentative schedule for the internal elections, culminating in the poll for the highest position in the party - that of the Congress president.

Meanwhile, there appears to be no formal discussion in the Congress on a non-Gandhi to succeed Sonia Gandhi, with some leaders saying that the incumbent chief might stay on the top post if this situation continues. In that case, the party may appoint a working

president for each zone. Madhusudan Mistry said it was up to the CWC to approve letter to Sonia Gandhi sought the final date for the election of the Congress chief as the process for selecting the delegates who will vote has to begin immediately right from the block, district to State and national level of party office

> "We will stick to the schedule. We have already forwarded the election schedule to the

party leadership and are awaiting a nod from the CWC which will fix the final dates for the Congress president's election," Mistry told the media. He also shared that orga-

nizational elections at the level of Block, District, and Pradesh Congress Committees have been concluded and the process has been duly com-However, Mistry said the

Election Authority is finalising the AICC delegates who will vote in the crucial election for the top party post. "The exact date will be finalized by the Working

Committee," he said, adding

that a meeting of the party's

top decision-making body will

be held soon.

#### From Page 1

In his complaint, he said that the incident took place at around 5.45 P.M. on Saturday. Roy, a resident of the society, came in her car and when I stood up to open the gates, she got out of the vehicle and started hurling abuses at me," Anoop's complaint stated.

"She hit me in front of everyone and humiliated me. She also threatened to kill me. She was drunk at the time of the incident. I and the other guards tried to stop her but she didn't stop and continued to insult me. Another guard made a video of the incident which is now on Facebook, Twitter," Anoop's complaint at Sector 126 police station further read.

"Taking cognisance of the video, the local Sector 126 police station has lodged an FIR against the woman (Bhavya Roy). After the FIR was lodged, the woman was detained and further investigation into the matter is underway," the statement further

Woman abuses guard at Noida...

The woman has been booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 153A (acts prejudicial to harmony), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of public peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), among others, the police said.

Meanwhile, the RWA said that Roy is a lawyer by profession and has been living in

have asked the house owner to take action and ask her to vacate the flat," said a RWA member. "The entry and exit of

Pavilion Court, within Wish

Town, since May 2022. "We

every person is noted by the guards stationed. It is the protocol not here but in every society. The incident took place when the guard was late by a couple of seconds to open the gate due to the procedure," said Manish Gupta, a RWA mem-"She has abused security

guards in the past as well in some accident-related matters. She has a behavioural issue," said Anshu Gupta, another RWA member.

### CBI registers PE on bus...

From Page 1

Investigation.

The matter has been examined in this Ministry and with the approval of competent authority, DoPT has been requested to take necessary action for undertaking Preliminary Enquiry in the matter by Central Bureau of

BJP MLA Vijender Kumar Gupta is the complainant in the matter. Gupta said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tried to hide all the facts by tweeting erroneous news which has no basis today as the matter is already under investigation.

#### Excise case: Look out notice against 8 by... From Page 1

that a LOC was issued against

Public Notice

Public Notice

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him by the CBI and termed the move a "drama"

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also hit out at the Centre, saying it is "fighting with the entire country instead of working with State Governments to address issues of unemployment and infla-

Hitting out at Prime Minister Modi, Sisodia also shared an old video of the PM attacking the politicisation of the CBI. "Regarding CBI raids, one must listen to what Modi has to say. If you will not listen then you will miss out on a very important truth,"

Sisodia wrote in a tweet sharing the video of the PM attack-Claiming that the CBI had

found "nothing" during the raid at his residence on Friday, Sisodia said he is "roaming freely" in Delhi and asked Modi if he is unable to find him. "I am roaming freely in Delhi. Tell me where to come. All your raids have failed. Nothing has been found. Misappropriation of even a single penny was not found. Now you have issued a Look Out Circular that Manish Sisodia is not available. What is this gimmick, Modi ji? I am roaming freely in Delhi, tell me where to come? I can't find you?," Sisodia said in a tweet in

"It is unfortunate that PM Modi is occupied with the thoughts of unleashing the CBI and ED and toppling the Governments of his political rivals. Inflation is at an all-time high. Unemployment is very high. Modi does not think about fixing inflation and unemployment. The country wants a leader

who can fix inflation and

employment and make India

No. 1," Sisodia said while talk-

ing to journalists at his resi-

dence in Mathura Road in country, he said. central Delhi. Sisodia is among 13 peo-

ole named as an accused in an FIR registered by the CBI in connection with alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Excise Policy. The CBI has also named two companies in the FIR.

Kejriwal said at a time when the common man is battling inflation and crores of vouths are unemployed, the Central Government along with all State Governments should fight unemployment and inflation. Instead, they are fighting with the entire

"Every morning they wake

up and start the game of CBI-ED. How will the country progress like this?" Kejriwal asked in a tweet in Hindi. The BJP and AAP have

been attacking each other with a flurry of press conferences and tweets after the CBI on Friday raided 31 locations including Sisodia's residence in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi government's Excise Policy 2021-22.

Addressing a press conference, the Aam Aadmi Party's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj hit out at

the Modi Government over the alleged LOC. 'The Narendra Modi

Government started the day by issuing a Look Out Circular against Manish Sisodia and sharing the news with all the newspapers and television channels. It is a very serious matter," he said.

In another press conference, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh also hit out at Modi, saying this Look Out Circular will cause him to get All Out in 2024. "PM Modi has shown his cowardice by issuing a lookout circular against Dy CM Manish Sisodia," he added.

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## Modi doing drama as CBI failed to find anything in raids, says AAP

'Modi has shown his cowardice by issuing LOC against Sisodia'

STAFF REPORTER

AP leaders Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and party spokersperson Saurabh Bhardwaj on Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over alleged misuse of the federal agencies like CBI which, they said has issued a lookout notice against Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Addressing a Press conference, Singh said that this Look Out Circular will cause PM Modi to get All Out in 2024. He said Modi has shown his cowardice by issuing a lookout circular against Manish Sisodia. "Modi is doing nautanki because the CBI failed to find anything in its raid," he added.

"Arvind Kejriwal and Sisodia will never get scared because of your threats. Modi has issued this look out circular after getting frightened by the increasing popularity of Kejriwal. BJP should not be under any misconception, Sisodia is neither going anywhere nor is he going to run anywhere," said Singh.
The AAP leader said BJP

should not be under any misconception, Sisodia is neither going anywhere nor is he going to run anywhere. Singh further alleged that Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Vijay Mallya, Lalit Modi, Nitin Sandesara ran away after looting thousands of crores, Modi Government never issued look out circulars against them.

He further stated that look out circular issued against such an education minister, who got AC rooms, swimming pools, hockey grounds developed in government schools to give good education to poor children. ...the agencies issue look out

Jain, arrested in a money laun-

dering case, as a "person with

unsound mind" and disquali-

fy him from being a Member

of Legislative Assembly (MLA)

Satish Chandra Sharma and

Justice Subramonium Prasad

said the court, based on aver-

ments in a writ petition, can-

not declare Jain as a "person with unsound mind" and dis-

qualify him from the Cabinet

MLA is facing prosecution for

various offences and the Code

of Criminal Procedure—which

deals with investigation,

inquiry and trial —caters to all

contingencies and it is for the

prosecution/court to take

appropriate steps in accor-

been registered against respon-

dent No.5 (Satyendar Jain) and

respondent No.5 is facing pros-

ecution for various offences

under the Indian Penal Code,

Prevention of Corruption Act

as well as Prevention of Money

Laundering Act. However, the

fact remains that the Code of

Criminal Procedure, 1973 is a

complete code in itself which

provides a mechanism in

"It is true that cases have

The bench noted that the

A bench of Chief Justice

and a Minister.

and the Assembly.

dance with law.

HC dismisses plea to

Minister Satyendar

disqualify arrested AAP



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh addresses a Press conference in New

notice for an absconding accused. Sisodia was available with the CBI officials who raided his house for over 14 hours (on Friday). Manish Sisodia is not someone who will run away. He is a fighter. He is ready to go anywhere the Centre wants him to be present (for investigation)," Bhardwaj said while addressing at another press con-Bharadwaj claimed that

AAP leaders are not afraid. "900 CBI officials conducted raids at over 30 locations but they found nothing. Now they have stooped to the level where a look out notice is being issued. It is a very cheap drama.

The international community might be laughing at the country where unemployment, inflation and other issues have hit the common man and instead of finding a solution to these problems, the PM is fighting with all the states," he added. During Press conference,

Bharadwaj played a video recording of Modi, who as Gujarat Chief Minister had flagged misuse of CBI by the then Central Government to trouble BJP Ministers in Gujarat and sought an end to the use of CBI for political purposes. Bharadwaj claimed that now the CBI was being misused by the BJP-led Government against the AAP for political purposes. "The PM is picking fights with every State Government. A wrong message is getting con-

#### People angry over CBI action against Deputy CM, large number of them joining AAP: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday claimed that a large number of people are joining Aam Aadmi Party as there is a lot of anger among them over the CBI action against his deputy Manish Sisodia.

"There is a lot of anger among the people across the country regarding the raid on Manish. A large number of people are joining the AAP," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. The CM said the Central

Government, along with all the State Governments should fight unemployment and inflation at a time when the common people are battling with price rise and crores of youth are unemployed in the country. "Instead, they (Centre) are fighting with the whole country. Every morning, they (Centre) wake up and start the CBI-ED game," he said, asking, "How will such a country progress?"

#### PMO planted story of CBI Look Out Circular against Sisodia in media, stepped back after seeing public uproar: Atishi

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

veyed that India is fiddled with

problems and yet the PM is

outting all the possible trouble in

the working of every State

Government. He is on a spree to

send people to prison one after

the other. This is the mentality

of the Prime Minister," said

The AAP legislator of Kalkaji, Atishi, on Sunday alleged that the Prime Minister Office (PMO) had planted a story in the media saying CBI has issued a Look Out Circular against Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia and now they had to step back into their dens after seeing the uproar of the

Atishi said the gimmick of getting PMO to plant different narratives is an attempt to divert attention from the failed CBI raid, even after 14 hours of raid, the CBI did not find anything at Sisodia's house.

Different stories are being planted about the CBI investigation by BJP spokespersons,

Bhardwaj. "I have been observing for the past one week that BJP spokesperson, some of whom are MPs, MLAs, Councillors and Ministers, are



country. CBI-ED are famous for making rangolis out of cash after raids, why aren't they revealing how much cash and gold was found at Sisodia's house?," she said. "BJP people were getting

scripts everyday making them claim that scams worth 8,000 crores, 2,000 crores and 144 crores had happened, but the

giving certificates to CBI in such a manner that if CBI has registered a case, an FIR, it means that these are most corrupt people in

CBI itself rejected the claims in front of the Modi Government. The CBI has only alleged that there 'may have been a Rs 1 crore transaction between two private parties as per sources', they too have no proof," she claimed.

Reacting on BJP, MP, Parvesh Verma's statement, Atishi said she had expected Verma to have some real substance in his presser.

"But his Press conference went on for over half an hour with him beating around bush throughout. He was narrating very entertaining stories about hotels and restaurants with Manjinder Sirsa by his side but he never came to point. Verma had no evidence to show, no paper to talk of," said Atishi.

Harishchandra for the BJP. I am showing a video of the Prime Minister's view on CBI when he was in the opposition," said

## **Delhi's 'Robin Hood' wanted** in 35 cases, arrested

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Special Cell, a team of

Special Cell, Southern Range

and Pawan Kumar supervised

by ACP Attar Singh has arrest-

ed a notorious history-sheeter,

Wasim Akram, resident of CD

Anand Vihar in Delhi and a

single shot pistol of .315 bore

with three live cartridges were

recovered from him," he said.

"He was wanted in 35 criminal

cases including that of a case of

firing on the police team led by the then SHO Kotla

Mubarakpur near ISBT

Kashmere Gate on June 30

last year," said the DCP. Police

said he kept on frequently

changing his hideouts and

Park, Jahangirpuri.

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI respect of investigation, inquiry and trial. The Code of The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a 27-The Delhi High Court has dismissed a public interest Criminal Procedure caters to all contingencies and it is for the year-old man deemed as the 'Robin Hood' of the Jahangirpuri area, and wanted litigation (PIL) seeking to prosecution/court to take dance with law," the court said firing shots at a police team. in its order dated August 16. The accused identified as

Wasim Akram alias Lambu 'This Court, based upon the averments made in the writ (27), was previously involved in petition, in exercise of jurisdicmore than 125 criminal cases tion under Article 226 of the in Delhi. Apart from 15 fresh Constitution of India cannot cases, proceedings for declardeclare the respondent No.5 ing him as a proclaimed (Jain) as a person with unsound offender in 20 criminal cases mind and cannot disqualify are going on in various trial him from being a member of courts in Delhi, police said. According to Jasmeet ngh, the Deputy the Legislative Assembly or the Deputy Minister in the Government of

Resultantly, the writ petition is dismissed," said the court. The petitioner, Ashish Kumar Srivastava, claimed in his plea that Jain has "himself declared that he lost his memory" before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and informed the same to the trial court as well and therefore cannot be permitted to continue as a

NCT of Delhi in the facts and

circumstances of the case.

He asserted that in light of Article 191 (1)(b) of the Constitution, which mandates that an MLA has to be disqualified if he is of "unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court", Jain cannot continue holding the important portfolio of a Delhi Cabinet Minister and enjoying the post



locations in the states of Delhi, West Bengal, Bihar, and Haryana to escape from arrest.

The arrest was made on August 19 after a tip-off was received regarding his presence near Anand Vihar railway station to meet one of his contacts. A trap was laid near Anand Vihar railway station from where Wasim was nabbed, police said.

According to the police, On June 30, 2021, Wasim along led by Inspector Shiv Kumar with his four associates were roaming in the area of Kotla Mubarakpur in their Wagon-R car. On suspicion, the SHO of Kotla Mubarakpur police station with the staff started chas-Wasim was arrested in the early morning hours of ing the car from Bhishma August 19 near railway station Pitamah Marg in Delhi.

Chase continued up to ISBT Kashmere Gate when all five accused persons sitting in the car were intercepted by the police team, but Wasim and his associates started firing shots at the police team, said the DCP adding that three associates of Wasim were finally nabbed at the spot but Wasim succeeded to escape from the spot. Wasim is the kingpin of a

gang of burglars with more

than 25 members. Their modus operandi involves doing the recee of the locked houses in the posh areas of Delhi during the daytime, and breaking into them to steal cash and jewellery at night, Singh said.

'Robinhood' in CD Block Jahangirpuri as he helps the poor financially due to which he has got many followers in the area. These sources give him immediate information about the movement of police so as to enable him to escape,"

# doorstep of corrupt Kejriwal: BJP



**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

Hours after Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's fresh jibe, the BJP on Sunday alleged that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the "kingpin" of the excise policy "scam" and said handcuffs are getting close to him as nodes of corruption are being unrav-

Addressing a Press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that Kejriwal was busy indulging in corruption when Covid-affect ed people needed his help.

Roots of the excise policy 'scam' lead to the doorstep of corrupt Kejriwal. No one is above law and no corrupt person will be spared," he said. Bhatia said the AAP should tell within 24 hours why it with-drew the new excise policy if there was no corruption in the matter. He said the AAP's corruption is a bigger guarantee than the guarantee of ISI mark.
The Health Ministers of the

AAP Governments in Delhi and Punjab are in jail on charges of corruption, he said. "When the second wave of Covid pandemic arrived, the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured supply of medicines and improved healthcare infra-

"Kejriwal should have paid attention to the need for medicines, beds and oxygen at that time, but his corrupt pen was busy signing the excise policy. Bhatia said. The BJP leader said Kejriwal, Sisodia and Satyendar Jain are "hardcore corrupt"

"Today, the people of India are saying – Ye AAP nahi, paap hai; bhrashtachar ka baap hai, aur janta ke liye abhishap hai (This is not AAP but a sin, it is the father of the corruption, a curse for people," he said.

On Sisodia's claim that a lookout circular has been issued against him, Bhatia said, "Scamsters receive lookout notice only and not greeting

On the AAP's claim that will be a direct fight between Kejriwal and Modi, the BJP spokesperson said everyone knows what happened in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Goa polls. The public will give the AAP a reply, he said. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, who also addressed the press conpolicy has proved to be a corrupt one. Kejriwal is the kingpin of this entire scam."

Roots of Excise Policy scam lead to

Gupta said it has happened for the first time in Independent India that the education minister of a state is also the "minister of liquor".The excise policy is a policy of sins, corruption and atrocities, he said. The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday raided

31 locations, including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence, in connection with the irregularities in the Delhi government's Excise Policy 2021-22.

BJP leader Kapil Mishra hit out at Sisodia's tweet directed at PM Modi and said, "Is the education minister of Delhi so illiterate and stupid that he does not understand the meaning of look out notice?'



### Sisodia accepted bribe, KCR daughter middleman, alleges BJP MP Verma

#### 'Sisodia, his wife spent around ₹22 L on treatment at private hospitals'

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI** 

 $B^{\text{JP MP Parvesh Sahib}}_{\text{Singh Verma on Sunday}}$ dragged Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the ongoing row over the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, claiming his family members attended meetings on its formulation at a five-star

Addressing a Press conference along with Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Verma alleged that a bribe of crores of rupees were given to Manish Sisodia to increase the commission from 2.5 per cent to 12 per cent under the new liquor policy and the first instalment of the same was given to him. He further said Rs150 crore was given to Sisodia. The BJP leader said several

meetings were held between liquor mafia, ministers and officers to make the excise policy in line with them. "These meetings were held at the Oberoi Hotel. Between the Aadmi Party Government, Telangana leader KCR's daughter K Kavita acted as a middleman and she had brought many members of the liquor mafia to meet Sisodia," he said. Verma further added that KCR's family members got same the policy

implemented in Punjab. They prepared a plan for Delhi along with Sisodia and Arvind Kejriwal. BJP MP said that Kejriwal and Sisodia should explain why the commission of liquor sellers was increased by 10 percent. "He should also explain the relationship between him, K Kavita and the members of the liquor mafia -Dinesh Arora, Vijay Nayar and Vijay Arora.

And by collecting money from all this, Aman Dhal used to do the work of giving it to the Aam Aadmi Party. Which has liquor contracts in Delhi as well as in Punjab," Verma said.

Sirsa, while claiming solid evidence of corruption in liquor policy, said that he will soon reveal this evidence as to which other politicians are involved in this.

He said that along with the meetings at the Oberoi Hotel in Delhi, meetings of these liquor mafia were also held at the Hyatt Hotel in Chandigarh. After these meetings, AAP leaders implemented the same liquor policy in Delhi and Punjab which is already being followed in Telangana.

Reacting on a Look Out Circular issued against Sisodia, he said two accused in the excise policy "scam" case fled the country as soon as the CBI

"The Look Out Circular has been issued to prevent others from fleeing," he said. He also alleged Sisodia and his wife spent around Rs 22 lakh on treatment at private hospitals between 2014 and 2021, not availing services of Government hospitals.

### 'Promote more cultural events at Vasant Udyan'

NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Sunday visited the Vasant Udyan in Vasant Vihar directed officials to organise cultural events in the amphitheatre area of the park to encourage local artists and performers.

During the visit, Saxena directed that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) does not charge these artists for using the facilities. Vasant Udyan park at Vasant Vihar also known as Bagh-e-Bahar, is a prestigious park of DDA with all the modern The redevelopment work

of the park was completed in



selected for exhibiting at India Pavilion, London Biennale 2021, which is a global gathering of the world's most ambitious and imaginative designers, curators and design institutes. Spread over 43.17 acres,

dren play area with equipments, open gym, pop up irrigation system, public convenience, different types of lights, including garden lantern, among others.

people, it is equipped with CCTVs, the LG office said in a statement. Saxena appreciated the 'Design, Development and Maintenance' of the green area, as also the manner in which the heritage structures in the park were being main-

tained. Witnessing the historical references that had been incorporated in the Landscape Design of the green area, Saxena directed officials to explore replicating the same in other parks that had heritage structures.

The LG also asked for Baradari area of monument to be explored for holding cultural events by Department of Archeology, Delhi Government with requisite safety measures.

## Rakesh Tikait detained on way to Jantar Mantar protest



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) national spokesperson and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait tweeted on Sunday that he was detained on his way to Delhi when he was entering the national Capital to participate in a protest.

In a post, Tikait said he was "arrested". He called out the Delhi Police for "working at the behest of the Central Government", stressing that farmers won't back down."The Delhi Police working on the behest of the Government can-

farmers. This arrest will bring a new revolution. This struggle will continue till the last breath. We won't stop, we won't get tired, we will not bow down," Tikait tweeted in Hindi, with pictures of him in detention. A Delhi Police official said

Tikat, the national spokesperson for the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) and a prominent face of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), was stopped at the border around afternoon. According to police, he has agreed with the police request and "he has been escorted

not suppress the voice of the back". Delhi minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Gopal Rai condemned Tikait's detention, sharing a video on Twitter. "Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait was on his way to the employment movement but was stopped by the police at the border itself. This is very despicable," Rai wrote in Hindi.

Security has been tightened in the national Capital as farmers prepare to stage a protest at Jantar Mantar against unemployment in the country. The stir to be held on Monday comes days after the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesper-

son led a demonstration in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri against union minister Ajay Mishra, and his son Ashish. The minister's son is a top accused in the farmers' killing in the Lakhimpur area last year. The protests by SKM at Jantar Mantar is expected to cause hardship to daily commuters during the peak hours. The protests is expected to lead to traffic jam in central Delhi and its adjoining areas.

The SKM and other farmers' groups are organising a 'mahapanchayat' at the Jantar Mantar on Monday and they

will pass through the jurisdiction of outer district, which includes the Ghazipur border in Ghaziabad."In this connection, adequate deployment of local police and outside force will be made in the area of Outer District at Tikri border, major intersections, along the railway tracks and metro station to avoid any untoward incident.

Moreover, a full proof law and order arrangement has already been issued in this regard," said Sameer Sharma, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer Delhi).

## **Close shave for IndiGo's Kolkata-bound flight**

#### Smoke in cargo hold leads to emergency landing

ANI NEW DELHI

Pilots of an IndiGo flight from Delhi to Kolkata asked Kolkata ATC for priority landing after smoke was detected in the cargo hold area. Kolkata Air traffic control (ATC) alerted the airport fire brigade for a safe landing for IndiGo flight 6E-2513. According to IndiGo, all the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were followed by the pilots before landing. "The pilots fol-lowed their SOPs and priori-



tised the landing at Kolkata. Post-arrival necessary inspections were carried out. The warning was confirmed as spurious. Necessary rectifications on the detection system are in progress," IndiGo said in a

According to aviation sources, IndiGo pilots declared 'May Day' today due to smoke in the cargo hold area of the Kolkata-bound plane.

"The pilots of the plane declared 'May Day' after a smoke warning in the cargo hold area was later cancelled and landed safely at the airport and it was a fake warning, DGCA official told ANI.

May Day is a distress call used to signal a life-threatenng emergency, usually on a ship or aircraft. IndiGo operating an Airbus (VT-IJA) from Delhi to Kolkata experienced a false cargo smoke warning before landing, all passengers are safe and there are no reports of any passenger injuries.

## 4, including Lt-Col, held in bribery case

The CBI on Sunday arrested a Senior Barracks Store Officer (Lt. Colonel), a Subedar Major, both of MES, Ambala Cantonment (Haryana), and two private persons (contractors) in an alleged bribery of ₹22.48 lakh.

During searches at the premises of the accused persons, the CBI recovered cash to the tune of ₹48.50 lakh. A case was registered against the accused on the allegations of demanding bribes.

The alleged payment of bribes was meant to ensure that most of the tenders/orders from Ambala Cantt. are awarded to the said private contractors, the CBI said in a statement. "The CBI laid a trap and caught both the public servants and the accused private persons (bribe givers) in the

₹22.48 lakh," it said. Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused in Ambala and Kurukshetra which led to the recovery of huge cash and incriminating documents.

During the searches, ₹32.50 lakh was recovered from the premises of the Senior Barracks Store Officer and an amount of ₹16 lakh was also recovered from the possession of the said private persons, it said. All the four arrested accused are being produced before the Competent Court, it

The arrested accused are Senior Barracks Store Officer (Lt. Colonel), Rahul Pawar and Subedar Major, Pardeep Kumar of Military Engineering Service (MES), Ambala Cantonment besides accused contractors Dinesh Kumar and

#### RSS working to make India model society for entire world: Bhagwat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RSS is working to awaken and unify the society so that India can emerge as a "model society" for the entire world," its chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday.

Bhagwat said people should come forward in serving society as a community and not as an individual. He was speaking at an event organized by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Delhi unit, on the various welfare activities carried out by its workers.

"Sangh is working to awakthe society, unify it and make it more organized as a single entity...So that India can emerge as a model society for the entire world," Mohan Bhagwat said.

## Kumbh Mela 2025: Centre chalks out ₹312 cr grand plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $F^{or\ the\ upcoming\ Kumbh}_{\text{Mela}\ slated} \ _{\text{2025}\ in}^{\text{Kumbh}}$ Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, the Union Tourism Ministry in coordination with the State Government has chalked out a ₹312 crore grand plan envisaging the development of the 100-year-old Corzon Bridge into a river museum, developing the digital Kumbh Museum for showcasing the State's religious heritage

Plans are also afoot to recognize various important temples, and religious places to beautify them. Giving details of various other plans to be undertaken by Tourism Department to beautify the city during mega event, a senior official from the Union Tourism Ministry said that plans are afoot to install Welcome Gates to tourists at all entrants of the city.

"To attract domestic and international tourists, we are working to establish a temporary tent city with modern facilities, a temporary tent colony and constructing temporary thematic gates at all entry points in Triveni Sangam area. He said that plans are also on the anvil to establish tourist walks in tourist places and launch attractive tour packages

from Prayag Raj (Ramayana trail and Sangam Darshan). The Union Ministry of Tourism under its PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan Schemes provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments /

Union Territory Administrations for development of religious /pilgrimage tourism infrastructure at such pre-identified places on the basis of the requests/proposals received from the respective State Governments / Union Territory Administrations, he

On the part of the State, the district officials also plan to revamp three temples of Prayagraj before the Kumbh Mela. These temples will recreate the ashram mentioned in Ram Charit Manas or other religious texts. The three temples of city include Nagvasuki temple of Daraganj, the Takshak Tirth temple of Dariyabad and the Bharadwaj Ashram.

The Prayagraj Mela authority have decided that an online booking system would be developed so that pilgrims can make bookings for puja and also hire boats for a ride to Sangam, the confluence point of Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati, as per

### Mental health: Sensor to detect lithium level in body developed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Ateam of researchers has developed a tiny sensor that can detect lithium levelsthat is needed in the right quantity to manage mental health disorders like bipolar disorder and depressionfrom sweat on the surface of a fingertip in as little as 30 seconds, without a trip to the clin-

Presently, patients must undergo invasive blood tests to precisely monitor the amount of this medication in the body. Lithium can alleviate the symptoms of bipolar disorder and depression — if taken in just the right amount. Too little can bring on dangerous side

The researchers will present their results today at the fall meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) to be held in a hybrid mode from August 21-25. Not only must lithium be taken at a certain dosage, but patients often struggle to take it as prescribed and may miss pills.

So, when the medication doesn't appear to be working, health care providers need to know how much medication the patient is actually swallowing. But current options for monitoring have significant drawbacks.

For example, blood draws produce accurate results, but they are invasive and time consuming. Pill counters, meanwhile, don't directly measure the intake of the medica-

tion. To address these limitations, the team turned to another body fluid. "Although it may not be visible, the human body constantly produces sweat, often only in very small amounts," said Shuyu Lin, a researcher who is co-presenting the work with graduate student Jialun Zhu at the meet-

"Small molecules derived from medication, including lithium, show up in that sweat. We recognized this as an opportunity to develop a new type of sensor that would detect these molecules."

"Through a single touch, our new device can obtain clinically useful molecularlevel information about what is Sam Emaminejad, the project's principal investigator, who is at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

"We already interact with a lot of touch-based electronics, such as smartphones and keyboards, so this sensor could integrate seamlessly into daily

Devising a sensor to detect lithium presented some technical challenges, however. Sweat is generally only present in minute amounts, but the electrochemical sensing needed to detect charged particles of lithium requires an aqueous, or watery, environment.

The sensor is still in the preliminary testing phase, but ultimately, the researchers envision incorporating it into a larger, yet-to-be-designed system that provides visual feedback to provider or the patient.

#### If considered by Opp, Nitish might be strong candidate for PM: Tejashwi JD(U) leader was in alliance

Amid the buzz that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could emerge as a prime ministerial candidate, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday said if considered by the Opposition, the JD(U) leader might be a "strong candidate" as he enjoys "immense goodwill" on the ground. In an interview with PTI, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister

Yadav also said the BJP's narrative that "jungle raj" will be back with the return of the Mahagathbandhan government was a "tired discourse" and a "classic case" of "crying The Rashtriya Janata Dal

(RJD) leader said the coming to power of Mahagathbandhan government with the JD(U), the RJD, the Congress and other parties uniting "augurs well for opposition unity'

"It signals that most of the Opposition parties recognise the larger challenge before the country - the hegemony of the BJP, where on the back of money, media, and (administrative) machinery power, they



are determined to stamp out all diversity from the Indian society as well as from the political spectrum," he alleged. It is also a question of regional representation and social justice and development issues at

the level of states, Yadav said. "For all their talk of cooperative federalism, the BJP's attempt has been to consistently ignore regional disparities. Bihar needs special attention - nobody can deny it. But have we got anything from the Centre? Not quite," he said.

Yadav asserted that regional parties and other progressive political groups have to look beyond their narrow gains and losses and save the republic, asserting that it will be very difficult to rebuild if "we don't stop the destruction in its

Asked if Kumar is bestsuited to be prime ministerial candidate for 2024 polls and if he could be the Opposition's nominee, Yadav said, "I leave this question for Honourable Nitish ji. I cannot claim to speak on behalf of the entire Opposition, however, if considered, respected Nitish ji definitely might be a strong candidate.

For the last 50 years, he has been a social and political activist, having participated in JP and reservation movements, Yadav said. "He (Kumar) has more than 37 years of vast parliamentary and administrative experience and enjoys immense goodwill on the ground as well as among his peers," the RJD leader said. Kumar's decision to break ties with the BJP, his ally since 1996 except for the period between 2013 and 2017, has fuelled speculation about his prime ministerial bid.

Asked about the several adverse comments he had made about Kumar when the

with the BJP, Yadav said if one looks at the similarities and differences between them from a historical, national, contemporary and regional perspective, one will find a meeting of minds and objectives.

"We have emerged from the same churn of socialist movements and broadly share the same values. Sometimes there have been issues but none that are irreconcilable,' he said. "Our comments against the previous government were made in the capacity of a responsive opposition. All the interventions made by me and my party colleagues were to make sure the government heard the people's concerns and voices," he asserted On the BJP's barb that

jungle raj" will return in Bihar, Ýadav said it is a classic case of "crying wolf". "It's a tired discourse. Please mark my words people understand and see through these tactics to divert attention and mislead. One, this is the age of social media and friends in mainstream media are not only ones who control the discourse," he said

#### JD (U) nat'l executive, council to meet on Sept 3, 4 in Patna

he Janata Dal (United) will ⊓ **I** hold its national executive and national council meetings in Patna on September 3 and 4 respectively, amid the buzz that its leader Nitish Kumar could emerge as the Opposition's prime ministerial candidate.

JD(U) general secretary Afaque Ahmed Khan said on Sunday that organisational issues and membership drive will be discussed over the two

The meetings assume significance as they come in the wake of Bihar Chief Minister Kumar snapping his party's ties with the BJP and joining hands with the RJD-Congress-Left alliance. Kumar's move has infused some fresh energy in the otherwise dispirited opposition camp and given rise to speculation that he may emerge

as its prime ministerial choice to take on the ruling BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The meetings are likely to set the party's agenda and endorse its decision to break ties with the BJP. Kumar is also expected to address JD(U) members. The national executive is a

ey organisational body of the JD(U). The national council is a broader body that includes all members of the executive. Kumar has often dismissed the view about his possible projection as the prime minister-

However, JD(U) president Lalan Singh recently asserted that his party was open to the idea if other opposition parties back Kumar for the role. Earlier on Sunday, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said Kumar might be a strong candidate if other opposition parties endorse him as he enjoys "immense goodwill" on

## Erratic rainfall hits Kharif production

The Ministry of Agriculture's hectare in the year-ago period. Comparable period. However, acreage of coarse cereals under the key kharif crop was lower by 8.25 per cent at 343.70 lakh hectare till last week of the ongoing kharif season due to erratic rainfall across India. Paddy is the main kharif

crop, sowing of which begins with the onset of southwest monsoon in June. Over 80 per cent of the country's total rice production comes from the kharif season. The India Meteorological

Department (IMD) data showed that of the 703 districts, as many as 235 have received normal rainfall; 165 excess rainfall and 84 large excess rainfall There are 216 districts (

mostly in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal) which have received either deficient or large deficient rainfall. According to the latest data, paddy was sown

cattle have died so far due to

'lumpy skin disease' in eight

States and one Union Territory.

74,325 cattle have been affected in Punjab so far, while

58,546 in Gujarat, 43,962 in

A data shared by the Ministry showed that about in 343.70 lakh hectare till week as farmers have sown the August 18 of the ongoing kharif crops in 184.42 lakh hectare as season as against 374.63 lakh against 185.85 lakh hectare in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and few other states due to shortfall in monsoon rainfall. These states have recorded deficient rainfall so far and staring for drought like sit-

In case of pulses, total sown area was down by 7.08 lakh hectare at 125.57 lakh hectare till August 18 of this kharif season from the year-ago period. The acreage of tur, urad, moong, and kulthi showed a slight lag when compared to the year-ago period, the data showed.

Area sown to pulses and oilseeds also remained slightly lower, while the overall area covered under all kharif crops showed a lag of 25.52 lakh hectare at 1012.99 lakh hectare till August 18 of the 2022-23 kharif season. There was slight lag in sowing of oilseeds till last 172.78 lakh hectare till August 18 of this kharif season, as against 167.42 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.

Among cash crops, area sown to sugarcane remained flat at 55.32 lakh hectare, while that of cotton acreage was higher by 7.75 lakh hectare at 124.27 lakh hectare and jute/mesta at 6.94 lakh hectare in the said period.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, while addressing the 11th National Seed Congress in Gwalior, stressed on the need to address the challenge of changing climatic conditions. "Now that climatic conditions are changing, this challenge has to be dealt with. Now there should be selfsufficiency in pulses and oilseeds also," an official statement quoted Tomar saying at

### India in advanced stage of talks with US for procurement of MQ-9B drones

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**T**ndia is in an advanced stage to procure 30 MQ-9B Predator armed drones at a cost of over USD 3 billion to crank up its overall surveillance apparatus along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and in the Indian Ocean, people familiar with the development said on Sunday.

The long-endurancehunter-killer drones are being procured for the three services as they can carry out a variety of roles including maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, over-the-horizon targeting and hitting stationary ground targets.

The MQ-9B drone is a variant of MQ-9 "Reaper" that was reportedly used to fire a modified version of the Hellfire missile which eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the heart of Kabul last month. Authoritative

sources in the defence estab- talks are focused on sorting out lishment said talks between certain issues relating to cost New Delhi and Washington are component, weapons package to-government procurement of the drones manufactured by US defence major General

Atomics, and rejected reports that the deal is off the table. Dr Vivek Lall, the Chief Executive for the General Atomics Global Corporation, told PTI that the acquisition programme is at an advanced

stage of discussions between the two governments. 'We understand that the MQ-9B acquisition programme is at an advanced stage of discussion between the US and Indian governments," he said.

"Any questions on those discussions should be addressed specifically to the respective governments. From company perspective, General Atomics is ready to support India and values our longtime relationship," Lall added. The sources said the

learnt that the procurement proposal figured in the fourth two-plus-two foreign and defence ministerial dialogue between India and the US in Washington in April.

In 2020, the Indian Navy had taken on lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones from General Atomics for a period of one year for surveillance in the Indian Ocean. The lease period has been extended subsequently.

The Indian Navy has been bolstering its surveillance mechanism to monitor growing Chinese activities including frequent forays by PLA warships in the Indian Ocean Region. When asked about the two drones, Lall said they have performed "very well" and flew close to 3,000 hours in support of Indian Navy's maritime and land border patrol objectives.

#### Over 7,300 cattle died due to lumpy skin disease: Ministry PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Rajasthan, 6,385 in Jammu According to officials, first, **NEW DELHI** and Kashmir, 1,300 in LSD was reported in Gujarat Uttarakhand, 532 in Himachal and it has spread to eight The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Pradesh, 260 in Andaman & states/union territories now. Nicobar. The data from Over 1.85 lakh cattle have been Dairying said that over 7,300 Madhya Pradesh is awaited. affected so far and more than

7,300 cattle have died so far, out of which 3,359 animals died in Punjab, 2,111 in Rajasthan, 1,679 in Gujarat, 62 in Jammu and Kashmir, 38 Himachal Pradesh, 36 in Uttarakhand and 29 in Andaman Nicobar.

The data also showed that 7,300 cattle have died since the outbreak of the disease in July. Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a contagious viral disease that affects cattle. It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks. It causes

> LSD has recently spread in Asia following outbreaks in the Middle East and Europe.
> The disease emerged in
> Bangladesh in July 2019.
> According to the official, India too saw the first case of LSD in the same year, 2019, in eastern states especially West Bengal and Odisha. But this year, the disease has been reported in western and northern states as well as in Andaman Nicobar. There are reports of LSD infec-

fever, nodules on the skin and

can also lead to death.

tion in Haryana as well. The official mentioned that the mortality rate of LSD is 1-2 per cent and it does not infect humans. Currently, a vaccination drive is underway and 17.92 lakh cattle have been vaccinated so far in these states/UT, he added. The official said central

teams have been deputed to Punjab, and Gujarat for taking first hand stock of the outbreak of LSD and states have been asked to implement strictly the advisories and bio safety measures, restriction of movement and isolation of infected animals, monitoring of stray animals besides safe disposal of carcasses.

The state governments have set up control rooms toll free numbers to help address the issues of animal owners and spread awareness. India, the world's largest milk producer, had a cattle population of 192.5 million in 2019, as per the 19th Livestock census.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister for DoNER G Kishan Reddy and BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh during his visit to Sri Ujjaini Mahakali temple in Secunderabad

## **Assam, Meghalaya resolve** to settle border disputes

ssam Chief Minister AHimanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalava counterpart Conrad K Sangma on Sunday decided to start work on resolving the inter-State boundary dispute in six areas over which differences persist.

An agreement has been signed between the two Northeastern neighbours earlier this year for settling the issues in six

other similar sites.
"We have decided to start work on resolving the problems in the remaining six disputed sites. From the Meghalaya side, these areas are located in three districts. Three regional committees (RCs) to be headed by a cabinet minister each will be formed by both states to take it forward," Sarma told reporters after the meeting.

He said the committees will be notified within 15 days and they will immediately begin site visits and try to resolve the dispute 'according to the broader perimeter' laid down in earlier discussions between the two

"This was decided during my 9th meeting with my Meghalaya counterpart Shri @SangmaConrad," Sarma tweet-

"Once the RCs are formed, site visits & public consultation will also be initiated. In order to give confidence to the people & in the spirit of commitment to resolve our border issue, HCM of Assam @himantabiswa & I will make visits to some of the areas," Sangma said in a Twitter

He tagged Prime Minister



Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the

The two states had signed a memorandum of understanding for ending the five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 disputed areas in New Delhi on March 29 in the presence of

The agreement was reached on the basis of recommendations by regional committees formed the two states as well as consultations held with civil society and political parties.

We hope and pray that like the first phase, the second phase will also be smooth and we will see some kind of resolution between the two sides," Sarma said. The Assam CM said the areas involved in the second phase are a "little complicated" compared to the first phase as it involved sites like Lampi in Assam's Kamrup district and parts under the Karbi Anglong

Autonomous Council (KAAC). He said representatives of KAAC will be included in the regional committee formed for that part. "If and where necessary, the chief ministers will meet and give guidance to the regional committees," Sarma added, reiterating the two states' commitment to resolve the disputes amicably and satisfactori-

The six areas that were taken up for final settlement in the first hase comprise Tarabari (4.69 sq km), Gizang (13.53 sq km) Hahim (3.51 sq km), Boklapara (1.57 sq km), Khanapara-Pilangkata (2.29 sq km) and Ratacherra (11.20 sq km).

As per the agreement, out of the 36.79 sq km area taken up for resolution in the first phase, Assam will get 18.46 sq km and Meghalaya 18.33 sq km.

For the 6 areas of differences in Phase 1, the process is moving forward with the survey and demarking of borders underway. Both Meghalaya & Assam Government are working to ensure the completion of the survey," Sangma said in another tweet.

The remaining six areas include villages in disputed blocks 1 and 2 transferred from the then United Khasi and Jaintia district to Assam's Karbi Anglong district for administrative convenience in the 1950s Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as a separate state in 1972 and it challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, leading to disputes in 12 areas of the 884.9 km long border between

## to provide good governance: Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

 $A^{s}$  Uttar Pradesh today is proceeding to become the most powerful economy in the country, standards of good governance set during the rule of Babuji (Kalyan Singh) have proved to be the base for the State's progress, according to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Paying his sincere respects to UP's former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh on his first death anniversary on Sunday, Yogi unveiled his grand statue and also inaugurated the operation theatre block of Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute in the state capital.

Yogi said the Kalyan Singh Government in UP was the first regime that ensured good governance after independence.

## Kalyan Govt first | Kannur University VC criminal, worse than CPI(M) cadre, says Kerala Guv

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

he standoff between The standon Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and the Kerala Government reached a flash point on Sunday as the former unleashed an unprecedented attack against Gopinath Raveendran, Vice Chancellor of the Kannur University.

Speaking to reporters at New Delhi, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan described Gopinath Raveendran as a criminal and worse than a CPI(M) cadre.

This man hatched a criminal conspiracy to hurt me physically during the 2019 Îndian History Congress held at Kannur. Gopinath Raveendran was the main con-

spirator behind the move. My Áid-De-Camp was assaulted and attacked by the henchmen of the vice chancellor. He has crossed all limits of political decency and academic discipline," said the Governor.

On Saturday, the Kerala University Senate had nullified the decision of the Governor (as Chancellor) to constitute a search committee to form a panel of names to be considered for the post of the vice chancellor, which has fallen

The Governor, is contemplating to order a thorough probe into all appointments made in the universities in the State during the last three years, according to sources close to him. Sources close to the Governor told The Pioneer

that the latter wanted to go by consensus on all issues despite

the political chasm between the State administration and him. Arif Mohammed Khan has been pursuing a tightrope walk in the political landscape laden

"booby Gopinathan Raveendran's decision to ignore the Chancellor's diktat cancelling the appointment of Priya Varghese, the wife of K K Ragesh, political secretary to the chief minister,

as associate professor in the department of Malayalam too has shocked the academic fraternity in the State.

Professor Joseph Skariah, head of the department of Malayalam, St Berchmans College, Changanassery (established in 1922) who had scored 651 points in the selection process was overlooked and Priya Varghese with mere 156 points was appointed as asso-

## 'Need to completely eradicate caste system'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A mid the uproar over the death of a Dalit school boy in Rajasthan after being beaten up by a teacher, senior Congress leader Meira Kumar on Sunday stressed on completely eradicating the "illness" of caste system and adopting a "zero tolerance" approach against prejudice.

In an interview with PTI, the former Union minister also said one should not get into which particular regime or political party is responsible in the wake of incidents of atrocities on the basis of caste



as it takes the focus away from the main question that the caste system must be abolished. The former Lok Sabha speaker asserted that over the years the caste system has neither been diluted nor has been eradicated.

Her remarks come days after Indra Kumar (9) was beaten up by a teacher allegedwater pot at a school in Rajasthan's Jalore district on He died during treatment

month. The accused, Chail Singh, has been arrested. The Congress government

in Ahmedabad earlier this

in Rajasthan is facing heat over the death of the Dalit school

Asked if there has been lacuna on the part of the Congress government on the front of Dalit atrocities, Kumar said, "This is something everyone asks me. It is not that I am defending anybody or accusing anybody. I just want to say

responsible to some extent but the issue is social. Politics is a reflection of society.

"To say that this particular regime is responsible, this particular party is responsible and that it has happened in this state, these are the statistics, in other states statistics are different because the party there is different, we should not really get into all this because then it diverts attention from the main issue," she

When people start talking about political angles then it dilutes the issue, said Kumar. Every time an atrocity

entangled into whose fault it is, the former minister of social justice and empowerment said.

Talking about ways to move forward on eradicating the caste system, Kumar said there is a need for social will.

"Society must come forward. This is a problem rooted in religion so what are the religious leaders saying...The young people, they always want change, they should come forward. Women, they are mothers, they have a major role in shaping the attitude of the child right from the moment the child is born," she

### Cattle smuggling case: Did TMC's Mondal invest in medical college?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Heaps of skeletons may just have started tumbling off the Trinamool Congress' Birbhum cupboard. Days after the Central

Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested party strong man and TMC national executive member Anubrata Mondal in cattle smuggling case the investigators have started wondering whether a part of his ill-gotten wealth has been used for funding a newly founded medical

might have invested in the medical college intensified after CBI officials stumbled upon two swanky vehicles inside the Bhole Bam Rice Mills owned by Mondal's daughter Sukanya.

The vehicles belong to the stated private medical college



an estimated Rs 500 crore property. Maloy Pit the chief of Swadhin Trust the owner of the newly formed private medical college has conceded to have links with Mondal considered the 'uncrowned king' of

Though he said that the medical college was set up with public money - "with donations from common people" — he denied claims that Mondal's black money had been used in the medical college. Pit who had a very humble beginning even a few years ago — and who is known for his proximity to Mondal however said that the TMC leader would often get many of his works done. "He would often get our

works done in the government circles in Kolkata," Pit said though sources in the stated medical college said Mondal had 'benami links' with the College.

"Not only this college, there are polytechnic colleges, ITIs and other institutes where Anubrata Mondal and other their illegal money," said a

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has often relied heavily on Mondal considered to be a "terror of Birbhum" who held sway even in neighbouring districts of

Burdwan and Murshidabad for his organisational prowess. Not a leaf moved without his con-"Anubrata Mondal is the

name of a new political culture that combines mafiosi, corruption, politics and police Raj ... He and the likes of him run a parallel administration throughout Bengal indulging in money-for-jobs and other kinds of bribery racket that may run into thousands of crores," said CPIM State secretary Md Salim.

Meanwhile in new devel-Bole Bam Rice Mills have failed to produce ownership documents pertaining to the said mill to the CBI, sources said adding the officials have come accross a number of other rice mills where Mondal might have invested his money.

### 5 people missing in HP flash flood still untraceable

PTI SHIMLA

 ${
m F}^{
m ive}$  people who went missing after heavy rains triggered flash floods and landslides in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district remained untraceable on Sunday, a senior official said.

Besides, 22 people were killed and 12 injured in rainrelated incidents on Saturday. The maximum damage was reported from Mandi, Kangra and Chamba districts.

Disaster State Management Department director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said the five people flood in Baghi nullah on the Mandi-Katola-Prashar road in Mandi are still untraceable, he

Several families fled their homes located between Baghi and Old Katola after a cloud-

and took shelter at safer places. Mokhta said the Shimla Chandigarh highway, which was blocked on Saturday evening following a landslide at Sonu Bangla between Shoghi and Tara Devi, has been cleared for vehicular movement. However, several roads,

on clear them, he added. Principal secretary, Revenue, Onkar Sharma said Rs 232.31 crore has been released from the State Disaster Response Fund to the affected

especially in Mandi, are still

closed for traffic and work is

Sufficient funds are availout the relief and rehabilitation

In Kangra, District Magistrate (DM) Nipun Jindal ordered a magisterial inquiry into the cause of collapse of a rail bridge over the Chakki river in Nurpur tehsil.

#### LG says one thing, police does something entirely different: Omar Abdullah

**PTI** SRINAGAR

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Sunday criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration over Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's comments on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's "house arrest", claiming the LG says one thing and the police does something entirely different.

Omar's remarks came after journalists were not allowed to meet the Mirwaiz at his Nigeen residence here on Saturday, a day after Sinha had said the religious-separatist leader was not under house arrest.

the police does something entirely different," Omar wrote on Twitter, reacting to the reports of journalists prevented from meeting or interviewing the Mirwaiz.

Sinha, while speaking to the BBC, had said the Mirwaiz

was not under

house arrest and was a "I will correct it," he had

said when asked about the reasons for the "house arrest" of the Mirwaiz.

"Even in August 2019, he (Public Safety Act). If you go back, there were some incidents...Even his (the Mirwaiz) father was killed in an unfortunate way. We have deployed police personnel around him for his protection," Sinha had

### Bihar daily wager gets IT notice of ₹37.5 lakh

**PTI** KHAGARIA

daily wage earner in Bihar Awas stunned when he was recently slapped with a notice from the Income Tax department which ordered him to pay "dues" of Rs 37.5 lakh.

Girish Yadav, a resident of Maghauna village in Khagaria district, who earns about Rs 500 a day, has approached the police station concerned.

"We have lodged a case and started investigations based on the information shared by Girish. Prima facie it seems a case of fraud", said Purendra

plainant has received the notice against a PAN number issued in his name.

card made through a tout. He never heard from the tout again", said the SHO. Moreover, in the notice,

Kumar, the Station House Officer of Alauli police station. The SHO said the com-

"Girish says he performs menial jobs in Delhi where he had once tried to get a PAN

Girish has been said to be associated with a company based in Rajasthan. "But he insists that he has never been to that state", added the SHO.

## Mehbooba claims she's been placed under house arrest

 $P_{\text{Mufti on Sunday claimed}}^{\text{DP president Mehbooba}}$ she had been put under house arrest to stop her from visiting the family of Kashmiri Pandit Sunil Kumar Bhat who was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian recently.

Taking to Twitter, Mufti posted pictures of the locked gates of her residence in Gupkar area here and a CRPF vehicle parked outside.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the Centre's "callous policies"



have led to target killings of Kashmiri Pandits. "GOI wants to push the

plight of Kashmiri Pandits under the rug because its

their callous policies that've led to unfortunate targeted killings of those who chose not to flee. Projecting us mainstream as their enemy is why Ive been placed under house arrest today," she wrote on Twitter. Mufti said her attempts to

visit Bhat's family at Chotigam were "scuttled" by the administration.

"The same administration claims that locking us up is for our own security while they themselves visit every nook & corner of the Valley,"

### AIMPLB yet to modify model nikahnama with triple talaq ban

Even after three years of the Passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) is yet to reach a consensus to insert a prohibition on instant triple talag in the model nikahnama to be used for solemnising Muslim marriages.

The wedding contract remains a work under process. There is no clear word when, if at all, such a nikahnama would be finalised. The amended nikahnama will be sent



who solemnise Muslim marriages. The AIMPLB had taken a pledge to insert a prohibition on instant triple talaq in the model nikahnama.

An AIMPLB meeting earlier this month failed to reach a consensus on the contents of the new model nikahnama. Though there was large agreement on the need to insert a

clause against instant triple talaq after the Supreme Court made it invalid and Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 made it a criminal act. The AIMPLB members suggested that a clause on Talaq-e-Tafweez or delegated divorce needed to be inserted.

Under Talaq-e-Tafweez, the husband vests his power to divorce in his wife, thereby effectively ruling out hasty or instant talaq. However, many intellectuals of the Hanafi sect did not agree, leading to a fresh failure to draft the new nikah-

## Probe ordered into Banke Bihari temple mishap in which 2 died due to suffocation

The Yogi Adityanath I Government has set up a committee to investigate the accident that took place in the Shri Banke Bihari temple late Friday night in Mathura in which two people died due to suffocation.

The committee will be led by former Director General of Police Sulkhan Singh. The committee will probe the circumstances under which the incident took place and also suggest how to prevent recurrence of the same.

Divisional Aligarh Commissioner Gaurav Dayal will be a member of the com-

plete its investigation and submit its report to the government within 15 days. Additional Chief Secretary

(Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi issued an order to this effect. Besides investigating the reasons for the incident, the

committee will also suggest corrections and improvements required in the temple premises to avoid such mishaps in the future, and points to better manage the huge number of devotees that come to the tem-

At least two persons were suffocated to death and several others were rushed to the hospital in a stampede at the

Banke Bihari temple in Mathura during mangala aarti as part of midnight celebrations of Janmashtami late night on

"Prima facie, the cause of death is suffocation due to a heavy rush during the mangala aarti," District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal said. The deceased were identi-

fied as a 55-year-old woman

from Noida and a 65-year-old

devotee from Jabalpur. The incident happened when devotees numbering thousands thronged the famous temple to offer prayers and participate in the rituals, packing the temple courtyard to the brim and having very little

room to breathe

The incident happened at around 2 am during the mangala aarti and the police had to restrict the entry of devotees after some started fainting inside the temple."One devotee fainted at the exit gate of the temple due to which the movement of devotees was restricted. As there was a huge crowd, many inside the premises were suffocated due to humidity. Two persons lost their lives, Mathura's Superintendent of

Police Abhishek Yadav said. A video shared by local sources showed a massive crowd gathered at the temple with people gasping for air. Police personnel were seen carrying a person, who had apparently fainted due to suf-



Earlier in the day, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura on the occasion of

Janmashtami on Friday. Yogi Adityanath took to Twitter to express his condolences and termed this incident as heart-breaking. The chief minister said, "The loss of life

Banke Bihari temple complex of Mathura is extremely heartwrenching. Instructions have been given to the officials for proper treatment of the injured.

My condolences are with the bereaved family. May the Almighty grant peace to the departed souls and strength to the bereaved families. Om

#### Spectre of drought looms large over vast tracts of UP PNS LUCKNOW and central UP are worried

The spectre of drought looms large over vast tracts of Uttar Pradesh as 64 districts in the State have received less than normal rainfall this monsoon, with several of these staring at drought-like conditions.

According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) data, only 11 of the 75 UP districts have received normal rainfall till August 19. The government, however, maintained that rain in coming days would bridge the deficit though farmers fear it is already too late.

The farmers in eastern

damaged and any further delay in rain would ruin the Kharif crop. Paddy farmers have been particularly affected, first by the delay in rains and then by its deficit. Jaunpur is among the districts that have received least rainfall this monsoon.

that the paddy crop is getting

According to the IMD data, the district has received 74 per cent less rainfall. The district recorded only 123.2 mm of rainfall this monsoon compared with the long-period average (LPA) of 471.5 mm till August 19 and falls in the category of large deficit www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Decadent public life**

Mahesh Sharma's rivals in BJP, Tyagi community leaders are trying to benefit from the Shrikant Tyagi affair

hat Noida's local politician Shrikant Tyagi could garner a huge support of not just his own community but also an organisation like the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) is a sad commentary on our morality, society, public life, and of course politics. His community is holding massive protests in the area. Here is a man who had been encroaching upon the common area in a housing society, misbehaving with anyone who dared to confront him, and generally throwing his weight around. He was caught on camera abusing and manhandling a woman; the video, which went viral, triggered widespread outrage and condemnation; the state government acted—some say was forced to act—against him. One would have thought that that was the end of the matter, for Tyagi was neither a national hero who had erred and was facing consequences nor a mass leader against whom had to be properly calibrated. In fact, the media widely reported about Tyagi's alleged misdeeds,



the criminal cases against him, and his brushes with the law. The picture that emerged from the reporting was that of a land shark who was very nicely networked; he also claimed proximity with the Bharatiya Janata Party; indeed he claimed to be an office bearer of one of the saffron party's front organisations. His social media posts clearly showed him as a BJP leader. The BJP, however, denied that it had anything to do with the unruly man—of course, after the video in which Tyagi is seen pushing the woman became viral.

BJP Lok Sabha member Mahesh Sharma, however, acted gallantly and honestly. He went to the

housing society where Tyagi had pushed the woman. If at all posterity will remember Sharma, it will be for his heroic stand that he took—publicly slamming his own state government. Such heroism is unheard of in this day and age, when politicians blindly laud their own governments and slam those of the rival parties'. This, not unsurprisingly, reportedly didn't go down with the Uttar Pradesh government. State party leaders were upset, for it was not somebody from, say, the Samajwadi Party who had slammed the state government but one of their own. More concerned about 'the reputation of the government' than about justice and fairness, they felt offended. This apparently emboldened Sharma's rivals in the party. He said on record that after the post of the party president of UP got vacant and his name did the rounds, "It is a political conspiracy to bring my name into controversy, so that I don't get that responsibility." It looks like everyone is trying to milk the Tyagi affair for their own gains. Like Naresh Tikait's BKU, whose stated objective is farmers' welfare, not protection of thuggish politicians. Then there are Sharma's rivals in the BJP. All of them have their ends; means rarely matter; morality is never a consideration.



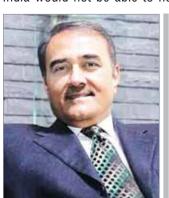
Pedestrians walk along the Ridge during monsoon rains, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

## **D-day for Indian football**

Suspension of AIFF by FIFA brings to fore the

mess our sports bodies are in

ootball, the world's most popular sport never really took off in India, thanks ■ to the overcast shadow of cricket and the mismanagement of the sport at the highest level. Though there is a lot of enthusiasm about the sport, especially in pockets like West Bengal and Goa, the amenities and facilities that are required to compete at the world level are conspicuous by their absence. A couple of days back Indian football suffered yet another blow. FIFA, world football's governing body, banned the All India Football Federation (AIFF) the apex body in the country to manage the sport. The ban spells doom for Indian football as the Indian players would not be able to compete in international tournaments. Besides no international football event would take place in the country. That means India would not be able to host this autumn's U-17 Women's World Cup this



autumn. Now the big question why FIFA did took such an extreme step. And it turns out that it was not a sudden move but AIFF was asking for it. The two reasons for banning the Indian federation are third-party intervention and not following the protocols as per FIFA guidelines.

In May this year, the Supreme Court removed Praful Patel as the president of the federation. His term had expired two years back. On June 22 a FIFA delegation visited India and said that a new constitution must be drafted and elections should be conducted by September 15 this year. FIFA feels that the AIFF is now being run by Supreme Court appointed a three-member com-

mittee of administrations (COA) to take necessary decisions and that voting rights of the states have been slashed by the supreme court. This unfortunate situation could have been avoided with timely action and taking the state units into confidence which AIFF did not do unfortunately of the goof ups of AIFF the football players of the country would be suffering especially women football players preparing for the U-17 women's world cup. It is a sad commentary on the way sports are run in our country. Be it cricket, archery, or football all are run by political leaders who are most reluctant to leave their position even after their term expires. The players come last in the sports pyramid. We shower accolades and prizes when they win but never care to talk about the plight of the players when they train.

# Lessons from German history



The German dossiers give a vivid account of how its apolitical military was turned into a political weapon before WW2, rest as they say is history

t may seem bizarre, but if the Indian Military were in a boxing bout against the Modi Government, they would have been either out for the count or the referee would have stopped the contest on grounds of a technical knockout. What Pakistan or the PLA may only aspire to achieve, our politicians and civilian bureaucrats have done without getting blood on their hands.

It must be admitted though, that they had an unfair advantage. Many among the highest in the military, over the years, have found it easier to sway with the wind rather than stand firm against the hurricane attempting to debilitate and destroy longheld and cherished traditions of being an apolitical and secular institution dedicated to protecting this Nations sovereignty and democratic heritage.

How a relatively autonomous and professional institution that has been our Nation's anchor against all storms over the past seven decades has been brought to its knees, is best understood through the prism of history. Between 1st Sept 1939 and April 1940, the German Military, the Wehrmacht, ran through large swathes of Europe as a knife through butter, proving quite decisively that they were the preeminent and most powerful military of the time. That they were able to rise from the embers of their defeat in the First World War, despite the restrictions that the terms of the Treaty of Versailles enforced, was no mean feat. Credit must go to General Hans Von Seeckt, their Chief. But their actions also lay the seeds for the eventual destruction of the Wehrmacht.

From even before the days of Bismarck, the Wehrmacht's iteration, Reichswehr, had traditionally functioned as a "state within a state", wielding immense institutional autonomy. Following its defeat in the Great War, the much reduced Reichswehr continued to retain its traditional autonomous status.

early 1920s, General Seeckt, with the support of other serving generals, refused to accept the legitimacy of the Weimar Republic, whose President was Reichswehr's Commander-in-Chief and whose constitution it swore to defend. As a result, the High Command became increasingly partisan in its actions, a break from its apolitical traditions.

Its actions were motivated by the belief that the Treaty Of Versailles had been inherently unfair to Germany and that it could only get back its former glory by strengthening itself and resorting to another World War. Preparations for this required total militarisation of German society. A view that brought it closer to Nazi ideology. As Seeckt wrote after meeting Adolf Hitler in 1923, "We were one in our aim; only our paths were different".

In 1928, the civilian Defence Minister, Otto Gessler, was forced to resign due to a financial scandal. This weakened the already weak civilian control of the military, and in turn, led to further politicization of the military, as it became involved in issues that had little relevance to its functioning.

By the early 1930s, much military personnel expressed As a matter of fact, by the their admiration for Nazism,



**HOW A RELATIVELY AUTONOMOUS AND PROFESSIONAL** INSTITUTION THAT HAS BEEN OUR NATION'S ANCHOR AGAINST ALL STORMS OVER THE PAST SEVEN DECADES HAS BEEN **BROUGHT TO ITS** KNEES, IS BEST **UNDERSTOOD** THROUGH THE PRISM OF HISTORY with some even joining the party, despite existing orders to the contrary. In fact, the military leadership developed secret ties with the SA and the other right-wing paramilitary groups, as the best alternative to conscription. By end of 1931, the military had seized power bringing an end to the Weimar Republic, with Field Marshal Hindenburg continuing as President and General Seeckt's successor, General Kurt von Schleicher, as the Chancellor.

Within a couple of years, due to rising opposition to General Schleicher, the military pressured the President to dismiss him and instead appoint Hitler as Chancellor. Despite their sympathy and approval of the Nazi regime, by 1934 the military leadership was at odds with senior members of the Nazi Party, in its efforts to preserve its autonomous status and avoid being absorbed by Ernst Rohm's much larger SA.

Ironically, its efforts at self-preservation involved further Nazification of its troops, which in turn eroded its autonomy, and more significantly, the authority of its higher leadership. It was only a matter of time before the old guard was ejected by a new breed of officers, who understood that their personal ambitions and aspirations could only be realised by closer identification with Nazi ideol-

ogy and Hitler's regime. The consequences of their actions is not difficult to hazard. In May 1945, a total of 84 German Field Marshals and Generals had been executed on the orders of Hitler. Another ten were found guilty of their crimes against humanity at the Nuremberg trials and subsequently executed. What remains today of the Wehrmacht is just a pale shadow of the one that existed then.

There are many lessons here that any professional military can draw from it. More importantly, in our context, given that our military finds itself at a very unfamiliar crossroads, facing some very difficult choices ahead. The question before us is, will our military follow in their footsteps to fairly certain disasters, or will they stand up and fight to retain the values and traditions that have served us so well all these

(The writer, a military veteran, is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Founaation, Chennai. The views *expressed* are personal.)

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **TALKING HIGH, LYING LOW**

Sir — The Indian political scenario is in total confusion and doldrums as the ruling party is enjoying a vast majority and there is no Opposition as such. Leaders opposing the Central Government come and go; they simply vanish like an air bubble time and again. Till now, Mamata had been shouting the loudest against the Centre and everyone else she disliked, thinking that only she is pure and honest. Once her Minister was caught taking money in an SSP recruitment scam, her moral authority has shrunk. The Delhi Chief Minister is trumpeting his own achievements through paid channels and advertisements, though he may not have the same high decibel volume against his adversaries.

Tamil Nadu has already slowed down its drive for autonomy and a free state. Next comes Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who is in a soup as he failed to handle the flood situation effectively and put the blame on 'cloud seeding' for heavy rains. Odisha is following a neutral stance so far and the Chief Minister there is not opting for any role in national politics. Thus, the Opposition is talking high but lying low despite all the hype, hoopla and hysteria.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

#### **DEVASTATION OF NALANDA VARSITY**

Sir — The mere utterance of the words 'Nalanda University' transports one to India's ancient terrain of knowledge. It is India's second oldest university after Takshila and used to attract students from Tibet, China, Greece and Persia. Dating at least 2,100 years, archaeological excavations and discoveries have proved its existence beyond 1200 BCE. It was founded by Kumargupta I. Bakhtiyar Khilji, a Turkish invader, who had captured some areas of North India, once fell seriously ill. Upon being advised to take treatment from Acharya Rahul Sribhadra, the head of ayurveda department of Nalanda University, he set the condition

that he will not eat any medicine. Using his wisdom, Vaidyaraj applied the

#### Clear the air on banks



nonfusion over privatisation of banks prevails in the country due to the varied views emanating from the Government as well as by the RBI and, in the meanwhile, various economists had also expressed their viewpoints which are different from each other's. Such an uncertainty should be immediately removed,

otherwise it may impact the nation's economy. In the meanwhile. I would like to mention that in the case of privatisation of banks, the dismedicine on the pages of the Quran. Touching its pages and his tongue with the same fingers, he recovered but wasn't willing to believe that Indian physicians had more knowledge than his wife and their masters. After this, he decided to destroy the roots of ayurveda. Khilji set fire in 1202 AD to the great library of Nalanda University,

which had more than 9 million manuscripts.

The library continued to burn for three

months. Along with the greatest library, we

also lost all the literary knowledge, great

scholars and acharyas. Ishita Patidar | Ujjain

**'BADRU' HAS LEFT THE FIELD** Sir — Samar Banerjee (92), people's favourite 'Badru', a former India football captain, has died after suffering from Alzheimer's, Azotemia and high blood pressure-related ailments. Badru Banerjee's contribution to Indian football can never be forgotten. Incidentally, the Indian football teams have participated in three Olympics so far and, to date, the perfor-

abled as well as family pensioners will be adversely impacted as they are already getting much less pension due to the insensitive attitude towards the disabled and all those who are responsible for this act of negligence must

be awarded exemplary punishment.

To pay less pension is clearly against various court decisions as well as against the law of natural justice, besides flouting the Preamble of the Constitution and the NHRC guidelines. In this regard, various representations had been sent to various dignitaries such as the Prime Minister's Office, the Finance Minister's Office, the Chief Justice of India, the Law Ministry, the Disability Department of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Pension but nobody is prepared to listen to their sufferings as they are very few in number. However, for the same reason, the financial burden on the Government will be very nominal if their demands are met.

Yash Pal Ralhan I Jalandhar

mance of the Badru Banerjee-led 1956 side remains the best, when it finished fourth after losing to Bulgaria in the bronze medal playoff. Banerjee played for Mohun Bagan from 1952 to 1960. In 1958, he was made the club's captain which ironically coincided with the club's downward spiral, having finished runners-up in the Calcutta Football League (CFL), IFA Shield and the

Many may not be aware that Banerjee was brilliant in his studies and got enrolled as a student of medicine in RG Kar Medical College. But he did not obtain a degree as he opted to give up studies after three years in preference to his first love, football. He later took up coaching and went on to manage the Bengal football team, which won the national championship in 1961. My condolences to Badu's family. May his soul rest in

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

We need to think of each other as true sisters and brothers. and to be concerned with each other's wel

fare. Rather than working to acquire wealth, we need to do something for of humanity. Spiritual guru —Dalai Lama



special interests. **US** president –Joe Biden

Priorities do change and I think that the child will become mine. The truth of come into this world. You decided

the matter is that they didn't choose to to bring them here, so it's a very selfish decision

-Sonam Kapoor





Cricketer —Sachin Tendulkar

run since then

Modi sir Manish Sisodia is the best education minister the world. I have come to his home.

Please come and learn how to give good education to children.

AAP MP -Sanjay Singh

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#### **LONG WAIT FOR DUES OF BANK PENSIONERS**

Banks must consider updation of pension without further delay



#### **S KALYANASUNDARAM**

inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman two years ago said that the bank retirees, who were in their 80s and 90s, were expecting resolution to their long-pending demand of pension updation. She said on November 10, 2020, that "I want bank employees to be given their due. A lot of pensioners are waiting for a very long time. We need bank employees to be attended to, particularly their families and the pension of retired employees."

But nothing has happened so far. Pension for bank employees was introduced further to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Indian Banks Association and All India Bank Employees Association on October 29, 1993. The said MoU was signed under Section 2(P) and Section 18(1) of the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, read with Rule 58 of Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules 1957. The clause 12 of MoU states "provisions will be made by a scheme, to be negotiated and settled between the parties to this settlement by 31st December 1993 for applicability, qualifying service, amount of pension, payment of pension, commutation of pension, family pension, updating and other general conditions, etc., on the lines as are

But even after three decades, banks have not made any updation of pension though it has been done in the RBI. Consequently in banks the General Managers, who retired some 20 years ago are drawing a pension less than that of a peon who has recently retired. Erosion of value of money due to inflation and huge expenses on account of age related medical complications have compounded the problem for most of the retirees who are in their 80s and 90s.



It will not be out of place to mention that state and Central Government employees' pensions are revised with every pay revision of employees and pension to government pensioners are paid out of taxpayers' money collected every year. But bank pensioners are paid out of pension funds created by banks out of the profits

The Supreme Court has earlier said (1) that the pension is neiner a bounty nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, (2) the pension is not an ex-gratia payment but it is a payment for the past service rendered and (3) it is a social welfare measure rendering social-economic justice to those who in the heyday of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on an assurance that in their old age they would not be left in lurch. But the government and the Indian Bank Association seem to ignore these findings of the highest court of the country.

Strangely the IBA does not discuss anything with any retirees' association. IBA enters settlement with employees' unions and retirees are not part of these unions. The IBA has never recognized any retirees association and the IBA is not covered under RTI Act and one cannot get any meaningful information from IBA on any matters pertain-

All along IBA was pleading that banks' financial positions do not permit for any pension updation. It is reported that the public sector banks have recovered Rs 6.42 trillion of non-performing loans and written-off loans since FY 2014-15 and the gross NPA ratio of the state-owned banks fell to 7.4 per cent by the end of FY 22 as compared to 14.6 per cent in FY 18 and the net NPA also declined to 2 per cent from 8 per cent. Bank retirees expect that at least based on this, the banks must consider updation of pension without further delay. (The author is a retired banker.)

# Expand UNSC to check hegemony



What is required is the expansion of the UNSC and revisions in the UN charter to make it a more credible organisation

hina has played a major role in promoting authoritarianism in Índia's immediate neighbourhood. After the People's Republic of China assumed the seat previously held by the Republic of China on October 25, 1971, it vetoed 16 draft resolutions on various non-procedural decisions of the UNSC. Its veto has been used in favour of Syria, North Korea, Myanmar and Pakistan. China has actively used its veto in South Asia against Indian interests.

In the case of Bangladesh, Beijing tried to create diplomatic awkwardness for India and Bangladesh when it tried to defer the UN membership of the newborn nation during 1972-74. Following the line of Pakistan, it vehemently opposed the creation of Bangladesh.

Similarly, its veto on the Myanmar issue is no different. In 2007, the Buddhist monks and the people of Myanmar took to the streets to protest decades of dictatorial rule and economic mismanagement by Burma's Junta (military generals). In the process of suppression, there were widespread human rights violations, and the issue was taken up at the UNSC. The US could do little owing to the Chinese veto.

China cited the developments and stated that it concerns an "internal affair of a sovereign State. The current domestic situation in Myanmar does not constitute a threat to international or regional peace and security." Because of its economic aid and weapons sales to both the Junta and the armed ethnic groups in Myanmar, China vetoed the resolution.

Although the absence of democracy isolated the country, it had regional reper-cussions geopolitically. In order to bring the country in its grip and further isolate it, China became its most significant supplier of military aides with a total of \$440 million during 2014-16. Even in 2021, when the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi was ousted, China again blocked the UNSC resolution to highlight political suppression in Myanmar.

Indian interests have been compromised. For instance, the continued tactical Chinese support to the Arakan Army (A.A.) has security implications for India. İn 2017, the construction of a road worth \$220 million was given to a Delhi-based contractor, C&C Constructions. During the tenure of the Project, A.A. abducted the Indian workers and damaged the building material. The crossover of drugs and small arms from Myanmar has been the cause of concern for the securities agencies in Delhi.

Apart from the Coco Islands, military installations near Yangon, Moulmein and Manaung and a listening facility at Ramree Islands (in Rakhine Province) only display the larger plan of China against India. The presence of fully functional comprehensive signals intelligence (SIGINT) collecting facility at all these Islands has been a cause of concern for India. Hence, Beijing has used the situation in Myanmar to establish



THE UN

**CHARTER DOES NOT REFLECT** CONTEMPORARY **GEOPOLITICAL** REALITIES. THE UNSC IS THE **BODY OF THE** FIVE NATIONS THAT WON THE SECOND WORLD WAR. TODAY, CHINA'S **HEGEMONIC INTENTIONS** HAVE BEEN **ACKNOWLEDGED** BY ALMOST ALL **DEMOCRATIC** COUNTRIES

(The author is Assistant

Professor, Central

*University of Punjab.*)



Recently, China blocked a bid by India and the U.S. to designate Abdul Rauf Asphar as a global terrorist in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee. He is one of the masterminds of the IC 814 hijacking, attack on Parliament (2001), and attack on the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot (2016). Had he been listed as a global terrorist, it would have helped India and the U.S. to subject him to various restrictions such as travel ban and assets freeze, bringing regional peace and security. Geopolitically, our neighbours did not wish so, and China has the objective to keep India engaged with Pakistan, while simultaneously trying to play a regional hegemon terrorizing democratic countries like Taiwan and Japan. The objective is clear: do not let democratic countries come together on common joint issues. It fears their undivided attention on China might be a hurdle in its sinister intentions in the region and beyond. Thus, Beijing places its faith and gambles on "spoiler states like Pakistan to keep the balance of power in its favour. Thus, it would be right to assert that China has encouraged authoritarian regimes surrounding India, and the Chinese debt trap policies and a collaborative Sino-Pak threat complicates the current South Asian security scenario.

What then remains a solution for India and the U.S. in the case of Asghar? Can Article 51 of the UN Charter be used to resolve the issues of Pakistan-based terror

groups that get shielded by countries "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security". The UNSC renders itself ineffective. Further, today, what constitutes an armed attack against a nation cannot be reflected by a charter signed more than 75 years back. For instance, do the role of proxy wars, the funding, and the arming of terrorist organisations as done by Pakistan against India not constitutes an 'armed attack'? The role of a nation's armed forces in collaborating with terrorist organisations should be considered an 'armed attack'.

In the above background, UNGA Resolution 3314 (XXIX), 1976 stated that "the sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State" should also constitute an armed attack. It was later re-asserted by the ICJ as international customary law in the Nicaragua case (1986), which spoke of a State's right to self-defence in an armed attack. Nevertheless, after defining an armed attack, the next question is what constitutes self-defence and to what extent can an individual or a group of countries go for its practice? If the war is 'different', the responses must also be 'different'.

The choice ranges from pinpointed strikes against the mercenaries to increasing Pakistan's financial squeeze by blacklisting it through FATF. Further, the charter and the discussions on revisions should reflect hybrid warfare, malicious use of artificial intelligence and cyber-attacks.

Thus, the UN Charter does not reflect the contemporary geopolitical realities. The UNSC is the body of the five nations that won the Second World War. Today, China's hegemonic intentions have been acknowledged by almost all demo-cratic countries. Further, what is required is the expansion of the UNSC and revisions in the UN charter itself to make it a more credible organisation. Including countries like India, Japan and Germany might make the world more peaceful. India is moving fast to be the third largest economy by 2030 and has played an essential role during the Corona pandemic. The country has been an ardent supporter of democracy, peace and military restraint.

Moreover, the "enemy state" clauses are attributed to Germany and Japan through Art 53 (in part) and Art 107 do not serve the larger objective of peace in the Indo-Pacific region. Germany and Japan are now firmly embedded into the U.S.-led security architecture and do not threaten international security. Germany is a full-fledged member of NATO, and Japan is referred to as one of the "partners across the Globe" by NATO. Japan is further under the US nuclear security umbrella.

One wonders why the "enemy state clauses" are still relevant. Finally, the three countries deserve full veto power and not just a "modest expansion" as proclaimed by a few countries in order to pacify the three.



**BOTH THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE ONE REPORTER.** THE ARTICLE IS THE SAME, WORD-TO-WORD, **DOES THAT EVER HAPPEN?** —BJP MP **PARVESH VERMA** 





I CHALLENGE THEM, USE WHATEVER MONEY YOU HAVE, WHATEVER POWER YOU HAVE. YOU GET AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK TIMES IF YOU THINK THAT IS POSSIBLE. —AAP MLA

**SAURABH BHARADWAJ** 

# World can't forget what 'Little Boy' did

#### Nuking of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused widespread destruction, snuffing out lives of thousands, maiming millions

Each person had a name. Each person was loved by someone. Let us ensure that their deaths were not in vain," said Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the August 1945 atomic pounding of Hiroshima during his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 2017.

This is the month to recall the macabre events of the Second World War. The key takeaway is how to mitigate the agonies inflicted by turmoil and give a chance to the voice

of reason and sanity to prevail. In the spring of 1988, in New Delhi, it was with great trepidation that I stepped into an imposing edifice on Shah Jahan Road called the Union

Public Service Commission. "Well, Mr Valluri, one of the optional papers was history despite studying commerce and



(The author is a railway

officer.)

Business Economics. What do you know about the 'Little Boy' and the 'Fat Man'?" the head of the interview board with a stentorian voice demanded.

The United States of America had brutally detonated two atomic bombs over the hapless Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945. The events caused widespread destruction, snuffing out lives of thousands, maiming

In the lexicon of American warfare these two were the 'Little Boy' and the 'Fat Man'. The uranium bomb which detonated over Hiroshima on the fateful date had an explosive yield which tantamount to 15,000 tonnes of trinitro-

toluene (TNT). It razed and destroyed around 70 per cent of all the

structures and resulted eventually in an estimated 140,000 deaths by the end of 1945.

Unfortunately, those who survived the holocaust were plagued with the pestilence of cancer and other chronic ailments. A humungous plutonium bomb exploded over Nagasaki three days later which flattened 6.7 sq. km. of the city and killed nearly 74,000 people by the end of 1945. It was also estimated that the subterranean temperatures rose to 4,000°C and there was torrential radioactive rain. Such was the cataclysmic impact of the arsenal.

The relations between the two major Axis and Allied powers, Japan and the United States of America plummeted as the Japanese forces overarched towards Indochina with a singular mission of running amuck the oil rich areas of the East

There was a palpable threat to America which soon put an embargo on scrap metal, oil, and aviation fuel heading towards Japan and froze Japanese assets in the United States as a retaliatory measure. The hostilities did not cease there as the United States demanded that the Japanese troops withdraw from all conquered areas of China and

As the malevolence between the two countries spiraled, Japanese planes stealthily attacked the American naval bases at Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, which brought the United States officially into World War II. In a surprise attack, Japan sank sev- Project, a secret scientific

eral frigates, destroyed hundreds of planes and snuffed out thousands of lives. The Japanese strategy was to cripple the US Pacific fleet, and they almost succeeded in their mission.

Years of fighting brought the US armed forces in close proximity to Japan as they "hopped" from one island to another. Once President Roosevelt cast his mortal self on April 12, 1945, it became incumbent upon Harry Truman to decisively plan to terminate the war. Truman and his advisors were cautious of invading Japan as Japanese kamikaze pilots could turn planes into guided missiles and

throw all plans off gear. Upon assuming the Presidency, Harry Truman stumbled upon the Manhattan

attempt to develop an atomic bomb. President Truman had audaciously tested the weapon and issued what is called the Potsdam Declaration threat, demanding the unconditional surrender of the Japanese government with a stern warning of "prompt and utter destruction".

Barely 11 days later, on August 6, 1945, an American bomber 'the Enola Gay' left

Tinian Island en route to Japan. In the belly of the bomber was the innocuous sounding 'Little Boy', essentially an atomic bomb. At 8:15 am Hiroshima time, 'Little Boy' was dropped. The unprecedented havoc caused whetted the American

appetite. On the fateful day of August 9, 1945, another bomber traversed towards Nagasaki with the 'Fat Man', in the under belly. The moment fireball 'Fat Man' dropped from the skies 39,000 men, women and children were killed and 25,000 more were critically wounded

Hiroshima and Nagasaki were maimed and the soul of Japan was tamed as the war ended.

It is said that as Robert Oppenheimer witnessed the first detonation of a nuclear weapon on July 16, 1945, a piece of Bhagvad Gita ran through his mind, "Now I have become Death, the destroyer of worlds'.

Today science has made stupendous strides and there are several 'Little Boys' and 'Fat Men'. It is for the policy makers and elected representatives to ensure they do not cause further havoc to humanity.

## Russians down Ukrainian drones Daughter of 'Putin's brain' in Crimea as war broadens

Russian authorities reported shooting down Ukrainian drones Saturday in Crimea, while Ukrainian officials said Russian forces pressed ahead with efforts to seize one of the few cities in eastern Ukraine not already under their control. The Russian military also kept up its strikes in Ukraine's north and south.

In Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, Russian authorities said local air defenses shot down a drone above the headquarters of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol. It was the second drone incident at the headquarters in three weeks and followed explosions at a Russian airfield and ammunition depot on the peninsula this month.

Oleg Kryuchkov, an aide to Crimea's governor, also said Saturday that "attacks by small drones" triggered air-defense systems in western Crimea.

"Air defense systems successfully hit all targets over the territory over Crimea on Saturday morning. There are no casualties or material damage," his boss, Sergei Aksyonov, said on Telegram.

Russia considers Crimea to be Russian territory now, espe-



cially after building a huge bridge to the peninsula from the Russian mainland, but Ukrainian officials have never accepted its annexation by

Mikhail Razvozhaev, the governor of Sevastopol, said the drone that was shot down there fell on the roof of the fleet's headquarters and did not cause casualties or major dam-

But the incident underlined Russian forces' vulnerability in Crimea. A drone attack on Russia's Black Sea naval headquarters on July 31 injured five people and forced the cancellation of observances of Russia's Navy Day.

This week, a Russian ammunition depot in Crimea was hit by an explosion. Last week, nine Russian warplanes were reported destroyed at an airbase on Crimea.

Ukrainian authorities have stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility. But President Volodymyr Zelenskyy alluded to Ukrainian attacks behind enemy lines after the blasts in

Meanwhile, fighting in southern Ukrainian areas just

precise hit on one of the in recent weeks as Ukrainian Russian military bases, which the Russian fascists are trying forces try to drive Russian to restore for the umpteenth time in the airfield area." forces out of cities they have occupied since early in the

In the east, Ukraine's military General Staff said Saturday that intensified combat took place around Bakhmut, a small city whose capture would enable Kussia to threaten the two largest remaining Ukrainian-held cities in the eastern Donbas

Bakhmut for weeks has been a key target of Moscow's eastern offensive as the Russian military tries to complete a months-long campaign to conquer all of the Donbas, where pro-Moscow separatists have proclaimed two republics that Russia recognized as sovereign states at the beginning of

A local Ukrainian official reported sustained fighting Saturday near four settlements on the border of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, which together make up the contested Donbas region. Luhansk Gov. Serhii Haidai did not name the settlements. Russian forces overran nearly all of Luhansk last month and since then have focused on capturing Ukrainian-held areas of

# ideologist killed in car blast

The daughter of a Russian I nationalist ideologist who is often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed when her car exploded on the outskirts of Moscow, officials said Sunday.

Investigative Committee branch for the Moscow region said the Saturday night blast was caused by a bomb planted in the SUV driven by Daria Dugina.

The 29-year-old was the daughter of political theorist Alexander Dugin, a prominent proponent of the "Russian world" concept and a vehement supporter of Russia's sending of troops into Ukraine.

Dugin's exact ties to President Vladimir Putin are unclear, but the Kremlin frequently echoes rhetoric from his writings and appearances on Russian state TV. He helped popularize the concept of Novorossiya" (New Russia) that Russia used to justify the annexation of Crimea and its support of separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine.

He promotes Russia as a country of piety, traditional values and authoritarian leadership, and disdains Western liberal values.

Dugina expressed similar views and had appeared as a commentator on the national

ist TV channel Tsargrad.

She was sanctioned by the United States in March for her work as chief editor of United World International, a website that the U.S. Described as a disinformation site. The sanctions announcement cited a UWI article this year that contended Ukraine would "perish" if it were admitted to NATO.

"Dasha, like her father, has always been at the forefront of confrontation with the West," Tsargrad said on Sunday, using the familiar form of her name.

The explosion took place as Dugina was returning from a cultural festival she had attended with her father. Some Russian media reports cited witnesses as saying the vehicle belonged to her father and that he had decided at the last minute to travel in another car.

The vivid and violent inci-

dent, unusual for Moscow, is likely to aggravate Russia-Ukraine animosity.

No suspects were immediately identified. But Denis Pushilin, president of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic that is a focus of Russia's fighting in Ukraine, blamed it on "terrorists of the Ukrainian regime, trying to kill Alexander Dugin.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, denied Ukrainian involvement, saying on national TV that "We are not a criminal state, unlike Russia, and definitely not a terrorist state."

Analyst Sergei Markov, a former Putin adviser, told Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti that Alexander Dugin, not his daughter, likely was the

## n Ukraine's front line, a fight to save premature babies

AP POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

 $E^{\text{choing down the corridors of}}_{\text{eastern Ukraine's Pokrovsk}}$ Perinatal Hospital are the loud cries of tiny Veronika.

Born nearly two months prematurely weighing 1.5 kilograms (3 pounds, 4 ounces), the infant receives oxygen through a nasal tube to help her breathe while ultraviolet lamps inside an incubator treat her jaundice.

Dr Tetiana Myroshnychenko carefully connects the tubes that allow Veronika to feed on her mother's stored breast milk and ease her hunger.

Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February, three hospitals in government-controlled areas of the country's war-torn Donetsk region had facilities to care

by a Russian airstrike and the other had to close as a result of the fighting? leaving only the maternity hospital in the coal mining town of Pokrovsk still operating.

Myroshnychenko, the site's only

remaining neonatologist, now lives at the hospital. Her 3-year-old son divides the week between staying at the facility and with his father, a coal miner, at home. The doctor explains why it's

now impossible to leave: Even when the air-raid sirens sound, the babies in the hospital's above-ground incubation ward cannot be disconnected from their lifesaving machines.

"If I carry Veronika to the shelter, that would take five minutes. But for her, those five minutes could be

critical," Myroshnychenko says. Hospital officials say the pro-

portion of births occurring prematurely or with complications has roughly doubled this year compared to previous times, blaming stress and rapidly worsening living standards for taking a toll on the pregnant women still left in the area.

Russia and Moscow-backed separatists now occupy just over half the Donetsk region, which is similar in size to Sicily or Massachusetts. Pokrovsk is still in a Ukrainian government-controlled area 60 kilometers (40 miles) west of the front

Inside the hospital's maternity wards, talk of the war is discouraged. "Everything that happens outside this building of course concerns

us, but we don't talk about it," Myroshnychenko said. "Their main concern right now is the baby." Although fighting in the

six-month-old war.

A Russian missile attack

wounded 12 people, including

three children, and damaged

houses and an apartment block Saturday in the town of

Voznesensk in the Mykolaiv

region, the Ukrainian prose-

cutor's office said. Two of the

children were in serious con-

dition and the governor said

meanwhile, hit targets in

Melitopol, the largest Russian-

controlled city in the

Zaporizhzhia region, 100 kilo-

meters (65 miles) north of

Crimea, according to Ukrainian and Russia-installed

Saturday said it had destroyed

a prized Russian radar system

and other equipment stationed

in occupied areas in the south-

ern Zaporizhzhia region. It was not clear if this was the

strike on Melitopol.

"Tonight, there were pow-

erful explosions in Melitopol, which the whole city heard," the

Ukrainian mayor of Melitopol,

Ivan Ferodov, said. "According

to preliminary data, (it was) a

The Ukrainian military on

A Ukrainian airstrike,

one had lost an eye.

local officials.



Dontesk region started back in ment and taking over parts of the 2014, when Russia-backed separatists began battling the govern-

region, new mothers are only now being kept in the hospital for longer

periods because there's little opportunity for them to receive care once they have been discharged.

Among them is 23-year-old Inna Kyslychenko, from Pokrovsk. Rocking her 2-day-old daughter Yesenia, she was considering joining the region's massive evacuation westward to safer areas in Ukraine when she leaves the hospital.

Many essential services in gov ernment-held areas of Donetsk heat, electricity, water supplies have been damaged by Russian bombardment, leaving living conditions that are only expected to worsen as the winter grows near.

"I fear for the little lives, not only for ours, but for all the children, for all of Ukraine," Kyslychenko said.

More than 12 million people in Ukraine have fled their homes due to the war, according to U.N. Relief

About half have been displaced within Ukraine and the rest have moved to other European countries. Moving the maternity hospital out of Pokrovsk, however, is not an

"If the hospital was relocated, the patients would still have to remain here," said chief physician Dr. Ivan Tsyganok, who kept working even when the town was being hit by Russian rocket fire.

"Delivering babies is not something that can be stopped or rescheduled," he noted. The nearest existing maternity

facility is in Ukraine's neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region, a 3 1/2 hour drive along secondary roads, a journey considered too risky for late-term women

## Sri Lanka's main Opposition party says ex-President Rajapaksa must be tried for 'misusing funds'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

**S**ri Lanka's former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa has the right to return to the country, but he must be tried for allegations of misuse of funds since he does not enjoy legal immunity, main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya has said.

Rajapaksa, 73, fled the country and resigned last month in the face of a popular uprising against his government for mismanaging the island nation's economy.

"Gotabaya Rajapaksa is a citizen of this country and he has the right to return to his motherland. No one can deny this right. However, he should be tried for the allegations of misuse of funds," Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) CEO Ajith P Perera was quoted as saying by the Daily Mirror newspaper.

to former presidents, including personal security and an office

There was a case against

him for allegedly spending state funds for his parent's monument. It is possible to make him face the trials and penalise him if is found guilty, as he does not enjoy a legal immunity as per the constitution," Perera said while addressing the media on Friday.

has accused Rajapaksa's government of misusing the USD 1 billion loan facility extended by India as part of its financial assistance to help the cash-strapped island nation deal with its unprecedented economic cri-

According to a media report on Thursday, Rajapaksa may apply for a US Green Card as he was eligible to apply due to his wife Loma Rajapaksa and frequent power cuts.

being a US citizen. In 2019, Rajapaksa renounced his US citizenship to contest the 2019 presiden-. Veteran politician Ranil

Wickremesinghe was elected the stop-gap President for the balance of Rajapaksa's term until November 2024. Wickremesinghe is now

tasked with resurrecting the island's ailing economy hit by a balance of payment and a forex crisis. Sri Lanka is in the midst of

an unprecedented economic crisis that has led to severe shortages of fuel and other essentials.

The island nation of 22 million needs about USD 5 billion in the next six months to cover basic necessities for its citizens, who have been struggling with long queues, worsening shortages of essentials

## arrested as alleged spies in Albania

**AP** ■ TIRANA

Two Russians and a Ukrainian were arrested for alleged espionage at a military plant in southern Albania, the Albanian Defense Ministry said late Saturday.

The Russian man identified only as M.Z., 24, was detained after entering the plant's grounds in Gramsh, 80 kilometers south of the capital, Tirana, and taking photos, the ministry said in a statement.

Two military guards were injured by a "neo-paralysing spray" used by the Russian while resisting arrest, it said.

Another Russian woman, S.T., 33, and a Ukrainian man, F.A,. 25, were arrested outside the complex and their vehicle was blocked, the ministry said. "Three persons were

accompanied by police which in cooperation with other institutions is investigating the case," the statement said, adding that military police, army intelligence police and civil and anti-terror police are



coordinating on the case. The two army guards injured by the spray were taken to a military hospital for medical care. The Gramsh military plant opened in 1962 to produce AK-47, or Kalashnikov, rifles.

After the fall of communism in 1990 it stopped production and instead began to dismantle old Kalashnikovs and other small weapons. It also repairs other army weapons."What pride for the military guards who neutralised three individuals suspected of espionage," Prime Minister Edi Rama wrote on Twitter, adding: "Now let's wait for the full clarification of this

## 2 Russians, 1 Ukrainian | China plans cloud seeding to protect grain crop from drought

AP ■ CHONGQING (CHINA)

hina says it will try to pro-record-setting drought by using chemicals to generate rain, while factories in the southwest waited Sunday to see whether they would be shut down for another week due to shortages of water to generate hydropower.

The hottest, driest summer since the government began recording rainfall and temperature 61 years ago has wilted crops and left reservoirs at half their normal water level. Factories in Sichuan province were shut down last week to save power for homes as air conditioning demand surged, with temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). The coming 10 days are a "key period of damage resistance" for southern China's rice crop, said Agriculture Minister Tang Renjian, according to the newspaper Global Times.

Authorities will take emergency steps to "ensure the autumn grain harvest," which



is 75% of China's annual total, Tang said Friday, according to the report.

Authorities will "try to increase rain" by seeding clouds with chemicals and spraying crops with a "water retaining agent" to limit evaporation, Tang's ministry said on its website. It gave no details of where that would be done.

The disruption adds to challenges for the ruling Communist Party, which is trying to shore up sagging economic growth before a meeting in October or November when President Xi

Jinping is expected to try to award himself a third fiveyear term as leader.

A smaller Chinese grain harvest would have a potential global impact. It would boost demand for imports, adding to upward pressure on inflation in the United States and Europe that is running at multi-decade

Also Sunday, thousands of factories in Sichuan province that make solar panels, processor chips and other industrial goods waited for word on whether last week's six-day shutdown would be extended.

## **New king of South Africa's Zulu** nation dismisses challengers

AP KWANONGOMA (SOUTH AFRICA)

The new king of South Africa's Zulu nation Misuzulu kaZwelithini was enthroned in a colourful ceremony on Saturday before hundreds of supporters in a rural part of KwaZulu-Natal province. The king dismissed those challenging his right to the throne in his first public comments on the issue.

some members of the royal family dispute his right to succeed his late father King Goodwill Zwelithini. Some members of the family prefer an older brother and a different group

He was crowned as the traditional leader of the Zulu nation, although

supports another brother.

The late king had six wives and sev-

Misuzulu kaZwelithini mother served as the regent for just a month before she died but in her will she named her son to be the next king. This is regarded by many as the strongest claim to the Zulu throne. President Cyril Ramaphosa has recognised Misuzulu kaZwelithini as the rightful heir to the Zulu throne. Ramaphosa is set to present him with an official certificate pronouncing him the king of the Zulu people at a ceremony later this year. Misuzulu kaZwelithini addressed

about 1,000 supporters after undergoing a traditional ritual known as ukungena esibayeni (entering the royal cattle enclosure) to mark the beginning of his reign

## Finland asks: Does a Prime Minister have a right to party? **AP** ■ HELSINKI (FINLAND)

In a leaked video, Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin is seen dancing and singing with friends at a private The 36-year-old leader poses for the

camera. She sits on her knees, hands behind her head. She's entangled in a group hug. She's having a good time.

Countless similar videos are shared daily on social media by young and not-

so-young people partying in Finland and all over the world. But the leak has triggered a debate among Finns about what level of revelling is appropriate for a prime minister, especially considering neighbouring Russia's attack on Ukraine, which prompted long-neutral Finland and Sweden to apply for NATO member-

Marin, who leads the centre-left Social



questions about the party: Were there drugs? Alcohol? Was she working or on summer vacation? Was the prime minister sober enough to handle an emergency The video, clearly shot by someone at

the party, was leaked on social media and

caught the attention of Finnish media this week. friends and family in their leisure time.

Marin said she attended the party in recent weeks, but refused to say exactly where and when.

She also acknowledged that she and her friends celebrated in a "boisterous way" and that alcohol — but, to her knowledge, no drugs — was involved. She said on Friday that she took a drug test to put an end to speculation about illegal substances.

"I hope that in the year 2022 it's accepted that even decision-makers dance, sing and go to parties," Marin told reporters. "I didn't wish for any images to be spread, but it's up to the voters to decide what they think about it."

The prime minister, who is married and has a four-year-old daughter, has often insisted that even though she's the head of Finland's government, she's just like anyone else her age who likes a good time with

In Helsinki on Friday afternoon, opinions were split. Josua Fagerholm, who works in mar-

keting, said the episode was potentially damaging to Finland's reputation and to the public's confidence in Finnish politi-

"I think it's important for our politicians to be respectable and enjoy the trust of the public. So I don't think it's a good look," he said. Mintuu Kylliainen, a student in

Helsinki, disagreed. She said everyone was entitled to their opinion, but she felt the leaked video was getting too much atten-"It's normal to, like, party," Kylliainen

said. "She should have fun, too, in her life." Some supporters say the criticism against the prime minister smacks of

## China disregarded border pacts with India, casting shadow on bilateral ties: Jaishankar

PTI SAO PAULO (BRAZIL)

 $E_{\text{Jaishankar has said that}}^{\text{xternal Affairs Minister S}}$ China has disregarded the border pacts with India, casting a shadow on the bilateral ties as he asserted that a lasting relationship cannot be a one-way street and there has to be mutu-

Jaishankar, who arrived here on the first leg of his six-day visit to South America aimed at boosting overall bilateral ties with the region, made the remarks during his interaction with the Indian community here on Saturday.

While responding to a question on Sino-India ties, Jaishankar said India and China have agreements going back to the 1990s which prohibits bringing troops to the border area.
"They (Chinese) have dis-

regarded that. You know what happened in the Galwan Valley

has not been resolved and that is clearly casting a shadow, Jaishankar said.

Chinese and Indian troops are engaged in a prolonged standoff in Eastern Ladakh. The two sides have so far held 16 rounds of Corps Commander Level talks to resolve the standoff which erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Jaishankar, who was the Indian Ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, said that a relationship cannot be a oneway street and mutual respect has to be there in order to sus-

They are our neighbour and everybody wants to get along with their neighbour...But everybody wants to get along with their neighbour on reasonable terms. I must respect you and you must respect me,"



ve've been very clear that if you have to build a relationship, then there has to be mutual respect. Each one will have their

sitive to what the concerns are of the other party," he added.

"Relationships are a twoway street. A lasting relationship cannot be a one-way street. We need that mutual respect

AP BELGRADE (SERBIA)

province.

 $S_{\rm NATO}^{\rm erbia's}$  president called on Sunday to "do

their job" in Kosovo or he says

Serbia itself will move to protect

its minority in the breakaway

to his nation by President

Aleksandar Vucic followed the

collapse of political talks

between Serbian and Kosovo

leaders earlier this week medi-

ated by the European Union in

Russia and China, has refused

to recognize Kosovo's 2008 dec-

laration of independence. A

NATO-led intervention in 1999

ended the war between Serbian

forces and separatists in Kosovo

and stopped Belgrade's bloody

crackdown against Kosovo's

of unsuccessful talks to nor-

malize their ties, saying that's one of the main preconditions

for Kosovo and Serbia's eventual

membership in the 27-nation

The EU has overseen years

majority Albanians.

Serbia, along with its allies

The fiery televised address

Serbia warns it will protect

Kosovo Serbs if NATO doesn't

and mutual sensitivity," he said, adding that it is no secret we are going through a very difficult

Last week in Bangkok, Jaishankar had said that the relationship between India and China is going through an "extremely difficult phase" after what Beijing has done at the border and emphasised that the Asian Century will not happen if the two neighbours could not icin he add. join hands.

We very much hope that wisdom dawns on the Chinese side," he had said while replying to a question from the

audience in Bangkok. Besides Brazil, Jaishankar will visit Paraguay and Argentina, and it is his first trip to the South American region as the external affairs minister.

The visit is aimed at exploring new areas of cooperation in the post-pandemic era, the Ministry of External Affairs

> The siege ended around midnight, police commissioner Abdi Hassan Hijar told

> > PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on

Sunday that the government

was mulling to file a case

against former prime minister

to state institutions and mak-

ing provocative statements

while addressing a rally here.

conference the government

was holding legal consulta-

tions before launching any case

public gathering here on

Saturday, threatened to file cases against top police offi-

Sanaullah said at a press

Khan, while addressing a

hotel in the capital.

reporters. "During the attack, the security forces rescued many civilians trapped in the hotel, including women and chil-

fighters who had stormed

Mogadishu's Hayat Hotel on

Friday evening in an assault

that started with loud explo-

dren," he said.

Somali forces end

which 20 were killed

hotel attack in

Police are yet to give a Somali authorities on Sunday ended a deadly attack in detailed explanation of how the attack unfolded. It remains which at least 20 people were unclear how many gunmen killed and many others woundentered the hotel. ed when gunmen stormed a

Ismail Abdi, the hotel's manager, told The Associated It took Somali forces more Press that security forces were than 30 hours to contain the still working to clear the area.

No more gunfire could be heard after 9 a.M. Local time. Onlookers gathered outside the gates of the badly damaged hotel on Sunday morning, surveying the scene.

The Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, which has ties with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest of its frequent attempts to strike places visited by gov-

Govt mulling case against Imran Khan

for threatening state institutions: Min

#### Flash flooding kills dozens in Afghanistan, Pak

**AP** ■ ISLAMABAD

Heavy flooding from seasonal rains in eastern Afghanistan and neighbouring parts of Pakistan left dozens of people dead overnight, according to local officials on Sunday. Associated Press video

showed villagers in the Khushi district of Logar province south of the Afghan capital of Kabul cleaning up after the flooding, their damaged homes in disarray. Abdullah Mufaker, head of the province of the state of the control of the state of t the province's natural disaster response authority, said it was still unknown how many were killed and injured by the rising waters but that there were at least nine fatalities. "The exact number is not clear for the time being, and the people have gone to remove the dead bodes," he said. Del Agha, a village elder, said the flooding was unprecedented in the history of Khushi. "It destroyed all the people's animals, houses and agricultural lands," he said. People are homeless, they have been force to take refuge in the mountains.

In neighbouring Pakistan, flooding triggered by the mon-soon rains killed at least 36 people, including 11 dead in areas bordering Afghanistan, says the country's natural disaster management authority.

to incite army ranks to go

against their top command

and then Imran threatening a

woman judge and police offi-

cials for performing their duties

as per the law," the minister

said. Sanaullah said the interi-

or ministry had prepared a

report on the latest speech and

it was consulting with the

advocate general and the law

ministry before making a final

decision in a couple of days

about the case.

## Underdogs don't give up, says Sunak's new campaign video

Two weeks before the UK's Conservative Party leadership election is set to draw to a close, finalist Rishi Sunak's team are promoting a new campaign video cashing in on his "underdog" status with rival Liz Truss' firm lead in the race to succeed Boris Johnson.

The video, first used to introduce Sunak at a hustings event in Manchester on Friday night, shows the former Chancellor at a series of campaign events since the race began last month and addressing Tory members who are voting for a new party leader to take charge as British Prime Minister on September 5.

"I'll keep fighting for every vote until the final day," Sunak tweeted with the video, which counts down 100 events in 30 days to reach 16,000 party members on the campaign trail. The video shows the 42-

**AP** ■ LES CAYES (HAITI)

than 2,200 people.

■ Erline Castel and Dieunord Ernest rented

was among the more than 130,000 houses dam-

aged or destroyed by a powerful earthquake that

struck southern Haiti last year, killing more

hit, they gathered sheets, tarpaulins and wood

and made a shelter for themselves and their

three children. More than a year after the Aug. 14, 2021,, quake, they are still living in the same

makeshift tent like hundreds of others, and still wondering if anyone will help them.

will. The Associated Press visited several camps

surrounding the southern coastal city of Les

Cayes, which was one of the hardest hit areas,

If recent history is any guide, few people

In the days after the magnitude 7.2 quake

year-old British Indian former minister interacting with voters and is also seen catching a quick power nap on a bench as a voiceover praises his efforts to "fight for every inch".

They say beware the underdog, because an underdog has got nothing to lose. An underdog fights for every inch," the voiceover says.

They work harder, stay longer, think smarter; underdogs don't give up, they'll do the difficult things and they

Many still seeking food, shelter

a year after Haiti earthquake

never, ever get complacent," it adds.It comes as most recent surveys of Tory members casting postal and online ballots in the election and bookie odds strongly indicate a Truss victory, who is campaigning on a tax-cutting plan to address the economic crisis amid soaring prices in the UK.

Former minister Michael Gove became the most recent senior Tory grandee to warn that her plans were a "holiday from reality" as he endorsed Sunak's focus on inflation

According to a report in the 'Observer' on Sunday, more former Cabinet members from Truss' own party have expressed "jitters" over the current Foreign Secretary's plans. One unnamed former minister told the paper they were "worried" about the prospect of Truss being handed the keys to No. 10 Downing

> "We have nowhere to go, we are cornered," Vucic said. "We will save our people from persecution and pogroms, if NATO does not want to do it."

He also claimed that Kosovo Albanian "gangs" need to be stopped from crossing into the Kosovo Serbs live. He

offered no proof for the claim. There are widespread fears in the West that Russia could

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PUBLIC FOR PROPERTY NO. 2 KAUTILYA MARG CHANAKYAPURI , NEW DELHI Be It Known to General public that My Client Smt. Jaya Posaw W/O Thiri Posaw , D/O Lt. Shri Prem Kishan R/O 5A, 55/4 Ballygunge, Circular road , Ballygunge, Kolkata, West Bengal 700019 is the 33.34 share holder of the property bearing no. 2 , Kautilya Marg , Chanakyapuri, New Delhi being one of the successor's survivor after the demise of her

successor / survivor after the demise of her

mother and father i.e. Prem Krishen and

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specifically signs the same

Sajal Dhamija (Advocate), S-265, L.G.F., Greater Kailash-1,



encourage its ally Serbia into an armed intervention in northern Kosovo that would further Imran Khan for issuing threats destabilise the Balkans and shift at least some world and NATO attention from Russia's war in Nearly 4,000 NATO-led

peacekeepers have been stationed in Kosovo following the 1998-99 war and any armed intervention there by Serbia or Russia would mean a major escalation of a simmering conflict in Europe.

Following the collapse of the EU-mediated talks, NATO peacekeeping troops in Kosovo have been deployed at main roads in its north, saying they are ready to protect the freedom of movement for all sides.

Tensions between Serbia and Kosovo soared anew last month when the Kosovo government led by Prime Minister Serbian identity documents and vehicle license plates would no longer be valid in Kosovo's ter-

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Sahay S/O Lt. Bhagwan Sahay , R/O 9 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

have given the General Power of

attorney and special power of attorney

to persons for contesting the litigation

titled as Amarjit Sahay Versus Saluja

Construction company (case no. 7638-

20,1736-21) pending adjudication New Delhi District with various power and

now my client came to know that the same is being misused by the attorney holders therefore my client declares all

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consequences and my client will not

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New Delhi-110018

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This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. on **25th August' 22** at Delhi District branch O-7, **1** st Floor, 'above Lool

Saloon ,Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi -110024, District : Gautam Budh Nagar : Branch add

Plot No. 5, Ground Floor, Opposite White Castle Hotel, Main Dadri Road, Salarpur, Bhangel Sector-101, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201304 (UP), Ghaziabad District: branch add B2, Basement, RDC Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad -201002, Hapur District: add-First Floor, Abow PC Jewellers, Garah Pargana, Garah Road, Tehsil & District Hapur - 245101, (U.P.)

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to all linked accounts of Customer ID for

failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

Sajal Dhamija (Advocate), S-265, L.G.F., Greater Kailash-1,

Address Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square,

SangamComplex. 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village

Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 |

Telephone: +91 22 67875300 |

Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com|

Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

#### cials, a woman magistrate, Election Commission of Pakistan and political oppo-

nents over the treatment meted Piramal

against Khan.

out to his aide Shahbaz Gill, who was arrested last week on charges of sedition. Sanaullah alleged the speech by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chief was a

continuation of a trend to target army and other institutions. "This is all happening in continuation — from a cam-paign after Lasbela incident when six army officers were

killed followed by Gill's attempt

His remarks came Pakistan's electronic media watchdog banned satellite tele-vision channels from broadcasting live speeches of ousted prime minister Khan, hours after he threatened state institutions and made provocative statements while addressing the rally.



Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Webside:www.piramalfinance.com Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.

#### **DEMAND NOTICE**

Finance Limited (PCHFL) [formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL)] under Securitisation And Reconstruction O Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, as a present the date of payment and/or realization, as a present the description of the said Borrower(s).

payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 0000892 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) William Raj (Borrower) Dharma Raj Vansi (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 / \$1469221 /-{ Fourteen lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Prop No-144 & 145, Third Floor Rear Side Ki No.364, Subhash Park, Vill-bindapur Block-b Extn, Uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi:-110059
(LC No. 00001036 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Mohd Gulfam (Borrower) Naseema N (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1420483 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three Only) NPA (12-05-2021)	Plot No-248, Block-f, Khasra No-287mi, Gari Garden, village-pasonda Loni, Near-water Pl Ghaziabad, up Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 20
(LC No. 00001818 of New Delhi-west Branch) Vandana Sharma (Borrower) Pankaj Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1369214 /-(₹ Thirteen lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Only) NPA (09-02-2021)	Unit/flat No:g-8, Gf, Tower-b, , Gh-7a Koyal enclave, Oxirich New Delhi, Extension, Oxiri New Delhi Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh: - 201001
(LC No. 00004215 of New Delhi Branch) Kamlesh (Borrower) Sujeet Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1366108 /-(₹ Thirteen lakh Sixty Six Thousand One Hundred Eight Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Flat No. F-3, First Floor Rear Lhs Plot No. 14, Block - S Dlf Dilshad Extention -2. Ghaziabac Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201005
(LC No. 00041642 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Pinki Kumari (Borrower) Anjani Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1127685 /-(₹ Eleven lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Five Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Rz-d-4 A (old No. Rz-d-4), 2nd FIr Rear Side, Khasra No. 16/6 Vill Mirzapur, Mahavir Encl New Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110045
(LC No. 00001682 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Shyam Babu Sharma (Borrower) Divakar Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Usha Devi (Co Borrower 2)	29-07-2022 /₹ 793392 /-(₹ Seven lakh Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Two Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Plot No4, 3rd Flr Front Side With Roof KhNo 20/12, Blk- A, Jain Colony Part I vil- Matiyala Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110059

Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Only) NPA (10-12-2021) 28-07-2022 /₹ 4588058 /-(₹ Forty Five lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Fifty Eight Only) NPA

(05-02-2022) 28-07-2022 /₹ 4202140 /-{₹ Forty Two lakh Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Only) NPA (09-02-2022)

28-07-2022 /₹ 3608578 /-(₹ Thirty Six lakh Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Eight Only) NPA (10-12-2021)

28-07-2022 /₹ 2151173 /-{₹ Twenty One lakh Fifty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three Only) NPA (09-06-2022) 28-07-2022 /₹ 1851781 /-(₹ Eighteen lak Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One Only) NPA (12-05-2021)

28-07-2022 /₹ 1817266 /-(₹ Eighteen lakh 28-07-2022 /₹ 1785043 /-(₹ Seventeen lakh

Eighty Five Thousand Forty Three Only) NPA

28-07-2022 /₹ 1615795 /-(₹ Sixteen lakh Only) NPA (09-06-2022) 28-07-2022 /₹ 1591007 /-{₹ Fifteen lak}

Ninety One Thousand Seven Only) NPA (09-06-2022) 28-07-2022 /₹ 942967 /-(₹ Nine lakh Forty

Patta No 4754, Ward No 04 Meeno Ka Mohalla, Near Jain Temple Village Ranoli, Dantaramgarh Sikar Sikar Rajasthan :- 332403 1/10073 & 1/10074,kh No-354, Gali No-3J West

Exotica Golf Course Road, Sector 53 Gurgaon

nit No. T-01/1002, 10th Floor Lake Drive

Apartment Lake Grove City Kundali Sonipat

nipat Haryana :- 131028 nit No. T-02/0904, 9th Floor Lake Drive

partment Lake Grove City Kundali Sonipat Inipat Haryana :- 131028

T-08/0901, Tower-08, Floor-09, Flat No-1 Lake Drive Apartment, Lake Side Heights Lake Grove City Kundli Sonipat Haryana Sonipat

P.no.11, First Floor Rear Rhs, Jain Colony Part-iii,

Kh.no.20/12, Vill.matiala, Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110059

First Floor Flat No.3002 Tower No. D-3, Saga

Habitat Village Khadauli Delhi To Roorkee By Pass Road Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh :- 250002

Plot No. 428, Khasra No. 1342/2, Colony Khanna

Nagar Hadbast Gram Loni, Paragana Loni, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201102 Flat No. 206, 2nd Floor Rhs Plot No.20 21 28 29

Khata No -01178 Krishna Vatika Khasra No,-78 ,

H/FLAT NO.377 , FLOOR NO. 4TH , POCKET - B-1 ,

SECTOR, BAKKARWALA, VILLAGE, NEW DELH

Sudamapuri Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201001

Surgaon Haryana :- 122001

Haryana :- 131028

Guarantor(s)	Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
No. 00000892 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Iliam Raj (Borrower) Dharma Raj Vansi o Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1469221 /-{₹ Fourteen lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Prop No-144 & 145, Third Floor Rear Side Kh. No.364, Subhash Park, Vill-bindapur Block-b Extn, Uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110059
No. 00001036 of Karkarduma Noida anch) Mohd Gulfam (Borrower) Naseema Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1420483 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three Only) NPA (12-05-2021)	Plot No-248, Block-f, Khasra No-287mi, Garima Garden, village-pasonda Loni, Near-water Plant, Ghaziabad, up Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 201001
No. 00001818 of New Delhi-west Branch) ndana Sharma (Borrower) Pankaj Sharma o Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1369214 /-(₹ Thirteen lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Only) NPA (09-02-2021)	Unit/flat No:g-8, Gf, Tower-b, , Gh-7a Koyal enclave, Oxirich New Delhi, Extension, Oxirich New Delhi Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh: - 201001
No. 00004215 of New Delhi Branch) mlesh (Borrower) Sujeet Kumar (Co rrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1366108 /-(₹ Thirteen lakh Sixty Six Thousand One Hundred Eight Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Flat No. F-3, First Floor Rear Lhs Plot No. 14, Block - S Dlf Dilshad Extention -2. Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201005
No. 00041642 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) iki Kumari (Borrower) Anjani Kumar (Co rrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1127685 /-(₹ Eleven lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Five Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Rz-d-4 A (old No. Rz-d-4), 2nd Flr Rear Side, Khasra No. 16/6 Vill Mirzapur, Mahavir Enclave New Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110045
No. 00001682 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) yam Babu Sharma (Borrower) Divakar arma (Co Borrower 1) Usha Devi (Co rrower 2)	29-07-2022 /₹ 793392 /-(₹ Seven lakh Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Two Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Plot No4, 3rd Fir Front Side With Roof KhNo. 20/12, Blk- A, Jain Colony Part I vil- Matiyala Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi:- 110059
No. 00001156 of Netaji Subhash Place anch) Prashant Prashar (Borrower) Tina aa (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 3529281 /-(₹ Thirty Five lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty One Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Plot No.b-34, 2nd Flr,khasra No.1989, Village Tihar, Near Ramgharia Gurudwara Hari Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110064
No. 00043739 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) iku Misra (Borrower) Rinky (Co Borrower 1)	29-07-2022 /₹ 1573431 /-(₹ Fifteen lakh Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty One Only) NPA (09-06-2022)	Flat No Sf 3,second Floor, back Rhs Plot No- C-3/8 Block-c-3 Mother Dream Land Junior High School Dlf Ankur Vihar Loni Ghz Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201102
No. 00002220 of Rohini Branch) Pramod	28-07-2022 / \$9334513 /-(\$ Ninety Three lakh	Flat No 602, Tower No C-4 6th Floor, Parasynath

(LC No. 00002220 of Rohini Branch) Pramod (umar Tibrewala (Borrower) Laxmi Tiberwala (Co Borrower 1) Shobhit Tiberwala (Co Manoj Jain (Borrower) Kailash Chand Jain (Co

Borrower 1) (LC No. 00041468 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Manoj Jain (Borrower) Kailash Chand Jain (Co (LC No. 00041512 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch)

(LC No. 00000800 of Delhi Rajouri Garden (LC No. 00002034 of Greater Noida Branch

Praveen Joshi (Borrower) Pooja Joshi (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 00043085 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Mehatab (Borrower) Shahnaz Begum (Co (LC No. 00000588 of Karkarduma Noida

Branch) Pankaj Sharma (Borrower) Neelam Kumari (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. GUR34467 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Anand Singh Negi (Borrower)

(LC No. 00002299 of Bikaner Branch) Kamlesh

Kumar Meena (Borrower) Manisha Devi (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 00003029 of Noida Branch) Vikram

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 22-08-2022

Date: 22-08-2022

(Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

#### and over and over again people complained that Singapore plans to decriminalise gay sex

**AP** ■ BANGKOK

Singapore announced Sunday it will decriminalise sex between men by repealing a colonial-era law while protecting the city-state's definition of marriage. During his speech at the

annual National Day Rally, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he believed it is the "right thing to do now" as most Singaporeans will now accept it."This will bring the law into line with current social models and I hope provide some relief to gay Singaporeans," Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said during his speech at the annual National Day Rally.

He said the government will also amend the Constitution to ensure that there can be no constitutional challenge to allow same-sex marriage. "Even as we repeal Section 377A, we will uphold and safeguard the institution of marriage," Lee said.

"We have to amend the Constitution to protect it. And we will do so. This will help us repeal Section 377A in a controlled and careful way?



Pakistan on Sunday rejected what it called the "recent spate of false terrorism-related assertions" made by India against it in which some "detached" incidents were being distorted and presented as a "so-called terror plot" against it, including a Mumbai-style" attack being

The Foreign Office said that in order to build on this orchestrated "terrorism" narrative against Pakistan, the media reported that India had intercepted a message from a 'Pakistani' WhatsApp number as well as seized an 'empty boat' in Maharashtra along with some weapons.

Some segments of the Indian media have "deceitfully sought" to link these to the preposterous claims about a so-called "Mumbai-style" attack being planned. Separately, the Indian media have also reported that the Indian intelligence and border forces were on high alert for possible 'cross-border infiltration' attempts.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

no government official had visited them

despite repeated promises that they would come

to help. As the family waited for help, Ernest

died of prostate cancer last year. So today, Castel

is alone, fighting for her family's survival like

many struggling to restart their lives after the

quake. On Thursday morning, she tried to get

her 9-month-old daughter to suckle. But after

a year of surviving on scraps in a makeshift

camp, Castel had no milk. The tiny girl, Wood

Branan Ernest, fell asleep during her failed

In Re:- PUBLIC NOTICE DEBARING Kvaan Datta Minor Son of Rohit Datta and Eshaini datta Because of ill/cruel treatments and wrong intentions of Rohit Datta and Eshaini Datta ,My client Anil Datta & Manju Datta R/O C-7 Suncity Gurugram, Haryana ,do hereby disinherit/disown/give Fargati/disentitled to Kyaan Datta being Grand son from all of their movable and immovable properties/Assets Said Kyan Datta shall have no right /claims whatsoever in the movable or immovable properties of my said client Anil Datta & Manju Datta. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of omission or commission of said and they shall be personally liable for all

Sajal Dhamija (Advocate), S-265, L.G.F., Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110018

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

cost and consequences and my client will not have any liability qua the same further any transaction/application for transfer/any other documents will be treated as null and void on the face of it until my client specifically signs the same.

Sajal Dhamija (Advocate), S-265, L.G.F., Greater Kailash-1,

In Re:- PUBLIC NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC FOR PROPERTY NO. 2 KAUTILYA PUBLIC FOR PHOPEHTY NO. 2 KAUTILYA MARG CHANAKYAPURI , NEW DELHI Be It Known to General public that My Client Smt. Romola A Sahay @ Romola Sahay W/O Amarjit Sahay , D/O Lt. Shri Prem Kishan RI/O 9 Poorvi Marg , Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is the 33.34 share holder of the property bearing no. 2, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi being one of the successor / survivor after the demise of her mother and father i.e. PremKrishen and Vimla Prem Krishen and have not authorized anyone to deal/dis-alienate/transfer/transact of her share in the aforesaid property to anyone and is sole owner of the respective undivided share in the property. General public is informed that any deed done by anyone for which they are not authorized to do so on behalf of my clients is void ab inition and my client will not be responsible for the same and my persons doing anything on behalf of my client without confirming from the undersigned will be sole responsible for

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to all linked accounts of Customer ID for various customers mentioned below with branch details.

Delhi, AP00011808, AP0010303, AP0007503, AP0007859, AP00081903, AP0008520, AP00095058, AP00096630, AP00097998, AP00107712, AP00110118, AP00116620, AP00121714, AP00142173, AP0014597, AP00135395, AP00162941, AP00173329, AP00118018489, AP00118293, AP001182473, AP00182873, AP00183893, AP00183893, AP00182473, AP00182473, AP00182873, AP00183893, AP00183893, AP00182473, AP00182473, AP00184699, AP00195646, AP0018395948, AP00183553, AP00182433, AP00182483, AP00267842, AP00278978, AP00278978, AP00278028102, AP00290354, AP00304132, AP00310040, AP00310463, AP00312674, AP00278786, AP00278786, AP00282102, AP00290354, AP0034132, AP00310040, AP00310463, AP00312674, AP00324786, AP003277878, AP003277874, AP003278784, AP0032787874, AP0032787874, AP0032787874, AP0032787874, AP0032787874, AP0032787874, AP0032787874, AP00327 For more details, please contact: SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Contact Number(s): Lajpat Nagar 1800-102-8012 / 011-40305228 / 207

Ghaziabad branch - 9205325672, Hapur branch - 8439761293, Noida branch: 8368589407, (SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

## Govt amends rules for physical |LIC Mutual Fund aims to verification of firms' addresses enter big boys' club in 5 yrs

has amended rules to ensure a transparent process for physical verification of addresses of the registered offices of companies, including by way of having independent witnesses at the time of the verification.

The steps listed out in the new rules will help do away with discretion of authorities as well as put in place a transparent system with respect to the physical verification process.

Under the Companies Act, 2013, a Registrar of Companies (RoC) can do a physical verification of a company's registered office if he or she has a reasonable cause to believe that the company concerned is not carrying out business in a proper manner.

Now, the process for such physical verifications has been put in place under the Act.

The physical verification will be done in the presence of two independent witnesses of the locality in which the company's registered office is situated. If required, the assistance of the local police will be also sought, according to the corporate affairs ministry.

authenticity, the same should be cross verified with the "copies of supporting documents of such address collected during the said physical verification, duly authenticated from the occupant of the property where the said registered office is situated", the ministry said. The registrar will also have to take a photograph of the company's registered office during the physical verification.

Once the verification is done, a detailed report with various information, including location details and photographs, will be prepared.

Navin Kumar, Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, said the objective steps required during physical verification as well as the format of the physical verification provided in the amendment is a welcome step and removes discretion of

"This amendment also settles the debate around the primary legislation enabling the physical verification of registered address by RoC -- the process for which is to be prescribed in the Rules -- but the

Companies (Incorporation) Rules not providing for it," he

He also noted that the amendment is in furtherance of Section 12(9) of the Companies Act and provides the procedure of physical verification of the registered address of a compa-ny by RoC if it has reasonable cause to believe that the company is not carrying on any business or operations or is not capable of receiving and acknowledging communica-

In case the company's registered office is found to be not capable of receiving and acknowledging all communications and notices, the registrar concerned will send a notice to the company and all its directors seeking informa-

Further action, including the decision on removing the name of the company concerned from the official records, will be initiated depending on the response from the company. The ministry has amended the Companies (Incorporation)

Mumbai: LIC Mutual Fund, having missed the growth bus in the past three decades of operations, is on a catch-up bid and has set a target of crossing the ₹1-lakh-crore-AUM-mark in the next five years.

The past few years have seen the 43-player mutual fund industry growing at an exponential pace both in terms of Assets under management (AUM) and number of folios.

The AUM jumped 14 per cent on-year in June 2022 to ₹37.74 lakh crore, while the number of folios grew to an all-time high of 13.55 crore, according to the latest Amfi

Biggest player SBI Mutual Fund cemented its position with 23.7 per cent growth in AUM at ₹6.47 lakh crore in the month under review, followed by ICICI Prudential MF at ₹4.65 lakh crore, pushing the long-time market leader HDFC AMC to the third slot at ₹4.15 lakh crore.

Kotak MF moved to the fourth place with ₹2.82 lakh crore AUM, pushing Aditya Birla Sun Life MF to the fifth slot with ₹2.81 lakh crore.

Of the 43 players, the top 10 manage as much as ₹33.4 lakh crore of the industrywide AUM of ₹37.74 lakh crore

However, LIC Mutual Fund, all through its 33-plus-years of operations, first as a joint venture with Nomura of Japan, was never in the reckoning in terms of AUM despite being the subsidiary of LIC --the nation's largest financial powerhouse.

as of June.

But the present management is changing that and has unveiled a five-year growth plan wherein by FY27, it wants to be in the Rs 1 lakh-crore-AUM bracket.

"We've chalked out a fiveyear growth plan. We should be growing by 3.5-4x or at least take our AUM past the ₹1-lakh-crore-mark by FY27 from where we are now. 'To begin with, we expect

launches and also partly aided by the forthcoming merger of IDBI AMC",

to grow at least 70 per cent this

fiscal to touch ₹30,000 crore

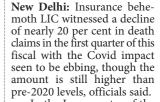
AUM, aided by new fund

Ramakrishnan, managing director and chief executive,

The head honcho, howev er, admitted that growing the AUM 3.5x to 4x is a tall He further said the five-

year growth plan also involves taking the fund house public with a primary share sale after the fifth year or so.

"But more needs to be done on this front as it is still on the drawing board only," he said. *PTI* 



LIC sees 20%

decline in death

claims in Q1 FY23

In the June quarter of the previous fiscal, settlement of death claims was to the tune of ₹7,111 crore, which for Q1 of this year was ₹5,743 crore, LIC Chairman M R Kumar said in a post-earnings call with "So there is quite a

decrease, and it's quite obvious that whatever decrease was there based on Covid... Going away now, Q1 to Q1 of the previous year," Kumar said.

The claim rates had been very stable before the pandemic, said Dinesh Pant, Executive Director and Appointed Actuary, Life Corporation

He added that there was a spike in claims in the last two years due to Covid.

"Now, from the current quarter (ending September 30, 2022), we see it settling down towards more normal. It is still not back to pre-2020 figures because we would appreciate that the effects will take some time and there will be some IBNR (Incurred But Not Reported) cases which will get reported late also," Pant said.

#### 'Housing sales to breach pre-pandemic levels in 2022; demand momentum to continue despite interest rate hikes'

New Delhi: India's residential market is expected to sustain demand momentum despite rise in mortgage and property rates as sales this year across the top 7 cities are likely to breach pre pandemic level of 2.62 lakh units, industry players said.

After braving four back-toback disruptions in form of demonetisation, RERA, GST and Covid-19 in the last 6 years, industry experts feel the housing market is going through a lot of structural changes and is now at the start of a long-term upcycle. Homebuyers body FPCE

gives credit to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) under the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016 for this improved buying sentiment.

All major listed real estate developers posted record sales bookings in the last fiscal and have given guidance that their sales numbers in FY'23 will be

Interest rate

yet impacted

car demand

hikes have not

New Delhi: The hike in inter-

est rates has not yet impacted

demand for vehicles but the

real picture will emerge once

the semiconductor shortage

issue is addressed and produc-

tion gets normalised, according

to a senior official of Maruti

products such as Grand Vitara

and Brezza adding more to

bookings, the company's pend-

ing orders have gone up to 3.87

lakh units, from around 2.8

lakh in the last quarter, Maruti

Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) Senior

Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava

should have a negative impact

because interest rates going

up (have an impact on) dis-

cretionary spending, which

"Theoretically speaking, it

With the launch of new

Suzuki India.

All major listed real estate developers posted record sales bookings in the last fiscal

even better. However, if the over all market is taken into account and not just listed entities, the RBI's decision to hike interest rates by a cumulative 140 basis points and banks passing on this increase to home loan borrowers have slowed down sales mometum slightly. Increase in housing prices also had some impact, according to industry

Prices rose by an average 5 per cent annually in the June quarter due to higher input costs, especially that of cement and steel. But developers and brokers feel the increase is shortterm and demand will pick up significantly from the festive season.

PTI

### FPIs pump in ₹44,500 cr into Indian equities in three weeks of August

New Delhi: After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors have shown tremendous enthusiasm for Indian equities and have infused close to Rs 44,500 crore in August so far amid softening of inflation in US and falling dollar index.

This was way higher than a net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in entire July, data with depositories showed. FPIs had turned net buy-

ers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive outflows, which started in October last year. Between October 2021 till June 2022, they sold a massive Rs 2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity mar-

In the coming months, FPI flows are to remain volatile. However, with the fading concerns of rising inflation, tightening of monetary policy and performance of first quarter earnings, inflows are likely to



improve in emerging markets, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

The near-term trend in capital flows will be influenced mainly by the movement of the dollar, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to data with depositories, FPIs pumped in a net amount of Rs 44,481 crore in Indian equities during August 1-19. This is the high-

est investment made by them so far in the current year.

Sentiments in the equity market have turned bullish due to the sustained buying by

"The main trigger for the sustained buying has been the steady fall in the dollar index from above 109 in end July to around 105 recently. But on August 19 the dollar index has again moved up and crossed 107. If this trend continues capital inflows might be impacted," Vijayakumar added.

. Kotak Securities' Chouhan attributed the positive inflow to mounting hopes that the global economy may avoid a major downturn amid softening inflation levels in the US.

US inflation slowed down from a 40-year high in June to 8.5 per cent in July on lower gasoline prices, indicating that the US Federal Reserve might be less aggressive in hiking interest rates. *PTI* 

### No plans to import wheat into India: Govt



New Delhi: The Government has no plans to import wheat as it has sufficient stocks to meet the country's requirements, official sources said.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has enough stock for public distribution, they added.

'There are no plans to import wheat into India. The country has sufficient stocks to meet our domestic requirements," a source said.

The comments come against the backdrop of some

reports which said India may import the foodgrain.

India's wheat production is projected to have declined nearly 3 per cent to 106.84 million tonnes while the overall foodgrain production is estimated to have touched record 315.72 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year.
Wheat production is esti-

mated to have declined due to a heatwave that resulted in shrivelled grains in the northern states of Punjab and Harvana. PTI

#### DICGC to make payments to depositors of 17 co-op banks in Oct

Mumbai: The Deposit Insurance and Credit Corporation (DICGC) will be making payments to the eligible depositors of 17 cooperative banks, including eight from Maharashtra, in October.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had imposed several restrictions, including on withdrawals, by depositors of these 17 banks in July in view of their deteriorating financial posi-

DICGC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI, provides an insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh on bank deposits.

Of the 17 cooperative banks, eight are in Maharashtra, four in Uttar Pradesh, two in Karnataka, and one each in New Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and West

Bengal. The cooperative banks from Maharashtra are: Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank, Sangli Sahakari Bank, Raigad Sahakari Bank, Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank, Saibaba Janata Sahakari Sahakari Bank, Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank,

and The Karmala Urban Co-op

As per the DICGC, the banks from Uttar Pradesh whose eligible depositors will oe paid in October are: Lucknow Urban Co-op Bank, Urban Co-operative Bank (Sitapur), National Urban Coop Bank (Bahraich), and United India Co-op Bank (Nagina). The banks in Karnataka are: Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Niyamita (Maski) and Shri Sharada Mahila Co-operative

Bank (Tumkur). Eligible depositors of Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank (New Delhi), Suri Friends Union Co-op Bank (Birbhum, Suri West Bongal) and Durge Suri, West Bengal), and Durga Co-op Urban Bank Co-op (Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh) too will be paid by the DICGC in October. The DICGC said the eligible depositors should support their claims by valid document/s of identity. *PTI* 

# Central Bank of India likely to L&T to work across green energy value

New Delhi: Central Bank of India, the only public sector lender under the RBI's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework, may see an exit from restrictions soon following an improvement in its financial The bank has already made

a representation to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) based on the improvement in financial parameters on a sustained basis for the past five quarters, sources said. According to sources, the

RBI is looking at the bank's request and may take a view on this soon based on quantitative and qualitative parameters. Central Bank of India

reported a 14.2 per cent rise in net profit to ₹234.78 crore in the first quarter ended June this fiscal as compared to ₹205.58 crore in the same quarter a year

In the latest quarter, the bank's gross NPA fell to 14.9



per cent of the gross advances as compared to 15.92 per cent in the year-ago period. Net NPAs too declined to 3.93 per cent from 5.09 per cent in the first quarter of the previous

Of the three PSU lenders under the RBI's watch, Indian Overseas Bank and UCO Bank were removed from the framework in September 2021.

The Central Bank of India was put under the PCA framework in June 2017 due to its high net non-performing assets (NPAs) and low Return on

PCA is triggered when banks breach certain regulatory requirements such as return on asset, minimum capital and quantum of the non-performing assets including on lending, management compensation and directors' fees.

The bank under PCA faces RBI restrictions on dividend distribution, branch expansion, management compensation or requiring promoters to infuse capital.

Last year, the RBI issued a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at "appropriate time" and also act as a tool for effective market discipline.

As per the revised guidelines, capital, asset quality and leverage are the key areas for monitoring in the revised

shortened week, the Sensex

advanced 183.37 points or 0.30

per cent. While Reliance

Îndustries, Tata Consultancy

Services, ICICI Bank, State

Bank of India and Bajaj Finance

were the laggards from the top-

10 pack, HDFC Bank, Infosys

Hindustan Unilever, HDFC

and Life Insurance Corporation

of India (LIC) were the gainers.

Industries declined by

₹17,68,144.77 crore. The mar-

ket capitalisation (mcap) of

State Bank of India fell by

₹12,883.7

The valuation of Reliance

crore

# exit RBI PCA framework soon chain, to pump in \$2.5 bn in 3-4 yrs

Hazira: Engineering major Larsen & Toubro is committed to work across the green energy value chain and plans to invest up to USD 2.5 billion over the next 3-4 years, a company official said.

The investment of such a large scale in the green energy sector depends upon how the

market evolves. The statement comes in the wake of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) planning to achieve water and carbon neutrality by 2035 and 2040, respectively.

"We are looking at USD 2-2.5 billion investment to start within three-four years' time," the company's Whole-time Director and Senior Executive Vice-President (Energy) Subramanian Sarma said.

The company which plans to move in the clean energy space in a big way aims to enter into manufacturing of key technological equipment which could be electrolysers,



advanced cell batteries and fuel cells among others, L&T's Senior Vice-President and head of Green Energy Business Derek M Shah said.

'So, this is part of the value chain," he explained.

The second part of the value chain, he said, is the engineering, procurement and con-struction (EPC) projects adding that the company plans to make a foray into large-scale EPC projects in the green ener-

"There are multiple customers who are now coming out. Whether it is refineries or possibly there will be gas authorities, steel plants," Shah explained.

Indian Oil Corp Ltd, Larsen and Toubro and ReNew Power have agreed to form a joint venture company to develop green hydrogen projects across the country and capitalise on the government's ambitious plans for this

#### also includes spending on cars," he said in an interaction. *PTI* ONGC prepares for third interim chairman Mcap of five of top-10 firms Debt mutual funds continue to see outflow; in a row; nine shortlisted for top job declines over ₹30K cr investors withdraw ₹70K cr in June quarter

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is preparing for a record third interim chairman as no full-time head of India's most profitable company has yet been selected in 17 months since the post fell vacant, sources said. ONGC is without a regu-

lar chairman and managing director since April 2021. Subhash Kumar, the seniormost director on the company board and the director for finance, was named officiating head after Shashi Shanker superannuated on March 31, 2021. And when Kumar retired on December 31, 2021, Alka Mittal, Director for Human Resources, was given an additional charge.



Mittal will superannuate at month-end and unless she is given an extension, the next senior-most director, Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, Director (Exploration), is likely to be named as interim head, two officials with knowledge of the matter said.

The third interim chairman - a record for ONGC - is being talked about as the government is yet to even identia full-time head.

A search-cum-selection committee, which was in

February this year tasked to identify suitable candidates, began work only this month after terms of reference were The panel has shortlisted

nine candidates on the basis of higher eligibility age limit proposed by the oil ministry, which brought most existing directors - who otherwise were ineligible to even apply, in the zone of consideration, they The shortlisted include

Mittal and Srivastava as well as three other directors on the ONGC board - Om Prakash Singh, Director (Technology & Field Services); Pankar Kumar, Director (Offshore) and Anurag Sharma, Director **New Delhi:** Five of the top-10 ₹9,147.73 crore to ₹4,64,436.79 valued firms together lost Rs crore. The valuation of Tata 30,737.51 crore in market val-Consultancy Services (TCS) dropped by ₹5,323.92 crore to uation last week, with Reliance Industries Limited taking the biggest hit. In the holiday-

₹12,38,680.37 crore and that of ICICI Bank by ₹2,922.03 crore to ₹6,05,807.09 crore. The mcap of Bajaj Finance dipped by ₹460.13 crore to 42,035.99 crore.

On the other hand, the market valuation of Hindustan Unilever rose by ₹9,128.17 crore to reach ₹6,18,894.09 crore. HDFC Bank added ₹4,835.37 crore to take its valuation to ₹8,30,042.72 crore.

The market valuation of LIC increased by ₹2,308.62 crore to ₹4,33,768.34 crore and that of HDFC advanced ₹1,916.08 crore to ₹4,47,675.98

#### New Delhi: Investors continued to withdraw from mutual funds focused on investing in fixed-income securities for third consecutive quarter and

pulled out over ₹70,000 crore in April-June due to high inflation and an increasing rate "In the next (September) quarter, it is safe to assume that monetary conditions will be

tighter in terms of lower amount system liquidity and higher regulatory rates, both of which should see further reduction in mutual fund debt corpuses," Sandeep Bagla, CEO Trust Mutual Fund, said.

Interest rate will be the major factor to dictate flow in debt mutual funds in coming



quarters. Once rates start stabilizing, inflows can be expected, Ankit Yadav, Wealth Manager (USA) & Director of Market Maestroo, said.

The latest outflow has pulled down the asset managed by fund managers for debt fixed-income funds by 5 per cent to ₹12.35 lakh crore at June-end from close to Rs 13 lakh crore at the end of March, data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

After hitting a peak of ₹14.16 lakh crore in the first quarter of fiscal 2022, assets under management for the fixed-income category has been on a steady decline and since then the asset base has fallen by 13 per cent. According to the data, net outflow from open ended

fixed-income mutual funds or debt mutual funds was at ₹70,213 crore in the quarter under review. Month-wise, the quarter started on an optimistic note in

April with the segment attracting ₹54,756 crore, however, this changed in May and June, as the category saw net outflows of ₹32,722 crore and ₹92,247 crore, respectively. *PTI* 

# BWF World: Sen, Prannoy headline India's challenge

with the injured PV Sindhu missing out for the first time in a decade, the onus will be on young Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy to spearhead India's challenge in the BWF World Championships, starting here from Monday.

With five medals, including the

Gold in 2019, Sindhu is a colossal figure in the BWF's most prestigious and competitive tournament, but an ankle injury en route to a maiden Commonwealth Games title triumph dashed her hopes of travelling to the Japanese capital.

This left the task of continuing India's impressive run in the tournament on the young shoulders of Lakshya, and the experienced duo of Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth. The country has not returned empty-handed from the Worlds since the 2011 edi-

It was Srikanth and Lakshya, who had ensured India's presence at the podium in 2021 when they finished with a Silver and a Bronze, respectively, but the field this time will be much stronger than last year.

It was a depleted field in 2021 with Japan's Kento Momota, and the Indonesian duo of Jonatan Christie and Anthony Ginting missing out. But there has been no such withdrawal this

At the same time, the expectations from the Indian male shuttlers will also be high, given their exploits in recent

Brimming with confidence following his CWG Gold on debut, Lakshya has been on a sensational run this season, and will go into the top event as one of the favourites.

The 20-year-old, who was left crestfallen after not being able to go the distance in Spain, will look to complete his unfinished business when he opens against Danish veteran Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus.

Lakshya's stocks have been rising ever since he returned from Huelva in December as he won a maiden Super 500 title at India Open, finished with a Silver at All England Championships, before joining hands with Srikanth and Prannoy to earn India its maiden Thomas Cup win in May.

However, the trio will turn foe this week after being clubbed in the same quarter.

In fact Lakshya, seeded ninth, might clash with Prannoy in the third round if the senior pro manages to get past former world number one and second seed Momota in the second round.

Prannoy has been one of the most consistent players in the circuit, with a run of quarterfinals, three semifinals he would be itching to continue his

The 30-year-old Indian is known for his giant-killing exploits and comes into the event after twin wins over world No. 4 Chou Tien Chen recently,



and will fancy his chances against Momota, who hasn't looked the same player since his car accident two years

Srikanth, 12th seed, was simply

sensational in Bangkok and it was his unbeaten run which played a huge role in India's Thomas Cup win, but the former world No. 1's confidence took a

Malaysian Ng Tze Yong at the Birmingham CWG.

He, however, recovered to return with a Bronze from the Commonwealth

Nguyen and China's Zhao Jun Peng in

If Srikanth clears the initial hurdles, world number 5 Malaysian Lee Zii Jia will stand in his way to the quarters. B Sai Praneeth, a 2019 World

Championships Bronze medallist, too, is in the fray and will open against Taiwanese Chou Tien Chen.

The former Singapore Open champion will look to exorcise his ghosts in Tokyo, where he battled without a proper coach or physio, suffering a series of defeats to bow out early from the Olympics last year.

All eyes will also be on Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who claimed India's first Gold medal in men's doubles at the CWG earlier

The world number 7 duo, which won the India Open title in January and was an important cog in the Thomas Cup triumph, received a first-round bye but is expected to clash with Malaysian 13th seeds Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong in the second round.

Away from all the limelight will be a certain Saina Nehwal, who was once the cynosure of all eyes.

The decorated shuttler has a Silver and Bronze from the Worlds but, of late, has looked a pale shadow of herself, following a series of below-par performances due to both injuries and lack

The 32-year-old from Hyderabad recorded a stunning win over He Bingjiao of China en route her first quarterfinal appearance in 16 months at Singapore Open and she will look to produce her best effort when she opens against Hong Kong's Cheung

Among others, the pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, and Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly, will also be in the fray in women's doubles. The pairs are CWG Bronze medal-



## Leeds hammer Chelsea in PL

helsea suffered their first Premier League defeat this season as Edouard Mendy's embarrassing blunder put Leeds on course for a 3-0 win, while Brighton condemned West Ham to a third successive loss on Sunday.

Mendy's costly mistake was the catalyst for Chelsea's shocking implosion at Elland Road as Brenden Aaronson netted after catching the goalkeeper taking too long in posses-

Rodrigo's fourth goal in three games this season doubled Leeds' advantage before half-time.

Jack Harrison completed Leeds' first win over Chelsea since 2002 and their biggest against their old rivals since 1995. Adding to Chelsea's misery, their Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly was sent off for a second booking after tripping Joe Gelhardt in the 84th minute.

Unbeaten after three games, Leeds sit second in the table as boss Jesse Marsch builds on the momentum established during the club's successful fight to avoid relegation last sea-

In contrast, Chelsea find themselves in the unusual position of sitting below their less glamorous west London neighbours Fulham and Brentford in the table. Thomas Tuchel's side have taken four points from their

first three games and the German will be concerned at the way his expensively rebuilt team faded after Mendy's howler. Marsch had cheekily suggested Tuchel's one-match touch-

line ban for his clashes with Tottenham manager Antonio Conte last weekend should have been imposed in time for Chelsea's trip to Yorkshire. Tuchel might have wished he could be anywhere but

Elland Road as Chelsea collapsed. Raheem Sterling should have given Chelsea the lead inside the first 60 seconds, but the forward's penetrating run ended

with a shot that curled wide from 12 yards. Sterling did find the back of the net after 15 minutes, only for an offside flag to correctly rule out what would have been the former Manchester City star's first goal for Chelsea.

Mason Mount's low strike forced a save from Illan Meslier as Chelsea looked set to dominate. But Mendy gifted Leeds the opening goal in the 33rd minute when the Chelsea keeper took too long to clear Thiago

Silva's backpass before attempting a suicidal turn that allowed Aaronson to steal the ball and tap into the empty net. Not for the first time during his Chelsea career, Mendy

had been caught in possession and the embarrassed Senegal keeper held his head in frustration as Aaronson sprinted away to celebrate. It was the United States winger's first goal for Leeds since

his close-season move from Red Bull Salzburg.

Chelsea were shell-shocked and, just four minutes later, ndy was beaten again as Rodrigo to glance a superb header into the far corner from Harrison's free-kick. At the London Stadium, Brighton added to West Ham's woes with an impressive 2-0 victory. Alexis Mac Allister put Brighton ahead in the 22nd minute after Danny . Welbeck was fouled by West Ham's debutant defender Thilo Kehrer, a £10 million signing from Paris Saint Germain.

# Momota eyes third world title

Struggling former badminton world number one Kento Momota said on Sunday that he still feels "a lot of unease" as he bids to reclaim his world title in Tokyo. Japan's Momota, once the sport's

undisputed king, has seen his career descend into free fall since a car crash more than two years ago which left him badly hurt.

The 27-year-old has been in disround of four of the seven singles tournaments he has entered.

But he is hoping that home support in Tokyo can help him upset the odds and claim a third title when the world championships begin on

"I'm not feeling so bad in practice but I'm not managing to perform in games so there is still a lot of unease," Momota told reporters, adding that his confidence is returning "little by little".

"It's been a long time since I played in front of Japanese fans and I want to feel their support and enjoy playing in front of them."

Momota's world was turned upside down in January 2020 when Lumpur airport crashed hours after he won the Malaysia Masters, killing the driver and leaving the player with a fractured eye socket.

He has been a shadow of his imperious former self since then and

he said Sunday that his goal is to "focus on myself and play my best". "I'm feeling not so bad, although there is still a little bit of tiredness

there," he said. "I need to listen to my body

when I go into games." Momota is now ranked number two in the world having been

replaced at the top by Denmark's Viktor Axelsen. Olympic champion Axelsen will

be the hot favourite to capture a seconly one men's singles match on court on tour this season. Axelsen switched coaches on the

eve of the competition and he believes he has "a good chance of doing really well here".

"When you have won many tournaments, you believe that you can also win this one," said the 28-year-old, who claimed his previous world title in 2017.

"I believe in myself but I also know that there are many strong competitors and every single day I have to be fully focussed.

Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia is also expected to offer a strong challenge and he would become his country's first-ever badminton world champi-

Reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore will attempt to defend his 2021 title while China's Shi Yuqi is back in action after serving a ban by the Chinese Badminton

## Ten Hag should drop Ronaldo & Rashford vs Liverpool: Rooney wants to play Champions League football.

It leaves them rooted to the

bottom of the Premier League

outfit who are also seeking their first win of the campaign

following two draws against Fulham and Crystal Palace.

United and England record goalscorer Rooney says

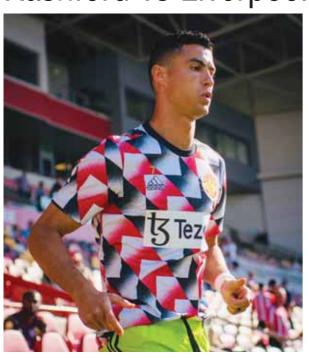
his former side requires play-

ers who run their hearts out on

the pitch and neither Ronaldo

nor Rashford provide that.

for the first time in 30 years. United host a Liverpool



Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag can boost his hopes of securing his first Premier League point against Liverpool on Monday if he dropped Cristiano Ronaldo and Marcus Rashford Red Devils legend Wayne Rooney

writes in the Sunday Times. United have opened their campaign with embarrassing defeats, Brighton recording their first ever win at Old Trafford followed by a 4-0 whipping by Brentford last weekend. his place in the England squad

and there have been reports of him being linked with French champions Paris Saint-Germain. "I wouldn't play Cristiano Ronaldo, and I wouldn't play Marcus Rashford," said

final last year has seen him lose

Rashford's loss of form since playing in the Euro 2020

"If I was in Ten Hag's position my main concern would be getting energy on the pitch, and United's failure to recruit a No 9 means they relied on Ronaldo against Brentford,

a lot with the team. "He looked like he needs time to get match fit."

even though he hadn't trained

Rooney - who is now coaching another of his former clubs DC United in the MLS said United should let Ronaldo leave, as at 37 he is not a player to build a potential title winning team around.

He has also let it be known that he wants to leave the club," said Rooney.

"I don't know his reasons but, as I wrote in my last column, I'd let him -- he's a great player and will always score goals but the task for Ten Hag is to produce a team that can compete for the title in three or four years' time.

'That means rebuilding with younger players.'

Ronaldo in his second spell at United has been Rooney says watching Rashford these days is "a real rumoured to be seeking a move away from the club as he

## Marseille win in Ligue 1

**AP** MARSEILLE

Marseille continued their unbeaten start to the Ligue 1 season after a late Nicolas Pallois own goal gave them a 2-1 win over Nantes at the Velodrome on Saturday. Alexis Sanchez made his home debut following his

recent arrival in Marseille but the Chilean had been substituted by the time the game came to life in the final quarter. An attempted shot by

Jonathan Clauss broke to Chancel Mbemba in the box, and the Congolese former Newcastle United defender prodded home to put Marseille ahead 20 minutes from time.

Yet the home side, who had already seen Brazilian international midfielder Gerson hob-



ble off with an apparent calf injury, then had Samuel Gigot sent off for a second yellow card for hauling Mostafa Mohamed to the ground and conceding a penalty.

Ludovic Blas smashed in the spot-kick to equalise for Nantes with 12 minutes left, only for Marseille's 10 men to score the winner in the 82nd

## Astunning strike by Luka Modric helped Real Madrid on their way to a 4-1 victory at Celta Vigo on Saturday as the reigning Spanish champions made it two wins from two in La Liga

Modric curled home from outside the box just before half-time to put Carlo Ancelotti's side back in front after Karim Benzema's early penalty had been cancelled out by Iago Aspas, who converted a spot-kick at the other end.

this season.

Vinicius Junior and Federico Valverde added further goals in the second half while Eden Hazard had a late penalty saved as Madrid built on their La Liga season-opening 2-1 win at Almeria and joined Real Betis and Osasuna on six points at the top of the



fledgling standings.

"He is a fantastic leader for us. He scored the most important goal of the game because he put us back ahead and after that the game was a bit more simple for us," Ancelotti told Onda Cero radio of Modric,

2 wins in a row for Real Madrid

who received an ovation from the home crowd in Galicia.

"That is something very special, when fans of other teams acknowledge you and applaud you. It's lovely," the Croatian told Real Madrid

## Inter stroll past Spezia on Lukaku's San Siro return

**AP** ■ MILAN

Inter Milan made it two from two in Serie A with Saturday's comfortable 3-0 win over Śpezia on Romelu Lukaku's return to the San Siro, while Domenico Berardi fired Sassuolo to a 1-0 win over Lautaro Martinez, Hakan

Calhanoglu and Joaquin Correa struck in front of a large and enthusiastic home crowd to ensure a perfect six points for Simone Inzaghi's Inter as they bid to reclaim the league title from local rivals AC Milan. to Inter's first two goals.



Lukaku might not have scored in front of his adoring fans before being substituted in the 68th minute, but he was key half-time, lashing home his

His perfect knock-down from Nicolo Barella's clipped pass allowed Martinez to break the deadlock 10 minutes before opening goal of the season. It was the first sign of the rebirth of a partnership which devastated Serie A during Lukaku's first spell at Inter before his disastrous bigmoney move to Chelsea last summer.

"We're happy because we played well. We have six points," said Martinez when asked if he was pleased the combo nicknamed 'LuLa' was back in action.

Belgium forward Lukaku then began the move which led to Calhanoglu doubling the hosts' lead seven minutes after

the break. His charge towards the Spezia area ended with a cool

Dragowski from Turkey international Calhanoglu.

Also involved in Inter's second was Milan Skriniar,

low finish past Bartlomiej

who according to Italian media is no longer for sale after a summer of speculation that the Slovakia defender was on his way to Paris Saint-Germain. Correa completed the scor-

ing in the 82nd minute with a simple strike, brilliantly set up by fellow substitute Edin

# CLEAN SWEEP ON CARDS FOR INDIA

fancied Indian team is a shooin to complete a 3-0 ODI series sweep against a Zimbabwe side that has been struggling to put up even a semblance of a fight.

Having done exceedingly well to not just turn up but trump their hap-less opponents on all fronts in the pre-ceding two matches, India will enter the third and final ODI knowing well that the script is unlikely to change at the Harare Sports Complex on

This will translate to the visiting team getting yet another opportunity to carry out experimentation keep-

ing the bigger picture in mind, i.E, next year's ICC World Cup. Stand-in skipper KL Rahul has done quite well to keep the players motivated enough to go out in the middle, grab the chances with both hands, and cement their places in the side that is gearing up for big battles in the coming times.

There is no doubt that they have not faced the kind of examination that would have helped them develop further as cricketers, but those who are looking to get a longer run at the top level would certainly not mind the experience.

If the 161 all out in the second game is any evidence, the home team continues to look for a quick fix to its batting woes, while the bowlers are also not able to trouble the Indian batting line-up that has some of the top ODI players in its ranks. For proof, one can take a look at Shikhar Dhawan's statistics in the 50-over for-

The extremely talented Shubhman Gill should not be be content with whatever he has achieved so far on the tour, and will certainly look to have another go at the Zimbabwe



the order did not work in the second match but that will not deter Rahul from trying it out one more time.

His stay at the crease in the second ODI lasted just nine balls as he could score just one run off five balls.

In the absence of the front-line bowlers, this attack has performed extremely well and showed what it is extremely well and showed what it is capable of, and the quality of opposi-tion is no reason to undermine the efforts of committed people like Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Prasidh Krishna and

Among the batters, Ishan Kishan, if he gets another chance to bat, will look to overcome the failure of the second game with a good knock.

After the 10-wicket drubbing in the series opener, Zimbabwe could reduce the margin of defeat in the second ODI, but to ensure a better result they would need to play out of their

Even that may not be enough for the beleaguered hosts, but they would do well to promote Sikandar Raza and Sean Williams, Zimbabwe's best batters for some time now, in the line-up.

#### **TEAMS (FROM)**

India: KL Rahul (C), Shikhar Dhawan (VC), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Shahbaz Ahmed.

Zimbabwe: Regis Chakabva (C), Ryan Burl, Tanaka Chivanga, Bradley Evans, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Takudzwanashe Kaitano, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, John Masara, Tony Munyonga , Richard Ngarava , Victor Nyauchi, Sikandar Raza, Milton Shumba, Donald Tiripano.

## Warner to revive BBL career Weightlifting: Mirabai, Jeremy with Sydney Thunder



**AP** SYDNEY

Rig-hitting Australian batsman a two-year deal with Sydney Thunder, ending a nine-year absence from the Big Bash League.

The 35-year-old opener has not played in the domestic T20 competition since 2013 and said he wanted to get involved again to help support the next generation.

"I'm really excited to get back to the Big Bash with the club where I started," said Warner, a veteran of 96 Tests, 133 ODIs and 91 T20 games for Australia.

"I care deeply about the game, and I am conscious that the conditions that I enjoy as a professional cricketer have largely come from other senior players who have come

"That is how the game is structured and I understand that my con-

tribution to the future of the BBL will hopefully benefit the next generation of players long after I am retired."

Thunder since the third BBL season, where he played just one game. He also played a single game for them in the inaugural season, and has appeared once for the Sydney Sixers.

He will join the team after his international commitments end in January and could be available for as many as five regular season matches. "The club has a tremendous group of young talented batters and leaders, with the likes of Jason Sangha, Ollie Davies, Matt Gilkes and Baxter Holt," said Thunder head coach Trevor Bayliss.

"They will all benefit greatly from Davey's experience and guid-

ance."

The BBL season starts on December 13 when Thunder face the Melbourne Stars.

#### Warner open to have discussions with CA to get lifetime captaincy ban overturned

David Warner on Sunday called upon Cricket Australia to "open their doors" and discuss overturning his lifetime leadership ban, saying he is looking forward to having an "honest conversation" with

In the aftermath of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal in South Africa, former skipper Steve Smith was stripped of the captaincy and banned from leading Australia for two years, while Warner was handed a more severe punishment — a lifelong leadership ban.

ing Test skipper Pat Cummins, have called for Warner's

"That hasn't really been brought to the table," Warner

was quoted saying by ESPNCricinfo. 'As I've said plenty of times off the record, it's upon the board to reach out to me and open their doors. Then

I can sit down and have an honest conversation with them," he added. Warner, Smith and batter Cameron Bancroft were banned from playing domestic or international cricket as punishment for their roles in the infamous ball-tam-

pering scandal. Warner and Smith had been banned for one year, while Bancroft was suspended for nine months.

Warner said he can be leader without having the title. "I've got the experience, I'm a leader in the side anyway without having a title," he said.

"That's what I'm about, giving back, so if they (younger players) can pick my brains in any way, my phone is always there, they have my number, and they can see me when I'm at the practice facilities," he said.

# & Achinta to skip Asian C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu and seven other top Indian weightlifters will fly to the USA on Tuesday for a three and half week strength and conditioning (S&C) training camp in St. Louis.

Chanu will be accompanied by 2022 Commonwealth Games medallists Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Achinta Sheuli, Sanket Sargar, Bindyarani Devi, Gurdeep Singh and former 2018 CWG champion R V Rahul and Asian Championship gold medallist Jhilli Dalabehra to St. Louis, USA for a three-and-half-week-long

"We will be in USA for 23-24 days. It is the off season so we will have a strength program there," India head coach Vijay Sharma told PTI.

Sargar, who went under the knife for the elbow injury he suffered during his event at the 'All these lifters have small niggles like

Gurdeep has some issue in his wrist. Sanket will

go through proper rehab. We want that everyone is perfectly fit for the World Championships," he added. The lifters will work with Dr Aaron

Horschig, a former weightlifter-turned-physical therapist and strength and conditioning

Chanu has been consulting Horschig since 2020. He has been instrumental in sorting out her imbalance issue which affected her snatch technique. She had a month-long training stint with Horschig in March, ahead of the CWG.

"Mira currently doesn't have any issue but

since we are going there she will also do some strength training," Sharma said.

Senior weightlifters will miss this year's Asian Championships opting to focus on the World meet instead, which is a qualifying event



for the Paris Olympics.

The Asian Championships are scheduled to take place in Manama, Bahrain from October 6 to 16. India will be fielding its 'B' team, comprising junior lifters.

"The lifters who have returned from the CWG will not compete in the Asian Championships. We will be sending our B team," Sharma said.

"The focus is on the World Championship which is a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics," the head coach added.

The World Championship, scheduled to take place from December 5 to 15 in Bagota, Colombia, is the first qualifying event for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

#### Crawley continues receiving backing from McCullum

**AP** ■ LONDON

Despite his continuing failures at the top, England head coach Brendon McCullum continued to back opener Zak Crawley and said that he will stick with him for the second Test against South Africa in Manchester.

Crawly could score only nine and 13 during England's shameful defeat by innings and 12 runs to South Africa in the first Test at the Lord's. In his previous ten innings, he has managed only 164 runs at a poor average of 16.40. He has scored no fifties in this run, with the best score of 46. But McCullum opines that under-scrutiny 24-year-old. "You have to think about

the overall package. We have some players that have been put in those positions because they have certain skill-sets. I look at a guy like Zak and his skill-set is not to be a consistent cricketer. He is not that type of player. He is put in that situation because he has a game which, when he gets going, he can win matches for England," ICC quoted McCullum as saying. England succumbed to a

brutal defeat in the first Test and South Africa were able to maintain its top spot in the ICC World Test Championship 2021-23 standings.

#### Praggnanandhaa loses to Duda in FTX Crypto Cup

**PTI** ■ MIAMI

reenaged Indian Grand-went down to Poland's Jan-Krzystof Duda via the tiebreak in the sixth round of the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale Champions Chess Tour, here on Sunday.

It was the second loss for the 17-year old GM after he went down to Quang Liem Le in the previous round. He, however, remained in second spot with 13 match points behind world No.1 Magnus Carlsen (15 match points).

Duda drew first blood when he won the opening game.

two draws, After Praggnanandhaa won the fourth game to level the match. The Polish player then showed his class to win both the tie-break games for a 4-2

victory. Praggnanandhaa takes on Carlsen in the last and final round of the tournament later on Sunday night.

## Tsitsipas beats Medvedev to reach Cincy decider

**AP** ■ CINCINNATI

Top-ranked Danin Medical Committed 11 double-faults in Committed 12 double-faults in 7-6 op-ranked Daniil Medvedev falling to Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-3 in Sunday's semifinals of the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Masters.

Medvedev helped seal his own fate in the sixth game of the final set as he double-faulted four times to hand his Greek opponent to a 4-Tsitsipas will play for the title

on Sunday (Monday IST) against Croatian Borna Coric, who returned to an ATP Masters final for the first time in four years by defeating Britain's Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-4

Tsitsipas won only his third match against Medvedev after losing seven and also defeated a reigning number one player for only the second time in 12 career attempts.

The fourth seed put a winner into the corner on the first of three match points to earn the final.

"I knew I would have a difficult task in the third set," Tsitsipas said. "He made it a very physical match, very demanding. "But I took advantage of his

missed first serves. They gave me

time to think of my next move

trated on every single task."

clearly. I was very calm and concen-World number 152 Coric, who missed a year of play with shoulder

problems and only returned to the

tour in March, advanced in 91 min-

utes in a match delayed for hours by an afternoon of rain.

"It was a long day. I didn't expect to be playing in the evening," Coric said. "It was a crazy day but it finished very well.

Coric is the second-lowestrated finalist since the rankings began in 1973, with number 191 Andrei Pavel setting that standard as he played for the Roland Garros title in 2003.



### Kvitova to face Garcia

Tn the women's semi-finals, French qualifier Caroline Garcia survived two rain breaks and advanced to the final by defeating Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 4-6,

Garcia will play for the title on Sunday against Czech Petra Kvitova, who constructed a 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-3 come-back triumph over American Madison

Garcia is the first qualifier to ever reach the championship match at a Masters tournament.

Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon winner who played the semi-finals in 2012 and 2018, will be aiming for her 30th career title in her first Cincinnati

Garcia maintained control over sixth seed Sabalenka in their contest,

where the weather interruptions totaled four hours. She broke six times in a match comprising two hours of actual

play.
"What a day it has been," number
35 Garcia said. "Last night I was excited to be in the semi-finals. "Aryna is a difficult opponent, so

fast, so strong. We had a lot of very tough rallies and tough weather. You never knew when you would be coming back to the court - but we managed it."

Kvitova, 32, needed two hours and 20 minutes to eliminate Keys.

"It was an incredible match. I expected it to be tough — but not this tough," Kvitova said. "I got emotional at the end, the match was mentally so

She will make a return to the ranking top-20 after finishing with 24 winners and 16 unforced errors.