

OPINION 6

PAKISTAN'S PERENNIAL
EXISTENTIAL CRISIS

WORLD 9

LANKA TO REPLACE DRACONIAN
COUNTER-TERRORISM LAW

MONEY 10

GOVT KEEN TO USE AI IN
E-MARKETPLACE: GOYAL

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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RAHUL DRAVID
TESTS COVID
POSITIVE
12 SPORT

CAPSULE

9 COVID DEATHS IN
DELHI, +VITY DIPS

New Delhi: Delhi on Tuesday reported nine Covid-19 deaths while the positivity rate dipped to 6.14 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department. A total of 959 fresh Covid-19 cases came out of 15,631 tests conducted the previous day.

TWO WASHED AWAY, TWO
MISSING IN RAJ FLOODS

Kota: Two people were washed away in floods and two others went missing in Baran and Bundi districts in Rajasthan, as heavy rain continued to lash region on Tuesday.

ALL POL PARTIES ARE IN
FAVOUR OF FREEBIES: SC

New Delhi: All political parties, including BJP, are in favour of freebies and due to this a judicial attempt has been made to deal with it, said the Supreme Court on Tuesday while deliberating with a PIL opposing promises of such handouts by the parties during polls.

200 WOMEN DRIVERS FOR
DTC BUSES SOON: GAHLOT

New Delhi: Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Tuesday said the Government plans to have 200 women bus drivers with the Delhi Transport Corporation as part of its effort to provide job opportunities to them.



3 IAF officers axed for BrahMos misfire into Pak

Cruise missile sans warhead had landed in Pak on March 9, 2022

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday dismissed three IAF officers from service for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile “accidental firing” on March 9 this year. The missile had landed in Pakistan. However, there were no casualties there.

The three officers include a Group Captain, a Wing Commander, and a Squadron Leader. They had deviated from the standard operating procedure.

Announcing this major development, the IAF said, “A BrahMos missile was accidentally fired on March 9. A Court of Inquiry set up to establish the facts of the case, including fixing responsibility for the incident, found that deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by three



officers led to the accidental firing of the missile.

“These three officers have primarily been held responsible for the incident. Their services have been terminated by the Central Government with immediate effect. Termination orders have been served upon the officers on August 23.”

The missile was reportedly fired from a base in north India and it deviated from the course and landed 124 kms inside Pakistan in the Mian Channu area there. The missile

did not carry any warhead.

The IAF had viewed the incident seriously and reviewed its standard operating procedures.

The Defence Ministry was also briefed about the inquiry committee report submitted to it sometime in mid-April. Sabotage was ruled out.

With questions raised about the training and other allied procedures in handling such sophisticated missile system, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had assured Parliament

on March 15 that the missile system is very reliable and safe.

Pakistan had lodged a strong protest against the reported accidental firing of the missile and summoned the Indian Charge d’Affaires in Islamabad.

Backed by China, Pakistan also called for a joint probe. However, the US said it was an accident and the Indian Defence Ministry had given the details.

“We have no indication, as you also heard from our Indian partners, that this incident was anything other than an accident,” State Department Spokesperson Ned Price had said. Pakistan termed the Indian Defence Ministry statement regretting the accident as a “simplistic explanation” while calling for a joint probe.

Major General Babar Iftikhar, the Director-General of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) of Pakistan, had claimed that an unarmed projectile launched from India entered the Pakistani airspace travelling 124 km and fell near Mian Channu. No loss of life was reported.

BJP suspends Telangana MLA for Prophet barb

T Raja Singh granted bail after court finds lapses in arrest procedure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a second successive case of “disciplinary action” against its own party leader, the BJP on Tuesday suspended its Telangana MLA T Raja Singh for his controversial remarks in Hyderabad on Prophet Mohammad. Telangana is slated for Assembly polls in 2023.

The BJP had earlier suspended its national spokesperson Nupur Sharma for an alleged controversial comment involving the Prophet in a television debate. Multiple cases have been filed against Sharma for her comments.

Singh, known for his hard Hindutva views, was suspended by the party following protests against his purported comments leading to his arrest by the Telangana Police. The suspended BJP leader was remanded in 14-day judicial custody by the court. However, Raja Singh was granted bail within hours of arrest. The court ordered his release after



Telangana BJP MLA T Raja Singh being taken away after he was arrested for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Prophet Muhammad in Hyderabad on Tuesday

PTI

it noted that Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was not followed during the arrest.

A statement from Om Pathak, who is secretary of the BJP’s central disciplinary committee, said, “You have expressed views contrary to the party’s position on various matters, which are in clear violation of Rule XXV 10 (a) of the constitution of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I have been directed to convey to you that pending further enquiry, you are suspended from the party and from your responsibilities/assignments, if any, with

immediate effect.”

Pathak also asked Singh to “show cause” within 10 days from the date of this notice as to why he should not be expelled from the party.

“Your detailed reply must reach the undersigned no later than 2nd of September 2022,” Pathak said.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi claimed Singh made derogatory remarks on Prophet Mohammed. “They have not learned a lesson from what Nupur Sharma has said. This is a continuation of what Nupur Sharma had said,” he said.

Continued on Page 2

SC to hear plea to revoke remission to Bilkis’ rapists

Challenging principles on basis of which remission granted to 11 convicts: Lawyer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to consider a plea challenging the grant of remission by the Gujarat Government to 11 life convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case.

The remission and the consequent release of 11 convicts on August 15 this year from Godhra sub-jail under the Gujarat Government’s remission policy has sparked a debate on the issue of such relief in heinous cases.

A bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Hima Kohli and CT Ravikumar took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal and lawyer Aparna Bhat against the grant of remis-



sion to the convicts serving life imprisonment in the sensational post-Godhra riots case.

“We are only challenging the remission and not the Supreme Court order. The Supreme Court order is fine, My Lords. We are challenging the principles on the basis of which remission was granted,” Sibal said while seeking an urgent hearing of the plea.

The lawyers were seeking an urgent hearing of the plea filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revathy Laul and activist Roop Rekha Rani.

The plea referred to the

sequence of events recorded in judicial files and said, “It is submitted that on such facts, no right thinking authority applying any test under any extant policy would consider it fit to grant remission to persons who are found to have been involved in the commission of such gruesome acts.”

TMC MP Mahua Moitra too filed a separate petition in the SC against the release of the convicts, alleging the remission “completely fails to bolster either social or human justice and does not constitute a valid exercise of the guided discretionary power of the State.

Uddhav-Shinde row: SC transfers case to Constitution bench

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday referred to a five-judge bench the petitions filed by the Shiv Sena (Uddhav) and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde raising several constitutional questions related to defection, merger, and disqualification.

The apex court ordered the listing of petitions before the Constitution bench on Thursday and directed the Election Commission not to pass any orders on the Shinde faction’s plea that it be considered the real Shiv Sena and granted the party’s poll symbol.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said the batch of petitions raises important constitutional issues relating to the 10th schedule of the Constitution pertaining to disqualification, power of the Speaker and the Governor and judicial review. The apex court said the proposition of law laid down by the Constitution bench in the Nabam Rebia



case relating to the 10th schedule stands on contradictory reasoning which requires gap filling to uphold constitutional morality.

“The matters raise important issues which need consideration by a five-judge constitution bench. List the matter before the Constitution bench the day after tomorrow and the bench will decide about the symbol related to the Election Commission proceeding at the beginning,” the bench also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli said.

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Adani firms make ₹493 cr offer to buy 26% more stake in NDTV

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Richest Indian Gautam Adani’s group on Tuesday said it will buy a majority stake in New Delhi Television Ltd, one of the nation’s most popular news channels, as it looks to boost media investments as part of an ambitious expansion plan.

An Adani Group firm first acquired a company that in the past was linked to rival billionaire Mukesh Ambani. The particular company had loaned ₹250 crore to NDTV in 2008-09 and the Adani group firm now exercised the option to convert that debt into a 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel company.

Subsequently, it has launched an open offer for another 26 per cent stake for ₹493 crore, the group said.

This will be the ports-to-energy group’s most high-profile bet in the media sector where Ambani already has a sizeable presence through Network18, which runs a bouquet of channels, including news channel CNN-News18 and business channel CNBC-



TV18. Last year, Adani Media Ventures Ltd (AMVL), the media arm under the group’s flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), had acquired the digital business news platform Quintillion Business Media Pvt Ltd (QBM).

“AMVLs wholly-owned subsidiary Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL) holds warrants of RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd (RRPR) entitling it to convert them into 99.9 per cent stake in RRPR. VCPL has exercised warrants to acquire 99.5 per cent in RRPR,” it said.

Such acquisition will result

in VCPL acquiring control of RRPR.

“RRPR is a promoter group company of NDTV and holds a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV,” the statement said.

“VCPL, along with AMG Media Networks Ltd and AEL (persons acting in concert), will launch an open offer to acquire up to 26 per cent stake in NDTV” in compliance with takeover norm.

NDTV operates three national news channels - English news channel NDTV 24x7, Hindi news channel NDTV India and business news channel NDTV Profit.

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Govt not taking decisions in time: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Less than a week after he was dropped from the BJP’s Parliamentary Board, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has taken a potshot at the Centre, saying the Government is “not taking decisions in time.”

The Minister reportedly made the comments on Sunday at an event.

“You can make miracles...and the potential is there...My suggestion is the future of Indian infrastructure is very bright. We need to accept good technology, good innovation, good research, and successful practices in the world and in the country.

“We should have alternative materials by which we can reduce costs without compromising on quality. And time is the most important thing in construction. Time is the biggest capital. The biggest problem is the Government is not taking decisions in time,” Gadkari said.

Detailed report on Page 4

NIA-IB team to visit Moscow to unravel ISIS fidayeen’s plot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to send a joint team of the Intelligence Bureau and the National Investigation Agency to Russia to investigate the arrested ISIS suicide bomber’s links here.

The Russian authorities briefed National Security Adviser Ajit Doval during his recent visit to Moscow on the developments linked to the arrest of the suicide bomber.

The joint team of the IB and the NIA will seek to unravel the arrested bomber’s possible links with the Indian sleeper cells that were planned to provide logistical support to him for eliminating a BJP leader over the Prophet slur.

The joint Indian team is expected to gather the details of the interrogation by Russian agencies and seek to find out if any Indian ISIS radical group is associated with the Telegram app through which the arrested radical was indoctrinated by an emir (chief) of ISIS, they



said. The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), sources said, is coordinating with the Indian agencies.

The joint team of the NIA and the IB will meet with Russia’s intelligence agency, Federal Security Service, and collect all information on the ISIS terrorist’s Indian links, they said.

On Monday, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) had announced that it had detained a suicide bomber, a member of the ISIS terrorist organisation, who was plotting a terrorist attack against an Indian politician for avenging the alleged insult to Prophet Muhammad.

The arrested radical

Azamov Mashrabkhon is of Uzbek origin. As reported earlier by The Pioneer, the detained suicide bomber could be a member of the ISIS faction led by Gulmuraad Alimof based in southern Afghanistan with cadre base of 500 mujahideens.

“Russia’s FSB identified and detained a member of the Islamic State international terrorist organisation banned in Russia, a native of a country in the Central Asian region, who planned to commit a terrorist act by blowing himself up against one of the representatives of the ruling circles of India,” the authority had said in a statement on Monday.

The detainee was recruited by one of the ISIS or Daesh’s leaders as a suicide bomber in Turkey, the statement added. The FSB posted an interrogation video showing the suspect confessing that he was supposed to commit a terrorist act for remarks on Prophet Muhammad.

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Heart attack cuts Big Boss famed Sonali off in prime

PTI ■ PANAJI/CHANDIGARH

BJP leader from Haryana and actor Sonali Phogat died of a heart attack in Goa, police said on Tuesday.

Phogat (42), a former Tik Tok star who had also participated in the reality TV show “Bigg Boss”, was on a visit to Goa along with some of her staff members.

On Monday night, she was brought to St Anthony Hospital at Anjuna in North Goa district after she complained of uneasiness. Between 7 pm and 8 pm on Monday, Phogat had posted two different videos and four images on her Instagram profile showing her in a pink turban.

Goa Director General of Police Jaspal Singh told PTI that Phogat complained of uneasiness while she was at Curlies restaurant in Anjuna from where she was taken to hospital. There is no foul play in the case, he said. “There are no external injury marks on the body,” Singh said, adding that the post-mortem report will reveal the exact

cause of the death.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi said she was brought dead to hospital. “Prime facie, the cause of death is established as heart attack but further medical examination is on,” he said.

The body was sent to the State-run Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) at Bambolim for postmortem.

Forensic experts at the GMCH will conduct the postmortem, Singh said.

Haryana BJP chief OP Dhankar said, “She has passed away. I have been given information that she was in Goa.”

BJP’s Hissar district president Capt Bhupender said, “Sonali ji was in Goa. I spoke to her assistant and he said that she died of a heart attack.”

Phogat had unsuccessfully contested from Adampur Assembly constituency in Hissar against Kuldeep Bishnoi in the 2019 election. Bishnoi, who was then in the Congress, recently joined the BJP.

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NCR-PULSE

WATER SUPPLY IN DELHI TO BE AFFECTED: DJB
New Delhi: The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Tuesday issued an advisory stating that the water supply in some parts of the national Capital will be affected on August 24, due to the maintenance work. According to the advisory issued by the DJB, water supply to the few areas and colonies will not be available from 8.00 A.M. on August, 24th to 6.00PM on August, 24th due to installation of flow meter at Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Nangloi.

DJB VICE-CHAIRMAN CHAIRS MEET WITH OFFICIALS
New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman Saurabh Bhardwaj chaired a meeting with senior officials to lay focus on the fast expansion of the network of modern sewer lines in the national Capital that will help in collecting wastewater, allow its proper treatment in the STPs, reduce the pollution load in Yamuna and simultaneous clearing of the river.

‘POOR NURSE-PATIENT RATIO MUST BE RESOLVED’
New Delhi: Poor nurse-patient ratio is leading to increased workload, long working hours, double shifts and others leading to low quality of treatment. This issue must be resolved to build a robust health workforce in the country, lamented several associations of nurses and midwives including Indian Nursing Council, All India Government Nurses Federation, Trained Nurses Association of India, Society of Midwives-India (SOMI) and Jhpiego, a non-profit organisation for international health affiliation with Johns Hopkins University. They have now launched a campaign -- ‘#NurseMidwife4Change’ to draw the attention of the Government towards their plight.

NASIR GANG SHARPSHOOTER ARRESTED
New Delhi: A sharpshooter of Nasir gang along with his sister and associate were arrested for allegedly killing a person in order to usurp his flat in southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar area. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Azim alias Sultan Azim (40), resident of Welcome, his sister Nahid Abbasi (38) and Arman (19), both residents of Jamia Nagar.

COURT GRANTS BAIL TO MAN ACCUSED OF TRIPLE TALAQ
New Delhi: A Delhi court Tuesday granted anticipatory bail to a man accused of giving triple talaq to his wife, saying that two months after lodging the FIR, the investigating officer (IO) “has not even cared to take the statement of the relevant witness.” The court also sent a copy of the order to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) concerned for “proper investigation in the present matter.”

Distressed farmer attempts suicide near Maha Assembly

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

A distressed farmer from Osmanabad district in Maharashtra on Tuesday attempted to commit suicide by settling himself on fire in front of Vidhan Bhavan in south Mumbai, where the monsoon session of the Maharashtra Legislature is going on currently. Identified as one Subhash Bhanudas Deshmukh, the farmer doused himself with kerosene and set himself on fire near the Inox gate of the State Legislature building. He sustained 30 per cent burn wounds. He was rushed to GT Hospital, where he is being treated. The incident triggered instant protests within the State Assembly. The NCP-led Opposition staged a noisy walk out from the State Assembly to register its protest against measly financial assistance extended to heavy rain-affected farmers. Senior Congress leader and state party Nana Patole came down heavily on the Shinde-led Sena faction- BJP



alliance government had become an “insensitive” dispensation. “The farmer suicides have increased in the state because of insensitive manner in which is dealing with issues of farmers. The state government should give the farmer concerned adequate compensation,” Patole said. On his part, chief minister Eknath Shinde had earlier announced that the state government has doubled the sum of compensation mentioned in the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) norms.

Shinde said that the state government would also extend assistance to farmers in places that had recorded less than 65 mm rains in 24 hours, but witnessed 33 per cent loss of actual sown soil. The people whose houses have been damaged during the rains, would a get Rs 15,000 as one-time assistance, the chief minister added. Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the suicide attempt by the farmer was “unfortunate” and that the state government was monitoring the situation. He

said that the farmer concerned had attempted to commit suicide after a feud with his brother over a land dispute. “Prima facie, the farmer suffered 15 to 20 per cent burn injuries. The incident is unfortunate and the government is monitoring the situation,” Fadnavis said. A senior police officer said: “Security personnel on duty rushed to the farmer who had set himself on fire. He doused the flames and rushed the farmer to the GT Hospital. He is conscious.”

Yemen jobs: Indian workers seek release of passports

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Seeking release of their passports, some Indians who were working in Yemen for the past several years on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that their passports have been seized by the authorities due to a notification that travels to Yemen would seriously impair the conduct of foreign affairs of the Central government. Meanwhile, the counsel for the Central government submitted that they are awaiting instructions from the department, a Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad listed the matter for further hearing on September 1. The petitioners said they belong to a financially backward category, and their social conditions compelled them to find some jobs in a country like Yemen which is vulnerable from a security point of view. They said they are ready to swear an affidavit stating that he/she will not travel to Yemen until the Government of India lifts the travel ban.



The 23 petitioners, through advocate Subhash Chandran K R, sought to set aside a September 26, 2019 gazette notification of the Central Government on the ground that it was ultra-vires to the Constitution and as an alternative prayer, they sought the release of their passports. As per the gazette notification, the passport or travel document issued by the Central Government is invalid for the travel of the holder to Yemen as it would seriously impair the conduct of foreign affairs of the Government of India. It further states that any Indian national who travels to Yemen in violation of this notification, shall be liable for action under Section 12 of the Passports Act, 1967 and the passport shall be liable for impounding or revocation.

Two killed, another injured as assailants open fire in Mundka

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Two men were killed and another sustained injuries after two unidentified bike borne assailants opened fire on them in west Delhi's Mundka area. The incident took place on Monday. The deceased have been identified as Mangal (60) and Joginder (42) while the injured has been identified as Mohan Lal (62), all three residents of II Colony, Bakkarwala. According to Sameer Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, teams from the crime and forensic science laboratory have inspected the spot of the incident and found six empty cartridges and three live cartridges.



“A helmet belonging to one of the assailants was also found on a slab at the entry point of the street. The CCTV footage was analysed and two men in the age group of 25 to 28 years were seen coming from Bakkarwala village at 9.05 pm and after a few minutes, were seen running back,” said the DCP. “One of them was wearing a black cap and another had tied a muffler on his head, the DCP said. According to Lal, he along with Mangal had gone to Joginder's house where one more person was also present, police said.

Around 9 pm, two men came there and asked about the residence of Satish -- Joginder's deceased father. As Joginder pointed towards the photo of his father, the assailants opened fire. Joginder and Mangal fell down while Lal ran inside the house, they said. A case under sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention) and Arms Act has been registered at Mundka police station. Section 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy) was also added in the case, police said. Joginder was from the Sansi community and involved in three cases of the Excise Act, while his wife was involved in two cases of the Excise Act, police said. Mangal had a tent business and Lal is an e-rickshaw driver.

32-yr-old man arrested for ‘cyber stalking’ woman

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 32 year-old ‘cyber stalker’, who had allegedly created a Facebook profile of a woman by using her images along with obscene descriptions to harass her. The accused has been identified as Mahaveer Singh, a resident of Mahaveer Enclave. Two mobile phones used in the commission of crime were also seized, police said. According to M Harsha Vardhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district, the matter was reported by a woman who alleged that some unknown person had created two fake Facebook profiles of hers and had been posting her photos with ‘obscene’ description. “She also alleged that she has been receiving various sexually charged messages and

pornographic photos by random people. Following the complaint, details of the fake Facebook accounts and virtual numbers were obtained and analysed, said the DCP. “On the basis of this investigation, one Mahaveer Singh was identified as a suspect and his house in Mahaveer Enclave in Delhi was raided by a team,” said the DCP. “During interrogation, he disclosed that his brother Manwar Singh used to live on the first floor of the victim's house on rent eight-nine years ago and he knew her since then,” said the DCP. “He liked her and searched her Facebook Id and messaged her, but she did not reply. He then created fake Facebook Ids using her photos and uploaded them,” he said. The accused is a vendor and used to sell plastic items in streets. He is physically handicapped, the DCP said.

Remarks on Prophet by BJP MLA shameful, says Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Tuesday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party and said that the remarks made by its MLA against the Prophet of Islam were shameful and condemnable. The BJP should work to salvage the image of the country by restraining its leaders, she said. “The heated atmosphere created after the controversial remarks against the Prophet by Nupur Sharma, who was later suspended from the BJP, has not cooled down and now another BJP leader, Telangana MLA Raja Singh, has made similar kind of remarks which is very shameful and condemnable,” Mayawati said. “Though the Telangana government has arrested the BJP MLA in Hyderabad, it is the responsibility of the BJP leadership to restrain its people to maintain peace in the country and maintain India's progress abroad,” the BSP supremo said in a series of tweets on Tuesday. The BJP has suspended its Telangana MP T Raja Singh amid furore over his comments against Prophet Mohammad. The Goshamahal MLA was arrested in Hyderabad on Tuesday



following protests in various parts of the city over his remarks. A day earlier, the politician had released a video criticising stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui (who recently performed in Hyderabad) and purportedly made some comments against his religion. Earlier, an FIR was filed against Singh under various sections of IPC pertaining to promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs and criminal intimidation.

Heart attack cuts Big Boss famed Sonali...

From Page 1
Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, BJP leaders OP Dhankar and Kuldeep Bishnoi took to Twitter to condole Phogat's demise. Bishnoi had met Phogat in Hissar a few days ago. Phogat was active on social media and recently posted photos of her meeting with Bishnoi. On Monday evening, some videos and photographs were uploaded on her Instagram profile. In one solo video, with no hashtags, she was seen wearing a pink turban.

Another video, with hashtags Haryana, Haryanvi, Chore, showed her with a group of people. The video was also tagged to @suneelrao (Suneel Rao), who is a BJP leader from Haryana, and @binderdandaofficial (Binder Danoda), who claims to be an artist on his Instagram profile. Phogat had also posted four photographs showing her in the pink turban, with hashtags like ‘Real Boss Lady’, ‘Haryana’, ‘Dabang’, ‘Strong’, ‘Always ready’, ‘Smile for the pictures’.

Phogat had 8,85,000 fol-

lowers on Instagram and her profile described her as a “mother, actor and content creator.” After the news of her death, many people expressed grief through comments on these posts. Her Instagram profile had no pictures from her Goa visit. Phogat's Facebook profile also had similar pictures in pink turban, uploaded around the same time as that on Instagram. She had participated in a Janmashtami festival function in Hissar a few days back. Her husband passed away a few years ago.

Uddhav-Shinde row: SC transfers case to Constitution...

From Page 1
The top court asked the Constitution bench to look into constitutional issues whether notice for removal of speaker restricts him from continuing with disqualification proceedings, whether a petition under Article 32 or 226 lies against disqualification proceedings, can a court hold that member is deemed to be disqualified by virtue of his/her actions, what is status of proceedings in the house pending

disqualification petitions against the members. The bench was hearing pending cases related to the recent political crisis in Maharashtra that led to the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the State. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the prevention of defection of the elected and nominated members from their political party and contains stringent provisions against defections.

Traffic Police planning to procure latest body cameras for better traffic management

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police is planning to procure the latest version of body cameras for enhanced traffic management. The traffic unit already has over 400 body cameras and the department requires around 2,000 such equipment. According to a senior traffic cop, it (procurement process) is in initial stage. “The traffic police department is going to increase the usage of body cameras when

time comes. We are also trying to get such cameras where we can access live streaming of traffic situation in any part of the city. We have also invited tenders for such type of cameras which can give live feed to the headquarters,” said the senior traffic police official. The body cams can also help record a face and that data can be used to nab culprits also, the officer said. “The body camera can take care a lot of grievances of public, including the behav-

iour of police personnel. It can scrutinise the behaviour of public also -- whether they are threatening police, not behaving properly, whether they were drunk, etc. The body-worn cameras have their own utility,” he said. The new cameras will have latest technology, he added. Earlier, the police had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with FM radio channels to give live updates about traffic congestions and diversions to commuters in the national capital.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To, be known to all that my client, **SHRI RAJENDER PRASAD AND LALSHAN RANI** both sons of **LATE KISHAN LAL** both residents of **FLAT NO.06, FIRST FLOOR, POCKET-GH-3, MILAP APARTMENTS, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110063**, is the owner of **BODA LIG FLAT NO.06, FIRST FLOOR, POCKET-GH-3, MILAP APARTMENT, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110063**. **NOTE: DDA FILE NO. L/3441/16/06/AAV/PI** have applied for Conversion of leasehold from freehold of the aforesaid property in DDA. The original documents i.e. Original DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION, title POSSESSION SLIP and CASH DEPOSIT RECEIPT of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable despite of his best efforts. An **ELR, NCR** to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi **Q.R. No. 88612/2022** dated **10.08.2022**. Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director L&I (Housing) or Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tri Hazari Court, Delhi-54

BJP suspends Telangana MLA for Prophet...

From Page 1
The protests were triggered by a video on social media, in which Singh was heard making offensive remarks about Islam and Muslims. Singh had released a video against stand-up comic Munawar Faruqui, who held a show in Hyderabad last week amid protests. Raja Singh said Faruqui hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus in his show. In another development, Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay was arrested when he was set to protest in the case of the alleged involvement of ruling TRC MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntala in the Delhi liquor policy issue. The BJP State chief alleged police mis-handling of the BJP activists. Kavitha is the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, who has been attacking Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and his party which he sees making inroads in the State in a bid to oust him in the next Assembly polls. BJP President JP Nadda strongly condemned what he called the “illegal arrest” of the BJP State president by the TRS Government. “KCR is worried seeing the massive support that the BJP is receiving from all corners of the State against his corrupt and family-centric regime,” tweeted Nadda. “We will fight democratically and ensure that in the coming elections TRC & KCR will be wiped out,” he said in another tweet. This week Union Minister Amit Shah visited Telangana when Congress MLA from Munugodu, K Rajagopal Reddy joined the BJP in his presence. He also addressed a public rally, giving a call for KCR's ouster.

Adani firms make ₹493 cr offer to buy 26% more stake in...

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It also has a strong online presence and remains one of the most followed news handles on social media with more than 35 million followers across various platforms. The open offer would be worth ₹493 crore. Earlier on Tuesday, Adani said it bought VCPL for ₹114 crore. Incorporated in 2008, VCPL was initially linked to Ambani's group but its ownership was transferred to a firm run by an associate with links to Delhi-based Nahata Group in 2012.

Ambani's Jio had bought Nahata group's Infotel Broadband in 2010 to re-enter the telecom business. VCPL along with Adani Media Networks Ltd and Adani Enterprises Ltd has made the open offer at a price of ₹294 each for the acquisition of up to 1,67,62,530 fully paid-up equity shares of NDTV's share price, which has risen more than 300 per cent so far this year, closed at ₹366.20 apiece on BSE on Tuesday. The open offer price is 19.71 per cent lower than the closing price on Tuesday. NDTV had a revenue of Rs 421

crore with an EBITDA of ₹123 crore and net profit of Rs 85 crore in FY22 (April 2021 to March 2022) with negligible debt. Adani group has been an eyeing entry into the media space for the past few months. In September last year, it hired veteran journalist Sanjay Pugalia to lead its media company, Adani Media Ventures. Pugalia previously was president of Quint Digital Media, the parent company of QBM. “This (NDTV) acquisition is a significant milestone in the journey of AMNL's goal to pave the path of new

age media across platforms,” Sanjay Pugalia, CEO of AMG Media Networks Ltd (AMNL), said. AMNL, he said, seeks to empower Indian citizens, consumers and those interested in India, with information and knowledge. “With its leading position in news and its strong and diverse reach across genres and geographies, NDTV is the most suitable broadcast and digital platform to deliver on our vision. We look forward to strengthening NDTV's leadership in news delivery,” he said.

bomber swore allegiance to the ISIS Emir (chief), after which he was instructed to leave for Russia, draw up the necessary documents and fly to India to commit this act of terrorism, the report said.

Files sent to me sans signatures: LG to CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has sent a note to Arvind Kejriwal flagging up the fact that files without the Chief Minister's signature were being sent by the Chief Minister Office (CMO) for his opinion and approval. The claim was made amid a tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government and the office of the L-G over various issues.

In a letter to Kejriwal, the L-G said it should be ensured by CMO that all files sent to him for opinion/ approval, are signed by the Chief Minister.

According to the letter from the L-G to the CM, "a significant number of proposals, as a matter of routine, have been submitted by your office for my approval or for my opinion under the constitution by your Joint Secretary or



"I would also like to suggest that your office may consider introducing the e-office system at the earliest so as to enable seamless movement of files," says Saxena in letter to Kejriwal

Additional Secretary, with the remarks 'Hon'ble CM has seen and approved the proposal' without specifying any grounds of urgency warranting such a communication. In this regard, attention is drawn to the Manual of Office Procedure, 2022 which pro-



vides that 'in rare and urgent cases' when the Minister is on tour/is sick and his/her approval has to be taken on telephone, the decision of the Minister shall be conveyed by his/her Private Secretary in writing. In such cases, confirmation shall be obtained on file

when the Minister returns to headquarters /rejoins." "The current practice of submission of files on a routine basis under the signatures of your officials needs to be discouraged /avoided as in the absence of your signature, it is not clear whether the proposal has been seen and approved by you or not.

Further, on receipt of files at the level of the Joint/Additional Secretary from your office, L-G Secretariat is also constrained to communicate my decision at the level of officials," letter read. "Therefore, in the interest of smooth and effective governance, it may be ensured that proposals, which are submitted by your office for my opinion or approval, as the case may be, should be duly signed by your good self.

I would also like to suggest that your office may consider introducing the e-office system at the earliest so as to enable

seamless movement of files," the letter further read. "Kejriwal has been sending files for consideration, opinion and approval of the L-G without affixing his signatures.

This is a stark departure from the past when such files were duly signed by CMs between 1993 - 2013. Such files apart from being related to administration and governance of the city, also include extremely sensitive matters," sources claimed.

"Such files apart from being related to administration and governance of the city, also include extremely sensitive matters. Kejriwal is doing this to distance himself from decisions amounting to corruption, embezzlement and constitutional overreach even as he remains totally involved in these and presides over every decision with full control," sources alleged.

One day Delhi Assembly session likely on Aug 26

Discussions on ongoing Excise Policy row expected to be held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the Excise Policy controversy, the Delhi Government is expected to call a one day Assembly session on Friday. Discussions on the ongoing Excise Policy row are expected to be held during the one day session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly.

Top sources said that the Chief Minister desires the approval of the Council of Ministers to be obtained through a circular. The BJP and AAP have been locking horns over alleged irregularities in the



liquor policy of the Delhi Government that is currently being probed by the CBI. The Opposition BJP has been demanding a session to discuss the Excise Policy and has also been demanding the resignation of both Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on this issue.

Leader of Opposition, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has been questioning how the "Council of Ministers approved the opening of liquor shops in non-conforming area under

the Excise Policy." "They have also misled the House when asked about the issue.

Sisodia stated in a written reply that the policy is under consideration while the document said that the Excise Policy has been approved in November last year by the Cabinet,' Bidhuri alleged. Facing a CBI probe in the Excise Policy, Sisodia had on Monday said that he was offered the Chief Minister's post by the BJP and closure of all cases against him if he quit the AAP and joined the saffron outfit.

Sisodia has been supported in his claim by Arvind Kejriwal, who said that raids by CBI were attempts to topple his Government in Delhi, just like it has been done by the saffron outfit in other parts of the country.

New Excise Policy caused loss of ₹6,500 cr to exchequer: Parvesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing its tirade against the AAP over the alleged Excise Policy scam, the BJP on Tuesday alleged that the Delhi Government had ignored recommendations of an expert committee on the Excise Policy. BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said the expert committee was against promotions to push liquor sales but the Delhi Government gave a cartoon free on every carton sold.

The committee had suggested to follow the Karnataka model wherein the Government is responsible for wholesale business. The panel said no individual can be given more than one licence.

It had also recommended against opening liquor vends in non-conforming areas like villages and colonies without commercial markets. But the Government ignored all these suggestions, he alleged.

The policy says the licence fee should be forfeited if the applicant does not accept the licence after winning the bid within a stipulated time. The AAP Government returned ₹144 crore to such persons but did not waive a single rupee of small businessmen during the Covid pandemic," Verma claimed.

The new Excise Policy caused a loss of ₹6,500 crore to Government exchequer, this itself is a crime, he alleged. Verma said the BJP had been asking chemistry questions but Delhi Excise Minister Manish Sisodia is giving "answers of history". "They have been deflecting questions and pitching Kejriwal as an alternative to



PM Modi (for 2024 general elections)... They have been patting each other on the back," he said.

Verma also attacked AAP MP Raghav Chadha, saying he was a "weak" wrestler who challenged "Gama pehlawan" —referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi — and ran away. Meanwhile, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said the



AAP leaders had been patting each other on the back and digressing from the questions raised on the alleged malpractices.

On October 25, 2021, the Delhi excise department had brought some cases of common producers, retailers and distributors to the notice of the Government, but it did not act on it, he claimed.

BJP trying every trick in book to topple Delhi Govt: Saurabh



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014 offered its MLAs ₹5 crore to join them. The AAP's spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava alleged that the BJP has now reached out to Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and offered to make him the Chief Minister if he leaves AAP and joins them. "We will defeat 'Operation Lotus' in Delhi once again," he added.

Addressing a press conference, Bhargava also said the BJP is running 'Operation Lotus' in Delhi and they are pulling every trick in the book to topple the democratically-elected Government in Delhi.

"This is their modus operandi. They began by targeting Sisodia which is evident through the massive campaign against him for alleged scam in building classrooms of Government schools. Nothing came out of it and the BJP fell flat on their faces," said

Bhargava. "Afterwards, the BJP threw allegations on him for some irregularities associated with the Excise Policy.

The campaign ran for several months. Then, they threatened with CBI raids. Despite CBI raids at Sisodia's house, they could not find even an iota of evidence," said Bhargava.

Bhargava then showed a video and said that in this video it is clearly visible that BJP leaders were contacting AAP Legislators and they are offering a whopping amount of ₹5 crore. Hitting hard at BJP, the AAP Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Singh said that BJP seems to be under great distress ever since the AAP crushed their dreams and nullified their 'Operation Lotus' in Delhi.

"The BJP thought their experiments with Shinde would reap benefits in Delhi too, but here they were met by the valour, courage and loyalty of Sisodia. This is why the whole of BJP, starting from its top leadership, is repenting its actions today," said Singh.

AAP legislator from Kalkaji, Atishi appealed to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to stop focusing on breaking parties and toppling governments. "I urge Prime Minister to think about youth, women, and children of country. They are hoping that you will give solutions to their problem and you are conspiring against other Governments.



AAP volunteers, office-bearers join BJP

AAP volunteers quit the party in protest over charges of corruption in Excise Policy: Adesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several AAP volunteers and office-bearers on Tuesday joined the Delhi unit of the BJP which has been accused of trying to topple the Kejriwal Government and weaken the ruling party in two States.

Welcoming the new entrants in the party fold, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta said that AAP volunteers quit the party in protest over charges of corruption in the Excise Policy against the Kejriwal Government in Delhi. AAP workers who joined the BJP included Mayur Vihar district

vice-president Anuj Kumar Singh, Najafgarh Vidhan Sabha in-charge Jitendra Sharma, Anjani Mishra, Krishna Kumar, Amarnath, and Danish Khan. "Several office bearers of AAP, including its East Delhi Lok Sabha unit in-charge Chandra Ketu Mishra, have joined the BJP. They quit the AAP, troubled by scams and corruption of the Kejriwal government," the Delhi BJP president said.

Gupta said that AAP is diverting issue with its accusation against BJP of trying to cause a rift in party, and avoiding questions raised over allegations in its excise policy. "AAP leaders are talking about 'Operation Lotus' only to divert attention from their scams and corruption. Ten senior volunteers who held posts of office bearers in different units of AAP and their scores of fol-

lowers have joined the AAP," said Gupta. "The way AAP Government has created records of corruption in every sector, AAP workers were disillusioned with the party and have joined BJP," he said.

Facing a CBI probe in the Delhi excise policy, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had on Monday claimed that he was "offered the CM's post" by the BJP and closure of all cases if he quit the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and joined the saffron outfit. Sisodia's has been supported in his claim by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who said that raids by CBI were attempts to topple his government in Delhi.

The BJP and AAP have been locking horns over "irregularities" in the liquor policy of the Delhi Government currently being probed by CBI.

AIIMS scam: ED attaches assets of proprietor under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ED has provisionally attached two immovable properties at Delhi and the amounts in the bank accounts of Sneh Enterprises and its proprietor Sneh Rani totalling to Rs 3.68 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case of fraudulent payments of Rs 13.43 crore from Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS (RPC, AIIMS).

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated September 6, 2021 registered by Delhi Police under various sections of the Indian Penal



Code (IPC) against one Bijender Kumar, employee of AIIMS, and others. In this case, during the Covid 19 pandemic, payments were released to Sneh Enterprises without supply of linen and other store items to RPC, AIIMS.

The ED probe revealed that Bijender Kumar, Junior Administrative Assistant at

RPC, AIIMS, and others, in well planned conspiracy, generated 'Proceeds of Crime' by committing cheating/fraud with RPC, AIIMS, New Delhi, the ED said in a statement.

"Investigations so far disclose that during the period of December 2020 to September 2021, Rs 13.43 crore have been embezzled and laundered and Proceeds of Crime was generated," it said.

The agency said Bijender Kumar was working as Junior Administrative Assistant, in RPC, AIIMS and he with the assistance of Program Assistant (Contractual) to Dr Atul Kumar, the then Chief of RPC, AIIMS, raised fake indents and created fake sup-

ply order in favour of Sneh Enterprises. Further, he created fake delivery challans, including inspection note and got an amount of Rs 13.43 crore released to Sneh Enterprises, in lieu of illegal gratification, without delivery of any goods, which he invested in purchase of two immovable properties at Delhi for Rs 70 lakh.

The proprietor of Sneh Enterprises, Sneh Rani, further transferred the amounts fraudulently received from AIIMS to her other bank accounts and made further payments to various parties. An amount of Rs 2.98 crore has been traced to the bank accounts of Sneh Enterprises and its proprietor, it added.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi police on Tuesday registered cross First Information Reports (FIRs), a day after students from the ABVP and members of the security staff clashed at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus.

According to Manoj C, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, On the complainant of Nishant, a JNU Student, a case under section 323 (voluntarily obstructs any public servant in the discharge of his public functions), 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at Vasant Kunj



North police station. "After receiving another complaint of Navin, the chief security officer of the JNU, an FIR under sections 186 (voluntarily obstructs any public servant in the discharge of his public functions), 323 (voluntarily causes hurt), 342 (wrongful confinement), 506 (criminal intimidation), 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance

of common intention) of the IPC has been registered at Vasant Kunj North police station," said the DCP adding that both cases are pending investigation.

On Monday afternoon, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) had alleged that when JNU students gheraoed the varsity administration office regarding the issue of fellowship and scholarship, the varsity administration carried out a violent attack on the students to suppress the scholarship scam.

According to ABVP, the university administration has been ignoring the demands of fellowship and scholarship for a long time. "The students

have not received their fellowship for more than one year. The JNU admin have been very intolerating and careless when it comes to release MCM and fellowship. Whenever we go to administration for answer they often misbehave with students," said the ABVP in a statement.

"It should be known that this attack on the students was done at the behest of Dr Ajay Dubey of JNU who is also varsity's Rector. JNU rector has been already exposed he is running two illegal NGOs from his JNU address," claimed the right wing students' outfit.

The student wing claimed that around dozens of students sustained injuries in the clashes.

Gahlot: It was Kejriwal's dream to empower women and provide jobs



Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot with the first batch of 11 women joining Delhi's city transportation fleet as bus drivers in New Delhi on Tuesday

In a first, 11 women bus drivers get training, jobs with DTC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Minister, Kailash Gahlot on Tuesday handed over appointment letters to the first batch of 11 women bus drivers who have completed their training and will be employed with the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).

He further said that the Government plans to have 200 women bus drivers with the

DTC as part of its effort to provide employment opportunities to them. Addressing the media, Gahlot said that it was CM Arvind Kejriwal's dream to empower women and provide them employment. "Today, 11 women drivers got employment letters after completing their training.

Ten more women are getting trained while the other batches have also begun. We plan to have 200 women drivers in DTC," he said. "We had relaxed norms for the women.

These women drivers have completed a training of three months. They have been trained in the depot and also have had on-road training. Experienced trainers from DTC have trained them," Gahlot added.

AAP Govt seeks opinion of Delhiites on draft MV scheme

Scheme aims to reduce intra-city trips of private vehicles by making premium AC bus service available

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has sought public opinion on its draft of the Delhi Motor Vehicle Licensing of Aggregators (Premium Buses) scheme which aims to reduce intra-city trips of private vehicles by making available premium air-conditioned bus service to people and reduce pollution in the bargain. The Government has sought sug-

gestions by September 8 on the draft scheme. According to the draft, the aggregators will have to pay a one-time licence fee of Rs one lakh but for electric buses, the licence fee shall be exempted to promote clean transport options.

The licence shall be valid for a period of five years. Under the scheme, each aggregator shall maintain a fleet of minimum 50 premium buses and will be permitted to have dynamic pricing, above the threshold of peak fare of DTC AC buses. The aggregator will have to seek passengers only through web or mobile-based application, and no physical tickets will be issued.

The draft scheme said that prior to the commencement of

a trip, the aggregator shall post the details of the vehicles, the driver and the staff and a 'passenger manifest' for the journey.

Further booking and additions to the passenger list will be allowed only if done 10 minutes prior to the boarding time. "The passenger manifest will only have the last name, gender and age of the passenger and not their first name.

The aggregator will also have to provide a mechanism to lodge complaints on their app and also display the grievance redressal mechanism inside the bus prominently, the draft said.

The app will also have a panic button on its app for women passengers.



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Less than a week after he was dropped from the BJP's Parliamentary Board, the most powerful decision-making body of the party, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has yet again indulged in some plain-speak, saying the Government was "not taking decisions in time" and that's a problem.

The Minister reportedly made the comments on Sunday at an event. "You can make miracles...and the potential is there...My suggestion is the future of Indian infrastructure is very bright.

We need to accept good technology, good innovation, good research and successful practices in the world and in the country. We should have

‘Govt not taking decisions in time and it’s a problem’

alternative materials by which we can reduce costs without compromising on the quality. And time is the most important thing in the construction. Time is the biggest capital. The biggest problem is the Government is not taking decisions on time," the NDTV quoted Gadkari as saying.

Time is "more important than technology or resources", he said, addressing NATCON 2022, organized by the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers, Mumbai.

Gadkari's comments are diametrically opposite to what the Prime Minister said recently, that his Government delivered water to 7 crore households in three years while only three crore were connected in the last 70 years.

Hours after his comments on decisions taking time, Gadkari said in Nagpur that the BJP's rise to power could be

credited to Vajpayee, LK Advani and Deendayal Upadhyaya. Gadkari referred to Vajpayee's speech at the BJP's 1980 conclave in Mumbai. "Atal ji had said - andhera chhatega, sooraj niklega, kamal khilega (The darkness will disappear, the Sun will come out and the lotus (BJP's poll symbol) will bloom) one day," Gadkari said.

"I was there. Everybody who heard that speech believed that such a day will come. Atal ji, Advani ji, Deendayal Upadhyaya and many workers did such work that today we are in power under PM Modi's leadership in the country and in many states," he said.

The first pointer to that something is amiss at the top level was reflected in Gadkari's cryptic comment weeks ago at Nagpur when he said "sometimes I think like quitting politics" and that politics is now

only for "satta" (power). These comments of Gadkari had then created ripples in the political circles giving rise to speculation about (his) equation with the top BJP leadership.

His missing space in the parliamentary board later seemingly confirmed 'suspicions' in the political circles. Gadkari has also ceased to be a CEC member after his omission from the board.

The diminishing stature of the powerful minister from Maharashtra who once headed the BJP is being seen as a mark of distrust between the Modi-government and him.

Hailing from Nagpur, Gadkari is otherwise considered close to the RSS, the mother organization of the BJP. The Minister has, however, been since 2014 keeping a low profile in party, focusing on his ministerial work.

Nations should respect others' sovereignty: India

China and Pakistan adopting double standards in fighting terrorism: India's Permanent Representative to UN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has chided China and Pakistan for adopting "double standards" in fighting terrorism and emphasised that any "coercive or unilateral" action that seeks to change the status quo by force is an affront to the principle of common security.

Making this point, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Ruchira Kamboj also said all countries should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and respect international agreements. These remarks came in the backdrop of continuing stand-offs at the border in eastern Ladakh for the last two years

between the armies of China and India. Also, China recently blocked a move initiated by India and US to impose UN sanctions on Abdul Rauf Azhar, the brother of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar. Beijing has said it needs more time to assess the application to list Azhar as a global terrorist.

The Indian representative enunciated the country's position while while addressing a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on the topic 'Promote Common Security Through Dialogue and Cooperation' on Monday. However, she refrained from naming China and Pakistan.

The UNSC meeting was convened at the behest of China, the president of the Security Council for August and a veto-wielding member of the 15-member Council.

In her remarks, Kamboj noted that one of the guiding questions posed by the Presidency for the meeting is what constitutes "common security?" "Common security

is also only feasible when all countries stand together against common threats such as terrorism and do not engage in double standards while preaching otherwise," Kamboj said in an apparent jibe towards China and its close ally, Pakistan. China has repeatedly blocked the attempts of India and the US at the UN to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists.

Kamboj also took a veiled swipe at Beijing over its aggressive behaviour in the region. "Any coercive or unilateral action that seeks to change the status quo by force is an affront to common security.

Further, common security is only possible when countries respect each others' sovereignty and territorial integrity, as they would expect their own sovereignty to be respected," she said.

"Common security is also possible only if countries respect agreements signed with others, bilateral or multilateral, and do not take unilateral measures to nullify those very arrangements to those they

were party to," she said as India has insisted that China has violated border pacts by amassing its military in eastern Ladakh in 2020. China has territorial disputes with many other countries in region.

Vikram K Doraiswami appointed India's new High Commissioner to UK

Seasoned diplomat Vikram K Doraiswami was on Tuesday appointed as India's new high commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK), considered an important posting in view of growing strategic ties between the two countries. The Indian Foreign Service officer of 1992 batch is currently

serving as Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh. High Commissioner to the UK Gaitri Issar Kumar retired from service on June 30. Doraiswami is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the MEA said. PNS

SC holds Section 3(2) of Benami Transactions Act unconstitutional

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down one of the provisions of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988, which provides for the punishment of a maximum jail term of three years or a fine or both for those indulging in 'benami' transactions. The apex court termed the provision "unconstitutional" on the ground of being "manifestly arbitrary".

"We hold section 3(2) of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 as unconstitutional," a Bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices C T Ravikumar and Hima Kohli said.

Section 3 of the statute deals with the issue of "Prohibition of benami transactions" and its impugned subsection (2) says: "Whoever enters into any benami transaction shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both."

The verdict came on the appeal of the Centre challenging the Calcutta High Court judgement in which it was held that the amendment made in the 1988 Act in 2016 would

Sukesh Chandrashekhar, wife to be sent to Mandoli jail from Tihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered that notorious conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar and his wife be shifted from Tihar jail to Mandoli jail in the city.

A bench of Justices SR Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia passed the order on a plea filed by Chandrashekhar and his wife alleging a threat to their lives and seeking a transfer to a prison outside Delhi. Chandrashekhar is lodged in jail on charges of and duping several people.

"Having considered the materials on the record and also having regard to the order made on June 17, 2022, this court is of the opinion that in terms of the statement made by the respondent on June 23, 2022, the petitioners should be shifted to Mandoli jail.

It is accordingly ordered," the bench said, adding they be shifted to the Mandoli jail within a week. "This is an

be applicable with prospective effect. The 1988 Act was made to prohibit 'benami' transac-

order for both," the bench said orally. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju argued before the bench that Chandrashekhar is running an "extortion racket" and a "conning racket" from inside Tihar Jail and several prison officials have been suspended. He said Tihar Jail has become difficult for him to operate so he wants to be shifted to another prison so that he can start his racket again.

On June 20, the ED had made some startling revelations against Chandrashekhar that he indulged in money laundering, extortion, impersonation of public officials including those holding constitutional posts, and had opposed his plea for prison transfer outside Delhi. The probe agency has sought to intervene in plea filed by Chandrashekhar and his wife.

The probe agency named several TV and film personalities with whom alleged 'con-man' has contacts and used to give them expensive gifts.

tions and the right to recover property that is held to be 'benami'.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to sustain the tempo of self-reliance in developing a potent missile system, Indian scientists on Tuesday successfully flight tested the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).

Once inducted, the missile will be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy and further



strengthen its capabilities for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

Giving details of the test, officials said here the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully flight tested VL-SRSAM from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

The flight test was carried

out from an Indian Naval Ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability. The missiles, equipped with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy. The VL-SRSAM system has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO. During the test launch, flight path and vehicle performance parameters were monitored using flight data, captured by various Range instruments such as Radar, Electro-optical tracking system (EOTS) and Telemetry systems deployed by ITR, Chandipur.

The launch was monitored by senior scientists from various DRDO labs involved in the design and development of the system such as Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad and Research and Development Engineers, Pune. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO, Indian Navy and associated teams on the successful flight trial of VL-SRSAM.

Chief of DRDO G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams involved in the successful flight test and said the trial has proved the effectiveness of the weapon system which can take out sea-skimming targets.

Indian Coast Guard hands over 32 rescued fishermen to Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard on Tuesday handed over 32 rescued Bangladeshi fishermen to Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) in accordance with the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two Coast Guards.

The Indian Coast Guard Ship Varad formally handed over all 32 rescued Bangladeshi fishermen safely to Bangladesh Coast Guard Ship 'Tajuddin (PL-72)' at Indo-Bangla International Maritime Boundary Line. Bangladesh Coast Guard has thanked Indian Coast Guard for their humanitarian role in saving the lives of Bangladeshi fishermen.

These fishermen were rescued from sea after their boats had capsized during cyclonic weather which travelled along the coast of Bangladesh and West Bengal between August 19 and 20.

Most of these fishermen were found clinging on to nets in turbulent sea and struggling to survive for

almost 24 hours after their boats had capsized, when they were sighted by Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft on August 20, officials said here on Tuesday. Out of 32 Bangladeshi fishermen, 27 were rescued by Indian Coast Guard in deep waters and remaining five were rescued by Indian fishermen in shallow areas.

These fishermen, when recovered, were in the state of extreme shock and were administered with first aid, served with food and drinking water by Indian Coast Guard men.

Coast Guard also rescued of 18 Indian fishermen in co-ordination with local fishermen. Giving details here, officials said here on Tuesday during the cyclonic weather on August 19, Coast Guard Station, Frazerganj received information from district administration, South 24 Parganas about capsizing of one Indian fishing boat named 'FB Satyanarayan' with 18 crew members at a distance of around five nautical miles south east of Bhanganuni Island.

ED arrests 4 in bank fraud of ₹605 cr



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four persons in connection with the bank fraud case involving Rs 605 crore by Shree Bankey Behari Exports Limited (SBBEL).

The arrested persons are Amar Chand Gupta, Ram Lal Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta (Directors of SBBEL) and Sanjay Kansal, nephew and employee of Amar Chand Gupta, the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on

the basis of an FIR dated February 26, 2020 registered by CBI against SBBEL, its Directors Amar Chand Gupta and others as also other unknown public servants/persons on the allegations that directors of SBBEL conspired to misappropriate bank funds.

They were booked by the CBI for misappropriation of bank funds, criminal breach of trust, manipulation of books of accounts through fictitious entities and sister concerns of SBBEL and have routed funds through shell entities and siphoned off the funds from company's accounts for their personal gains causing loss to the tune of Rs 605 crore to the public sector banks during 2010 to 2017.

Investigation revealed that the bank funds sanctioned to SBBEL were transferred to personal bank accounts of directors of the firm by routing

through their individual proprietorship concerns under guise of genuine sale/purchase transactions and infused as share capital totaling Rs 191 crore in SBBEL by them. The bank funds, which were projected and infused as share capital in SBBEL which were then used to create fixed assets of

more than Rs 100 crore by diverting, layering through various entities under their control. Ram Lal Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta and Sanjay Kansal have been remanded by a special court to seven-day ED custody. Amar Chand Gupta has been remanded for five-day ED custody.

Properties worth ₹60 cr of promoters of RE Cables & Conductors Pvt Ltd attached

The ED has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 59.94 crore under the PMLA belonging to directors and promoters of RE Cables & Conductors Pvt Ltd and other entry providers indulgent in money laundering activities. The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI, Chennai, against the firm RECC and others for alleged misappropriation of the funds of SBI and Ratnakar Bank Ltd which caused wrongful loss to the tune of Rs 74.83 crore. The accused diverted these funds involving various modus operandi like accommodated LC (Letter of Credit) transactions, bogus turnover entries and round tripping of loan funds with the help of shell entities floated by them. PNS



Congress president Sonia Gandhi calls on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday

PM to interact with participants of Smart India Hackathon tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students participating in the grand finale of this year's Smart India Hackathon (SIH) on Thursday.

Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar on Tuesday informed that the hackathon is a nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems people face in daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been interacting with the student participants of the Smart India Hackathon every year since its inception and he is expected to interact

with the students even this year at 8 pm on August 25," Sarkar said at a press conference. The Prime Minister will interact with the students through video-conferencing.

Development of a crime predicting model or tool for hotspot mapping using image processing and artificial intelligence and machine learning approach; transfer of multimedia data through police radio sets; optical character recognition of temple inscriptions and translations in Devanagari scripts; high resolution 3D model of terrain, infrastructure and roads conditions in disaster struck areas and IoT enabled risk monitoring system in cold supply chain for perishable food items are among problem statements on which students are working during this year's hackathon.

Cong releases ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ logo, tagline

Yatra will cover 3,570 km from Kanyakumari in south to Kashmir in north over a period of about five months: Digvijay

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday launched the logo, tagline and website of its upcoming 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', billed as the largest-ever mass contact programme by a political party covering Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary and chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the main yatra will cover



Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jairam Ramesh during a press conference regarding the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

3,570 km from Kanyakumari in the south to Kashmir in the north over a period of about five months beginning September 7. Simultaneously, smaller 'Bharat Jodo Yatras' will be taken out in

various states. Senior party leader Digvijay Singh, who heads party's yatra organising committee, told the press conference that Congress president Sonia Gandhi wants peo-

ple from every religion, caste and community participate in campaign. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi will participate in the yatra from Kanyakumari. "There will be 100 'padayatris' who will walk from start to finish. They will be 'Bharat Yatris'. Around 100 people will keep joining from states through which this yatra is not passing, these people will be 'Atithi Yatris'.

Around 100 yatris will be involved from states through which journey will pass, these will be 'Pradesh Yatris'. At a time, there will be 300 padayatris," Singh said. Responding to a question, he said, "Rahul Gandhi is a big leader of country and will be a 'Bharat Yatri' in yatra."

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With cases of tomato flu pouring from the States since the last few months, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday released guidelines on testing, prevention and treatment of Hand, Foot, Mouth Disease, also known as tomato flu saying more than 82 children under 5 in Kollam, Kerala had been found with the infection by late July.

The guideline comes amid the warning by a recent study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal that says that young children are at increased risk of exposure to the disease, and if not controlled and prevented, the trans-

mission might lead to serious consequences by spreading in adults as well. The other flu affected areas of Kerala are Anchal, Aryankavu, and Neduvathur, said the Centre adding that the endemic viral illness triggered an alert to the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Additionally, 26 children (aged 1-9 years) have been reported as having the disease in Odisha by the Regional Medical Research Centre in Bhubaneswar. "To date, apart from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Odisha, no other regions in India have reported the disease in their state/UT by the virus," said the ministry in the guidelines issued to all the States. The government said

that tomato flu may be a variant of the common HFMD that is common in school going children. It has also insisted that the virus is not at all related to SARS-CoV-2, monkeypox, dengue or chikungunya, adding that recent reports have suggested it to be Cocksackie A 17 that belongs to the group of enteroviruses.

"The disease will best be described as a clinical variant of viral hand, foot, and mouth disease, a common infectious disease targeting mostly young children aged 1-10 years and immunocompromised adults, and sometimes exposed immune competent adults," said the Centre. It added that the disease is a self-limiting illness and no specific drug exists

to treat it. In the guidelines, the government said that tomato flu is a viral disease and name "Tomato Flu" comes from main symptom of this disease, the tomato-shaped blisters on several body parts.

Primary symptoms observed in children with tomato flu are similar to those of other viral infections, which include fever, rashes and pain in joints and rashes on skin can also lead to skin irritation.

As with other viral infections, symptoms also include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, dehydration, swelling of joints, body aches, and common influenza-like symptoms. HFMD is characterized by fever, sores in mouth, and a skin rash, as per norms.

Call for Rahul to become Cong chief makes strong comeback

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The demand for Rahul Gandhi to don the mantle of party chief once again is making a strong comeback with party leaders like Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot stating that many workers including him are “unanimously” in favour of the Gandhi scion for the post which he relinquished at the backdrop of the party’s poor performance in the Lok Sabha polls in 2019.

Party sources said the detailed schedule for the election of the Congress president will be out soon and the whole process in all likelihood will be completed around the given timeframe of September 20 without any “major postponement”.

However, uncertainty looms large with several party



insiders saying Rahul has not changed his stance of not becoming the AICC president.

There have been several calls by leaders publicly exhorting Rahul to become party chief again but he has chosen not to.

“If Rahul does not become the party president, it will be a disappointment for the Congress workers in the country. Many people will sit at home and we will suffer. He (Rahul Gandhi) should accept this post by himself, understanding the sentiments of the common Congress people in the country,” Gehlot had told

reporters in Jaipur.

The chief minister said that within the party, there is an opinion in favour of making Rahul the new president.

“The unanimous opinion is in support of his becoming the president. So, I think he should accept it. It is not about Gandhi or non-Gandhi family. It is the work of the organisation and no one is becoming a prime minister,” he had said.

The party’s election authority has said it will stick to the schedule of electing a new chief by September 20. Chairman of the party’s Central Election Authority Madhusudan Mistry had said it was up to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) to approve the final date for the election of the Congress chief but “from our side, we are ready”.

“The detailed schedule for the election of the Congress

president will be out soon and the whole process in all likelihood will be completed around the given time-frame of September 20 without any major postponement,” a top source said.

After a crucial meeting of its working committee, the Congress had announced in October last year that the election of the new Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20 this year.

Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in parliamentary elections in 2019. Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had urged her to continue.

J&K admin focusing on developing 7 industrial estates in Jammu division

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In order to cope up with the growing demand of Industrial land, the Union Territory administration in Jammu & Kashmir is focusing on developing 7 new industrial estates in the districts of Jammu division.

The main focus is on the promotion and Development of Industries to encourage new investments in Jammu Division and sustain existing ones.

At present there are 24 industrial estates in Jammu division, 19 managed by J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) and 5 by Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO).

To set up new units in these industrial estates, 521 entrepreneurs, including 406 of SIDCO and 115 of SICOP, proposing 44150 jobs, have

been allotted 4647 Kanals.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar Tuesday reviewed the implementation of various schemes and programmes of Industries and Commerce Department.

During the meeting the officers informed the Divisional Commissioner that 182 units including 164 in organised sector and 18 in unorganized sector were registered during the current financial year 2022-23 ending 07/2022, generating 2006 jobs.

Reviewing performance under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), it was informed that 1619 cases have been forwarded to banks in the current financial year ending July 2022 by all the DICs of the division.

A total number of 13550 units including 2397 organised sector and 11153 un-organized sector units have been regis-



tered with the department with a potential to generate employment for 87678 persons.

Director Industries and Commerce Department, Anoo Malhotra; Managing Director SIDCO, Samita Sethi; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; besides General Managers of District Industries Centres were present in the meeting.

The Director Industries gave a powerpoint presentation and apprised the Div Com that the department acts as the nodal agency for development

of industrial sector and to implement Central and UT industrial policies through District Industrial Centres (DICs) and facilitates entrepreneurs in setting-up and running their industrial units.

The Div Com also took stock of the land acquisition issues for new Industrial Estates. He asked the Industries department to take up the matter with the concerned Deputy Commissioners for timely acquisition and demarcation of land for newly developed industries estates.

Mondal case judge threatened with narcotic case slap

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a development reminiscent of the naxalite era of the 1970s, the special judge of the CBI court hearing Trinamool Congress strongman and party national executive member Anubrata Mondal’s case has received a mail that threatens to implicate him and his family members in false narcotic cases should he not release Mondal on bail.

The leader who besides being close to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is also the TMC’s Birbhum district president with additional charges of vast electoral units of areas of neighbouring Burdwan and

Murshidabad. The TMC strongman was arrested early this month in connection with cow smuggling cases.

The letter allegedly written by one Bappa Chatterjee asks judge Rajesh Chakrabarty to release Mondal on bail failing which he would be implicated in “Ganja” (narcotic) cases, court officials quoting the Asansol judge said adding he had written a complaint to Registrar General of the Calcutta High Court drawing his attention in the matter.

Curiously Chatterjee has denied that the letter is his. “The letter is fake and the signature is false ... this is not my signature,” said Chatterjee demand-

ing thorough investigation into the matter. Mondal, considered the uncrowned king of Birbhum and the neighbouring areas is known for his infamous “ganja case” threats to his opponents. Often he was seen asking police officials to frame his opponents in ganja cases.

Meanwhile in a related incident the police on Tuesday recovered 22 cows from inside a milk van in Purulia after the vehicle overturned on National Highway 60. The vehicle bearing an Uttar Pradesh Number had loaded 22 cows from Dganbad and skidded into a roadside ditch. As the locals opened its doors they discovered the vehicle stuffed with

cows apparently being carried to border areas of Bengal for smuggling, sources said.

The authorities intercepted another vehicle, this one a parcel van with two number plates one on the front side and another in its rear.

Demanding a thorough investigation into the case Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said “after the arrest of kingpin Enamul Haq and Anubrata Mondal the cow smugglers of TMC have changed their method of smuggling ... they are discovering newer ways everyday ... this one was the newest when the animals were being smuggled in a milk van.”

Partha acquired properties worth tens of crores in Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

There was more twist to Partha Chatterjee case with the Enforcement Directorate investigating the money laundering part of the school level recruitment scam stumbling upon more properties of the deposed Bengal minister and once the number two man in the ruling Trinamool Congress.

According to sources Chatterjee had amassed huge amount of property in South



India particularly Bengaluru. ED officials have discovered 8 such apartments belonging to Partha Chatterjee and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee

in prime areas of Garden City.

The properties are together priced at Rs 50 crore, sources said adding apart from the apartments the former minister and TMC secretary general --- whose ‘contributions’ to Bengal’s land movements have been included in the high school syllabus --- is known to have acquired several acres of farmhouses and also had invested in real estate business, sources said.

Partha Chatterjee and Arpita Mukherjee were arrest-

ed last month after Rs 50 crore in cash was recovered from her two apartments in Kolkata. Property deeds and jewellery worth several crores too were recovered from the duo’s possession.

According to sources a former colleague of Chatterjee --- who had retired as a General Manager of a private concern before joining politics --- had helped him in his South Indian deals. Money was sent to Bengaluru either through hawala or through RTGS, sources have revealed.

7 accused in Birbhum murder case arrested

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested seven accused during further investigation of a case related to the alleged murder of 10 persons at village Bogtui, Birbhum (West Bengal) in the post-poll violence.

The alleged role of these arrested accused emerged during the investigation.

The arrested accused were produced before the ACJM Court, Rampurhat (West Bengal) on Tuesday and they were remanded to 10-day CBI custody, the CBI said in a statement.

The arrested accused persons are Bikir Ali, Noor Ali, Sher Ali alias Kalo, Asif SK, Joshif Hossain, Jamirul SK alais

Ujir and Khairul SK.

The CBI had registered this instant case on March 25 this year against 22 accused and others in compliance with the orders of the Calcutta High Court.

It was alleged that at about 8.30 PM on March 21, 2022, Bhadu Shekh of Bogtui, Upa Pradhan (Deputy Pradhan) of Barshal GP was murdered by inflicting bomb injuries, at Bogtui Morh on NH-60, it said. After the incident, serious tension cropped up at Bogtui Morh on NH-60 and surrounding areas over the issue of the said murder. It was further alleged that the followers and associates of slain Bhadu Shekh, ransacked the houses of rival groups at village

Bogtui and set them on fire with a view to kill the persons inside and their family inmates.

Seven persons were charred to death and four other persons sustained severe burn injuries. Identities of the deceased persons could not be established. Later on, out of four injured victims, three died subsequently. The State police arrested 21 accused/suspected persons.

After taking over the investigation, a large team of CBI including experts from CFSL immediately reached Rampurhat. Vital physical and biological evidence were collected by the CFSL team.

The bodies recovered were completely charred beyond recognition. The biological



samples of these victims were preserved during post-mortem examination along with the blood samples of the probable direct relatives of the victims were sent for DNA profiling.

With the help of DNA profiling, the identity of all the seven victims was established.

The CBI filed chargesheet on June 20 against 16 accused before the Competent Court and also submitted a report against two Children in Conflict of Law (CCL) in the Court of Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Suri, Birbhum.

SC raps Yoga Guru Ramdev for criticising allopathy, doctors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday came down heavily on Yoga Guru Ramdev for criticising allopathy and allopathic practitioners, saying he needed to be restrained from abusing the doctors and other systems of treatment.

The top court also sought responses from the Union Health Ministry and Ministry of Ayush and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd on a plea of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) alleging a smear campaign against the vaccination drive and modern medicines.

“What happened to this Guru Swami Ramdev Baba?...



Ultimately we respect him as he popularised Yoga. We all go for this. But, he should not criticise the other system. What is the guarantee that Ayurveda whatever system he is following will work? You see the type of advertisements accusing all the doctors as if they are killers or something. Huge advertise-

ments (have been given),” a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said.

The bench, also comprising justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar, said that the Yog Guru cannot “abuse the doctors and the systems (of treatment)..It is better to restrain him”.

Lawyer Amarjeet Singh, appearing for the IMA, referred to several advertisements which allegedly projected the allopath and the doctors in poor light, saying that “disparaging” statements have also been made by firms, engaged in the production of ayurvedic medicines, to mislead the general public.

15 IPS officers moved; UP’s anti-narcotics force gets DIG

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has transferred 15 IPS officers and posted 2006-batch IPS officer Abdul Hameed as the DIG of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force constituted for the first time in the state a year ago.

Hameed has been elevated to the post after coming back from deputation from Aligarh Muslim University. Besides, 14 IPS officers have been transferred. Akhilesh Kumar Chaurasia, Commandant of 11th Battalion PAC in Sitapur, has been posted as the SP, Establishment.

Additional Superintendent of Police in Bareilly Ravindra

Kumar has been posted as the DCP in Police Commissionerate, Kanpur. Besides, 12 trainee IPS officers of 2018 batch have also been transferred.

ACP Anil Kumar Yadav, posted in Lucknow Commissionerate, has been shifted to Noida in the same capacity. Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ghaziabad, Abhijeet R Shankar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police in Lucknow.

In Lucknow Commissionerate, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police East Syed Ali Abbas has been promoted and posted

again in Lucknow.

Saad Mian from Bareilly has been transferred and posted in Noida Commissionerate while Manish Kumar Shandilya from Aligarh to Varanasi Commissionerate, Ankita Sharma from Noida to Kanpur Police Commissionerate, Rahul Bhati from Gorakhpur to Bareilly, Abhishek Bharti from Prayagraj to Ghazipur, Sandeep Kumar Meena from Mathura to Moradabad, Santosh Kumar Meena from Varanasi to Prayagraj, Anirudh Kumar from Intelligence HQ in Lucknow to Fatehpur and Lakhan Singh Yadav from Varanasi to Kanpur Police Commissionerate.

Molester uncle killed by 4 nieces

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Upset with regular sexual harassment, four sisters lynched the accused with the help of their cousin in Firozabad late on Monday.

In a state of shock, neighbours did not inform police and the body kept lying on the road till Tuesday morning. On being informed later, the police reached the spot and sent the body for autopsy. They also arrested the four sisters who confessed to their crime and said they could not tolerate the sexual harassment any longer.

The family claimed to have informed the police earlier but no help came their way and the girls finally decided to eliminate the accused.

The incident took place in Kheda locality of Shikohabad in Firozabad. Reports said that the family of Ram Bharose Lodhi, who died two years ago, lives in Kheda locality. The family consists of Lodhi’s wife and daughters.

Their neighbour Ram Gopal Lodhi (40), who was unmarried, lived with his widowed sister-in-law and her children. Ram Gopal had been allegedly molesting one of the girls for the last few years. Few years back, Ram Gopal molested her sister too and on being confronted, he attacked her with an axe. The accused threatened the family with dire consequences if they informed police. The family informed the police but no action was taken.

On Monday evening, Ram Gopal molested the girl again and later escaped. The girl narrated her ordeal to her sisters. Finally, all the four, along with their cousin, waited for Ram Gopal and as they saw him coming back and attacked him with sticks and rods, leaving him dead. SP (Rural) Dr Akhilesh Narayan Singh said the four sisters had been taken into custody.

Meanwhile, in the Kithore area of Meerut, a youth killed his uncle and later surrendered before police. The cops arrested the accused and sent the body for autopsy. They also registered a case on the complaint of the son-in-law of the deceased, who was a retired police officer.

UP Defence Corridor bags 93 investment proposals worth over ₹11,250 crore

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP Defence Corridor has so far bagged 93 investment proposals worth more than Rs 11,250 crore for the flagship project. Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the nodal agency for implementation of the project, has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with these private companies and the process of attracting more defence industry firms is underway.

While UPEIDA has so far

acquired 1,600 hectares of land, about 30 companies have been allocated lands for setting up their plants. The UP Defence Corridor, which constitutes a vital cog in the country’s defence and strategic matrix, spans six nodes in the state — Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra.

Apart from the previously announced UP Defence and Aerospace Employment Promotion Policy, the state has made a few amendments to encourage private investment. The state government has tied up with leading commercial

banks and financial institutions to promote the easy flow of funds to prospective investors.

Among the most prominent UP Defence Corridor projects is the Indo-Russian joint venture of BrahMos missile project in Lucknow. This is to develop next-generation supersonic missiles for the Indian forces. According to the UPEIDA, the BrahMos unit will be commissioned by 2025. The Rs 300-crore BrahMos project will generate 5,500 fresh jobs. The ancillaries will create an additional 10,000 jobs.

SP gears up for MP, Rajasthan Assembly polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Facing existential crisis after repeatedly losing Lok Sabha and UP assembly elections since 2014, the Samajwadi Party is eying a big role for itself in 2024. The party is keen on expanding its footprint in other States.

The party is gearing up to contest assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in October, 2023. The SP aims to not just contest elections in these states but also strengthen its roots in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The SP is also scouting for potential allies in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Though the SP leaders are not willing to speak, sources said the party is not averse to the idea of opening channels of communication with the Congress.

As per information by the SP, the party is eying future prospects in the MP and Rajasthan politics.

The sources also suggested that in both states, the SP was preparing a fresh blueprint for the seats dominated by the voters gailing from Yadav and Muslim communities.

Recently, SP president Akhilesh Yadav had travelled to Gwalior on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami and had

announced to contest the elections in MP.

In Haryana, Rajasthan’s Alwar, and the border areas of UP, the caste arithmetic favours the SP.

In the last assembly election in Rajasthan, the SP had made preparations to contest in alliance with the Congress, but the tie-up couldn’t materialise and the party contested alone on over a dozen seats.

While the party failed to leave any mark in that election, it has now once again started preparations for the upcoming assembly election in the state. Interestingly, this time, a third front is being formed in Rajasthan with the help of the Communist parties that will consist of non-BJP and non-Congress parties.

Sources said that the SP would play a crucial role in the third front led by the Communist parties in Rajasthan.



A pair of white tigers rest inside their enclosure at Sarthana Nature Park in Surat on Tuesday

PTI



Limits of polarisation

BJP MLA in Telangana allegedly blasphemes against Prophet Muhammad; arrested; suspended by BJP

Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party MLA T Raja Singh's arrest in Hyderabad, following the allegedly derogatory comments about Prophet Muhammad, will trigger another round of political statements, allegations, counter-allegations, and protests. This is widely seen as the BJP's desperate bid to grow in the southern state. In general, the saffron party's presence in South India is limited, Karnataka being the only state where it holds office. The other four states—Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala—remain steadfastly distant from Hindutva. On its part, the BJP has peaked in northern and western states; for instance, it won 71 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh and all 26 in Gujarat in the 2019 general elections. Bihar will be tough in 2024, and there will be challenges in other states too where the BJP is a dominant party; but, on the whole, there is not much that it has to do in northern and western states. In eastern states, the BJP has already made its presence felt, and will like to maintain the momentum. In the south, however, the party has not been able to find any momentum. It was 14 years earlier, in 2008, that the BJP had formed its government in Karnataka. Against this backdrop, the saffron party's keenness to enter Telangana can scarcely be over-emphasised. Raja Singh's Prophet Muhammad remarks may be an expression of that keenness—or maybe impatience is the right word to describe the feeling.

After Raja Singh's, however, the BJP seemed to have realized its MLA has bitten more than what could be chewed, so it suspended him. It has served him a show-cause notice; he is supposed to reply in 10

days. This seems to be the replay of the Nupur Sharma episode; she was also suspended but hasn't been arrested, perhaps because she is not in a non-BJP state. All this is quite baffling. What is the BJP up to? It does not promote leaders like Sharma and Raja Singh because it has an abiding faith in free speech; it doesn't believe much in freedom of expression; when it comes to the Hindus' sensitivities, the saffron party bristles aggressively at the slightest provocation—even non-provocation. This makes it different from Rightwing parties in the United States and Europe. They fight against the radical Left's attempts to curb freedom of expression, but then they don't campaign for bans on the works of Leftists; neither do they indulge in violent activities at the books, movies, etc., which traduce Christianity, their country, the Western civilisation, etc. At the same time, when things go out of control—as in the aftermath of Sharma's remarks, when a number of Arab and Muslim nations lodged their strong protests against her remarks—the BJP becomes defensive. It must realize that religious polarisation may not be a very rewarding political strategy in South India where the memories of Islam are not as bitter as in North India. At any rate, the law of diminishing returns also applies to polarisation.

PICTALK



An image of Jupiter obtained by the James Webb Space Telescope showing its rings & satellites and planets.

AP/PTI

Sigh of relief for students

Indian students studying in china can now go back to complete their courses

That china has resumed issuing visas to Indian students after two years must be a big relief for the Indian students studying there. Thousands of students had to abandon their studies as covid struck and they were made to leave the country. Since then their studies have been in limbo as China refused to take them back. In fact, 23,000 odd medical students studying in China are still waiting here to go back to their respective universities in China. They had staged several dharnas and even demanded the government of India to allow them to complete their studies in Indian universities but that did not happen as rules do not permit it. Now that China announced its plan to issue visas to Indian students stranded here since their return two years back when COVID was at its peak and strict restrictions were imposed by China on foreign students. Now that COVID has waned it is also allowing Indian travelers for



other purposes including business. China's relaxing of the travel rules would mean that X1-Visa, will be issued to students to not only the students already enrolled but also new students. After much deliberations and insistence of MEA China agreed to issue visas to Indian students studying in China on a case-by-case basis and sought the names of those wanting to return immediately to pursue their studies. The new students would have to show an original admission letter issued by a university. The old students however can submit a 'Certificate of Returning to Campus' issued by the university in China. Over 1,000 old Indian students have expressed the wish to return to re-join their studies. Two further facilitate the travel

Indian and Chinese officials are preparing a plan to resume flight operations.

This may end the woes of Indian students studying in China but the career of those students who were studying in Ukraine still remains uncertain. They have been running from pillar to post to convince the government of India to let them complete their studies in Indian universities which rules do not permit. The government of India should come up with a comprehensive plan for Indian students studying in foreign countries if their studies are interrupted due to no fault of theirs such as a pandemic or war. Most of these students are from middle-class families whose families have spent their lives saving to get their children good education abroad. The rules must be changed to allow these students to complete their courses in such exigencies.

Pakistan's perennial existential crisis

Pakistan is as unstable as it was at the time of its independence. Its political class is largely to blame for its present state



ASHOK K MEHTA



The Election Commission of Pakistan on 2 August ruled that PTI accepted prohibited funds from various sources including Arif Naqvi, a philanthropist living in Dubai. The Supreme Court will adjudicate and this could lead to a ban on the PTI. The timing of the ECP order is interesting as a funding case is also pending against PML N. Voters concerned with livelihood issues blame PML N for their grief. PML N will hobble PTI so it cannot function. Gen Bajwa's replacement is to be found in September before he steps down in November. The new Army Chief may decide on early elections.

75 years on, civil-military relations have institutionalized the role of the Army as the ultimate custodian of internal and external challenges. In Pakistan, the Army and bureaucracy became the primary institution of governance due to a weak Muslim League.

Directly or indirectly, the military has ruled Pakistan with a democratic façade aided by the judiciary. Khan's attempt to interfere with the Army's internal affairs cost him his job.

His Chief of Staff, Shehbaz Gill is in jail for urging the military not to obey illegal orders. Khan also burnt his fingers at the US, blaming it for the fall of his government.

The many lows and one high of India-Pakistan relations need repeating. The lows resulted in wars. The one high was between 2003-07, ironically after the terror attack on Parliament. Back channel talks between Satinder Lambah and Tariq Aziz paved the way for the resolution of Kashmir. This, of course, did not happen. Prime Minister Modi tried to mend fences with Pakistan but soon his patience was overtaken by muscular impulses. The door to formal dialogue is shut since the 2000 beheading of Indian soldiers. A brief effort was made by the government to restart dialogue failed because of the unrealistic condition that talks and terror will not go together.

Further the reading down of Article 370 has made talks a distant dream. But the problem of Kashmir cannot be wished away. Kashmir figures periodically in the UNSC, is texted in the Simla and

Lahore Agreements, and China has made itself a third party to the dispute. It took preemptive measures for the security of Aksai Chin following Home Minister Shah's threat to retake it. India now has a second live front.

Neutralising the Pakistan front politically and diplomatically is vital. Former High Commissioner to Pakistan, Sharat Sabharwal in his book India-Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship says: "India's Pakistan policy born out of anger and false notions of national honour, caused more harm than good". If India sets its own house in order including J&K, Pakistan will not be able to fish in troubled waters, he adds. Mahir Ali's story last week carried this headline: "Pakistan has learnt little from India while India has taken the worst lessons from Pakistan".

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

75 YEARS ON, CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS HAVE INSTITUTIONALIZED THE ROLE OF THE ARMY AS THE ULTIMATE CUSTODIAN OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE BJP'S OPPN IN 2024

Sir — The Aam Aadmi Party claims that the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would be between Narendra Modi and Arvind Kejriwal, which is nothing but a sign of frustration, depression and fear of raids by the investigation agencies. The fact is that the Opposition candidate will definitely be from the Congress. There is growing support for the Congress party's pan-India 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' starting on September 7 for the sake of "saving the nation". A few AAP leaders have been claiming that Arvind Kejriwal is the only leader who can put a challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2024 general elections.

However, it seems like just a distant dream and will be rejected by all the Opposition parties who'd prefer to have a Congress candidate. The important thing is that the BJP is nervous and on the verge of defeat and this possibility has become stronger after the Bihar developments where it was thrown out of power after Nitish Kumar joined hands with the RJD and Congress to form the Government. If this formula is successful, it may be tried in other States to give a strong fight to the BJP.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

DON'T UNDERMINE NEHRU'S LEGACY

Sir — It is reprehensible and an act of parochialism that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Karnataka Government has intentionally excluded former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's name from its newspaper advertisement on freedom fighters' list in connection with India's 75th independence. Nehru's contributions have been foundational and colossal in building India as a secular and democratic republic which would have a socialistic common-sense. Courtesy the BJP, the Nehruvian ideals and institutions are under constant threat today.

The persistent manoeuvres of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party to

Attack on Salman Rushdie



The attack on Indian-born British-American novelist and author Salman Rushdie on August 12 serves as a stark reminder that freedom of speech is a right and we dare not take it for granted. The fact that a work of literature may contain elements that some may find offensive surely doesn't entitle the critics to stop others from reading it, and certainly doesn't justify passing a death sentence on the writer. Arbitrary and oppressive restrictions on

the right to express are reasserting themselves worldwide, especially in totalitarian States and those ruled or dominated by clerics.

We mustn't let the vile attempt on the life of a gifted and courageous writer deter us from giving expression to our own creative energies. Rushdie has faced several death threats since his novel *The Satanic Verses* was published in 1988, as many Muslims considered it blasphemous. Some of them considered the novel disrespectful of Prophet Mohammed. This led to violent protests in Tehran, Lebanon, England, Pakistan and India. He was forced to go underground as a bounty was put on his head, which remains to this day. Some of his publishers and translators were also killed. The award-winning author has spent over three decades looking over his shoulder or going into hiding. The threats to his life didn't stop; now he is battling for his life.

Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

malign and run down the gargantuan contributions of Nehru for a modern India will only end up in a big failure. It is not only difficult, but even impossible, for the nation to forget the Nehruvian legacy. Nehru laid the foundation for transformational changes, paving the way for India's eventual emergence as a major economic hub on the global centre stage. In fact, Nehru prided in calling himself as the 'prime servant' of the nation, and that was the humility of this great man. It's not for nothing that India's first Prime Minister was hailed as the 'Architect of Modern India.'

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Sir — In every district-town of Madhya Pradesh, during the public hearings on Tuesday, cases of giving advice to children who do not take care of elderly parents have come to the fore. This situation is disappointing from the Indian social system's point of view. The World Senior Citizens

Day was held on August 21 to mark the importance of the elderly. Senior citizens are thanked on this special day that the new generation cannot repay their debt to the latter. The seniors need proper care and respect. The number of elderly people is increasing in India but there is a lack of respect for them.

Nuclear families are on the rise. It is a matter of concern for society as well as the administration because it is also their responsibility to take care of every citizen in a welfare society. There are many schemes of old-age pension for the elderly from the Central and State Governments. There are maintenance laws to protect their rights. In view of the emerging needs, the private sector has also started startups etc. Through these efforts, new dimensions can be given to the respect and security of senior people in a changing society.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I have received a message from the BJP — break AAP and join BJP. We will ensure that all cases by CBI and ED against you are shut.



Delhi Dy CM
—Manish Sisodia



We're seeing the impact of climate change around our nation. If we don't act now, it will be irreversible.

US VP
—Kamala Harris

Sometimes, we make too much out of a bad phase. Hindi cinema will not die. It will course-correct and come back to its normal self. The pre-pandemic phase won't be there. Some new exciting phases of Hindi cinema will be there.



Actor
—Manoj Bajpayee



Suspension of AIFF has two "disastrous" consequence. India will not be able to hold the Under-17 women's world cup and Indian players will not be able to participate in int'l tournaments.

The Solicitor General of India
—Tushar Mehta

If Rahul Gandhi does not become the party president, it will be a disappointment for the Congressmen. He should accept this post by himself, understanding the sentiments of the common Congressmen.



Rajasthan CM
—Ashok Gehlot

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA'S BIG LEAP OF FAITH IN HEALTHCARE

India has made substantial gains on health indicators



SANJEEV JAIN

Since Independence, India has helmed many nationwide programmes with the specific purpose of uplifting its public healthcare system. The world has watched admirably as the nation toiled to control the tropical, communicable diseases such as polio, malaria, tuberculosis, smallpox, etc.

India's response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus has been a mix of statewide measures and public cooperation. India, indeed, has come a long way from where she stood in 1947 in terms of healthcare.

One of the notable measures of these programmes has been the sizable decline in mortality or death rates. One of the primary measures taken by India after independence was to launch several nationwide public healthcare programmes aimed to eradicate the curse of communicable diseases.

In 1947, as per an American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene report, out of the 330 million population over 75 million were estimated to suffer from malaria. By early 1960s, these cases remarkably dwindled to approximately 100,000 and this progress has been steady.

In fact, the latest World Malaria Report 2021 by WHO takes note of the fact that of the world's 11 highest burden countries for malaria, India



is the sole one to catalogue progress. India's success stories against polio and smallpox are tales for the ages. Polio was hyper-endemic even in the early 1990s but by 2014 we declared ourselves polio-free with no new reported case since January 2011.

We are also running the National Leprosy Eradication Program and are making noteworthy advancement in fighting cholera, tuberculosis, etc.

In 2022, our infant mortality rate is 27.695 deaths per 1000 live births, a 3.74 per cent decline from 2021. As per the National Health Family Survey-5, it has dropped in almost all states, with Assam recording the sharpest drop from 48 deaths (per 1,000 live births) to 32. India has also adopted the global maternal mortality ratio target of less than 70 deaths/100000 live births by 2030. In March 2022, the Registrar General of India declared that this rate had declined by another 10 points. Compared to the maternal mortality ratio at 2000/100,000 live births, which dropped to 1000 in the 1950s, we have really come far. Besides, India has enhanced the life expectancy of its citizens. In 1947, the average lifespan of an Indian citizen was about 32 years and today it stands at 70.19 years, a jump of over 100 per cent. It's also comparable to the UN-World Population Perspective that holds the average global life expectancy at 72.98 years.

Since independence, we have seen the launch of innumerable relevant policies and schemes to improve public healthcare. Be it the National Health Mission and National Rural Health Mission that aim at improving mother and child health, or the Janani Suraksha Yojana that empowers pregnant mothers with necessary cash transfers and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram that facilitates pregnant mothers to deliver in government hospitals at zero charge, almost all of these schemes have targeted India's healthcare pain points. The government has forever launched meaningful schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrutva Abhiyan to enhance the accessibility and availability of public healthcare facilities throughout the nation. Life expectancy is a key indicator of human development and healthcare facilities of a nation. And India has braved all kinds of challenges and leveraged better availability of cutting-edge technology, medicines and therapies to augment this indicator by over 100 per cent since independence.

(The author is Managing Director, Akums Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.)

POCSO enforcement must for kids' safety

'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012,' came into being after detailed, prolonged deliberations

Parents are often hesitant to file complaints when incidents of child sexual abuse occur. If the police do not extend cooperation, the possibilities of registering the complaint fade away further. Hence, the decision to withdraw the circular that mandated the Assistant Commissioner's permission to register a complaint is apt.

"Last November, we were visiting Ambejogai. It came to our notice that a minor girl had been sexually violated multiple times. The 13-year-old was pregnant for four months. At 10 am, we went to the police station to file a complaint. Not only did we face multiple obstacles, we had to also undertake several follow-ups. It was only at 10 in the night that the police finally registered a case under POCSO," said Tatvasheel Kamble, an active member of the Beed District Child Welfare Committee and an activist.

"It was morning by the time we got a copy of the FIR. I wonder, in my absence, would they have even registered the case? What would have happened to this young girl; I can't even begin to imagine it," Kamble added. Twenty four persons have been indicted in this case. Hearings are still going on, while a shelter home has accepted responsibility for the girl.

Even in the presence of a person, who's an active member of a system that claims to protect children from sexual violence, the registration of the crime took its own sweet time. Across districts, most activists share similar experiences.

On June 6, Mumbai's Police Commissioner, Sanjay Pandey had issued a circular, stating that it was mandatory to take permission from the Assistant Police Commissioner before filing a case under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). This circular was widely debated. Organisations working for children and women's rights were severely opposed to this order. In response, Pandey issued a revised circular on the 18th of June, that stated that if the complaint raised under POCSO doesn't seem suspicious or if a noteworthy offence seems to have occurred in the received complaint, the case needs to be immediately registered.

Pandey's revised circular comes with a context: often, cases are registered under POCSO or about molestation, which stem either from old feuds or animosities amongst complainants. Most often, eventually, the accused are acquitted. However, several years pass by before the case is solved. In the meantime, the accused face vilification. To avoid this complexity, the process mandated that the police first investigate the complaint and then a final order from the Assistant Commissioner would be a go-ahead for registering the complaint.

The police department claimed that the process aimed at preventing the misuse of POCSO. However, legal and social sectors vehemently opposed this order, expressing



CLAUSE 14 OF POCSO ACT STATES THAT IT IS NOT MANDATORY FOR THE CHILD TO VISIT THE POLICE STATION TO FILE A COMPLAINT. IN FACT, POLICE OFFICERS ARE SUPPOSED TO VISIT THE VICTIM'S HOUSE FOR STATEMENTS, THAT TOO IN CIVIL CLOTHES.

(The author is a member of Sampark, a public interest advocacy and research organisation; translated from Marathi by Rucha Satoro.)



their concern that the process of registering offences against children would become even more cumbersome and slow. And it is a fact. The Central Commission for Protection of Child Rights raised an objection against this circular and asked for its withdrawal.

A public interest litigation was filed in the Bombay High Court. On the 11th of June, Sanjay Pandey tweeted about a possible reconsideration of this circular, and finally on the 18th of June, a revised circular was issued.

In almost 80 per cent of cases of sexual offences against children, the perpetrator is known to the child, revealed a report by the National Crime Records Bureau in 2013-15. Victims and their parents are confused, scared and distressed. They fear defamation. Cases are rarely registered, because of the system's procrastination or dissuasion. Unless they get appropriate and immediate help, parents most often withdraw their complaints. If the accused hold socially dominant positions or share close ties with powerful and affluent people, there's a significant possibility that they may pressurize the legal system.

The Supreme Court's judgment in the Lalita Kumari vs Govt. of UP & Others on November 12, 2013, proves pivotal in understanding the legal system's expected response. The case was about the abduction of a minor girl called Lalita Kumari in 2013. The judgment states that in cases, which are cognizable, once the

police receive a complaint, it is imperative that, without any delay, they register it and hand over a copy of the FIR to the complainant. In these cases, the police cannot delay in using their logical discretion for guiding the aggrieved complainant. There is no scope for slacking, because refusal to register complaints reduces public trust in the judiciary. This negatively affects the legal system.

The complaint filed by Lalita Kumari's father was not registered by the local police station. The family had to visit senior officials several times. If the case consists of a cognisable offence under CRPC 154, the police need to take immediate cognisance of it.

Here, filing an FIR after a preliminary investigation is unacceptable, as stated by the Supreme Court. Hence, activists say, the Mumbai Police Commissioner's circular dated 6th of June, 2022 proves to be an obstacle in conducting the due process under the POCSO Act. Essentially, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, came into being after detailed and prolonged deliberation. In Indian society, where it is still impossible to speak about sexuality, it is even more gruelling to speak about sexual violence. Whenever an incident occurs at home, most families choose to operate in stringent silence around it. Hence, most incidents are quietly swept under the carpet.

POCSO specifically comes up

with provisions that aim to break this silence and address this violence. POCSO was first implemented in 2012. Clause 14 of this Act states that it is not mandatory for the child to visit the police station to file a complaint. In fact, police officers are supposed to visit the victim's house for statements, that too in civil clothes. It would be interesting to study to what extent this clause has been implemented.

The judiciary and the police systems are facing an acute shortage of human resources. Hence, the stack of delayed cases is only piling taller. It is important that the government and administration focus on reducing these gaps.

In highlighting the scope of the judicial process under POCSO, a provision under the Act states in the context of the hearings of POCSO cases, courts cannot use their discretion, nor special power granted to them. The Court is not entitled to reduce the years of conviction stipulated under the law either.

POCSO, Prevention of Child Labour Act, Right to Education Act, Prevention of Child Marriage Act are all pivotal to ensure children's rights are realized. During and after COVID-19, crimes against children have only increased. For example, in Maharashtra the percentage of child marriages has increased to 21.1 per cent. Maharashtra comes right after Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal; this is worrying.

(Charkha features.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IF HE WAS CORRUPT, I WOULD HAVE FIRED HIM, BUT HE IS NOT. THEY ARE DOING THIS TO STOP THE GOOD WORK RELATED TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH IN DELHI.
—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



ARROGANCE OF ARVIND KEJRIWAL WILL BE SHATTERED. IF HE'S A 'KATTAR EMANDAR' WHY IS HE NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS.
—BJP SPOKESPERSON
GAURAV BHATIA

Aurobindo's task of awakening spiritual India (II)

Sri Aurobindo felt that the main reason for the misery of man was his spiritual unconsciousness

After coming out of the jail, Aurobindo gave a speech in a spiritual conference in Utopada near Kolkata, now famously referred to as the Utopada speech in which he clearly explained experiences and insights gained during his stay in the jail.

He said, "Going to the jail and coming out of it were both a part of an existential plan. The purpose of jail life was to detach me from my strong attachment towards politics." His speech also related the vision he had of Lord Krishna in which Krishna had said, "India's main problem isn't political; it's spiritual. The prevailing foreign interference is simply a consequence of the spiritual cowardliness and lack of spiritual fervour. You'll have to revive and re-establish the authentic spiritual values of



SWAMI ANAND ARUN

(The author is a spiritual teacher.)

Hindu wisdom in the world?"

It was his prison experience that propelled Aurobindo to take the bold decision to abandon politics in order to continue his spiritual journey.

The chief disciple of Swami Vivekananda, Bhagini Nivedita, had become Aurobindo's political and spiritual assistant. She told him that the British were planning to re-arrest him and advised him to leave British India. It was Swami Vivekananda's love for Aurobindo that manifested in Nivedita's words. He got similar guidance from his inner self as well. Immediately, he left Bengal for the French colony of Pondicherry in South India via Chandranagar and arrived there on April 4, 1910.

In ancient times, the mystic Agastya Muni of North India

had also made Pondicherry his last destination. It was from there that he had propounded Vedic culture in South India. In Ramayana, there is a beautiful description of how Ram had met Agastya Muni.

In its initial days, the Ashram was very poor and Aurobindo lived there with three other seekers. There was only one lamp there under which all the activities were carried out once it got dark.

In 1912, Aurobindo wrote a very poignant letter to his friend, Motilal Roy, which depicted the state of poverty in the Ashram. The letter read, "There is only half a rupee left, while six-seventeen people are here. Immediately, send us 50 rupees."

In 1914, French couple Paul and Mirra Richards arrived in Pondicherry. Later the same



Mirra Richards became known as the Mother. As soon as she saw Aurobindo, she realised that he was the same Yogi that she had been seeing in her visions throughout her life. Every Sunday, the Richards invited Aurobindo and his disciples for dinner. That was the only time in the week they would get to eat a full sumptuous meal and drink fine French wine.

Despite his high yogic state of consciousness, and unlike

most Indian yogis, Aurobindo used to eat non-vegetarian food and drink alcohol. As he came from a Bengali family and grew up in the West, this was a normal practice for him. Ramakrishna and Vivekananda also came from Bengali families and used to eat fish regularly as a part of their diet.

Even today, fish is accepted as a part of the daily meal in Ramakrishna Ashram. A devotee of the South Indian enlightened master, Raman Maharshi, a contemporary of Sri Aurobindo, had complained to him about Aurobindo's consumption of meat and wine. Raman had instead praised Aurobindo, "He was born in a Bengali family and grew up in the West, that's why he has such eating habits. Don't evaluate a yogi through his habits.

Aurobindo is in a very high state of yoga."

Later, Aurobindo, seeing that non-vegetarian food and alcohol was hindering his spiritual practice, quit both and turned vegetarian. Today all the Aurobindo Ashrams are fully vegetarian.

In 1920, the Mother divorced her husband and started to live permanently in the Ashram and took the full responsibility of running it. After this, Aurobindo confined himself in his room, while 24 November is celebrated as the siddhidiwas of Sri Aurobindo. It was on this day of 1926 that the supramind consciousness descended on him.

Aurobindo left his body on December 5th, 1950. He was buried four days later in the Ashram compound.

Aurobindo had refused the post of the president of the Indian National Congress in 1907 and later refused to become the first President of Independent India. Aurobindo felt that the main reason for the misery of man was his spiritual unconsciousness and made efforts throughout his life to uplift human consciousness and to make arrangements to descend the supramind consciousness to the earth.

In the last 24 years of his life, Aurobindo came out of his room to give darshan to his disciples only four times a year. The time he spent alone in his room is steeped in mystery. He says, "Meditation is for those who can come out of the society and the world, and travel the lonely journey towards the unknown.

(Concluded)

Six months on, Ukraine fights war, faces painful aftermath

AP ■ CHERNIHIV

Danyk Rak enjoys riding his bike, playing soccer and quiet moments with the family's short-legged dog and two white cats, Pushuna and Lizun.

But at age 12, his childhood has been abruptly cut short. His family's home was destroyed and his mother seriously wounded as Russian forces bombarded Kyiv's suburbs and surrounding towns in a failed effort to seize the capital.

Six months after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, and with no end to the conflict in sight, The Associated Press revisited Danyk as well as a police officer and an Orthodox priest whose lives have been upended by war.

"I want to be an Air Force pilot"

Tears come to Danyk's eyes as his mother, Luda, recalls being pulled from the rubble, covered in blood, after shrapnel tore through her body and smashed her right foot.

Twenty-two weeks after she was wounded, she's still waiting to have her foot amputated and to be fitted with a prosthetic. She keeps the piece of shrapnel surgeons removed during one of her many operations.

Danyk lives with his mother and grandmother in a house near Chernihiv, a town 140 kilometers (nearly 90 miles) north of Kyiv, where a piece of tarp covers the broken bedroom windows. He sells milk from the family's cow that grazes in the nearby fields. A handwritten sign wrapped in clear plastic on the front gate reads: "Please buy milk to help my mother who is injured."



"My mother needs surgery and that's why I have to help her. I have to help my grandmother too because she has heart problems," Danyk said.

Before schools reopen on September 1, Danyk and his grandmother have been joining volunteers several days a week, clearing the debris from buildings damaged and destroyed in the Russian bombardment outside Chernihiv. On the way, he stops at his old house, most of it smashed to the foundations.

"This was my bedroom," he says, standing next to scorched mattress springs that protrude from the rubble of bricks and plaster.

Polite and soft spoken, Danyk says his father and stepfather are both fighting in the Ukrainian army.

"My father is a soldier, my uncles are soldiers and my grandfather was a soldier, too.

My stepfather is a soldier and I will be a soldier," he says with a look of determination. "I want to be an air force pilot."

"This bridge was the road from hell"

Before the Russian withdrawal from Kyiv and surrounding areas on April 2, suburbs and towns near the city's airport were pounded by rockets, artillery fire and aerial bombardment in an effort to break the Ukrainian defenses.

Entire city blocks of apartments were blackened by the shelling in Irpin, just 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of the capital, along a route where police Lt. Ruslan Huseinov patrolled daily.

Some of the most dramatic scenes from the early stages of the war were of the evacuation from Irpin underneath a destroyed highway bridge, where thousands escaped the

relentless attacks.

Huseinov was there for 16 days, organizing crossings where the elderly were carried along muddy pathways in wheelbarrows.

Reconstruction work has begun on the bridge, where mangled concrete and iron bars hang over the river. Clothing and shoes from those who fled can still be seen tangled in the debris.

"This bridge was the road from hell," says Huseinov, 34, standing next to an overturned white van still lodged into a slab of smashed concrete.

"We got people out of (Irpin) because conditions were terrible — with bombing and shelling," he said. "People were really scared because many lost their children, members of their family, their brothers and sisters." Crosses made from construction wood are still nailed to the railings of the bridge to honor those lost and the effort to save civilians.

"The whole world witnessed our solidarity," says Huseinov, who grew up in Germany and says he would never again take the good things in life for granted. "In my mind, everything has changed: My values in life," he said. "Now I understand what we have to lose." "Before the war, it was another life" The floor of the Church of Andrew the Apostle has been re-tiled and bullet holes in the walls plastered over and repainted — but the horror of what happened in March lies only a few yards away. The largest mass grave in Bucha — a town outside Kyiv that has become synonymous with the brutality of the Russian attack — is behind the church.

"This grave contained 116

people, including 30 women, and two children," said Father Andriy, who has conducted multiple burial services for civilians found shot dead or killed by shelling, some still only identified as a number while the effort to name all of Bucha's victims continues.

Many of the bodies were found before the Russians pulled out of the Kyiv region, Father Andriy said.

"We couldn't bury people in the cemetery because it's on the outskirts of the city. They left people, dead people, lying in the street. Dead people were found still in their cars. They were trying to leave but the Russians shelled them," said Father Andriy, wearing a large cross around his neck and a dark purple cassock.

"That situation lasted two weeks, and the local authorities began coming up with solutions (to help) relatives and loved ones. It was bad weather and wild animals were discovering the bodies. So something had to be done." He decided to carry out burial services in the church yard, many next to where the bodies had been discovered. The experience, he said, has left people in the town badly shaken.

"I think that, neither myself or anyone who lives in Ukraine, who witnessed the war, can understand why this happened," he said.

"Before the war, it was another life."

"For now we are surviving on adrenaline," he said. "But I'm worried that the aftermath will last decades. It will be hard to get past this and turn the page. Saying the word forgive isn't difficult. But to say it from your heart — for now, that's not possible."

Russian attack fear grips Ukrainians on national day eve



AP ■ KYIV

On the eve of Ukraine's independence day and the half-year mark of Russia's invasion of its neighbour, there was increasing unease in the country on Tuesday that Moscow could be centering on specific government and civilian targets during the holiday.

The United States reinforced those concerns when its embassy in Kyiv issued a security alert, saying it "has information that Russia is stepping up efforts to launch strikes against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days."

Over the weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy already sensed a threat coming when he said in his daily address that "we should be aware that this week Russia may try to do something particularly nasty, something particularly cruel."

The warnings come on the heels of Russia's claim that Ukrainian intelligence was responsible for the car bombing that killed the daughter of a leading right-wing Russian political thinker over the weekend.

Ukraine denied involvement. Darya Dugina, a 29-year-old commentator with a nationalist Russian TV channel, died when a remotely controlled explosive device planted in her SUV blew up on Saturday night as she was driving on the outskirts of Moscow.

The sense of dread pervading the war centres in part on Europe's largest nuclear power plant, at Zaporizhzhia in southeastern Ukraine, where continued shelling and fighting in the area has raised fears of a nuclear catastrophe.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres late Monday warned about the nuclear threat in general, particularly since Russia alluded to its massive nuclear arsenal early in the war.

Guterres demanded a halt to "nuclear saber-rattling" on Monday, saying the world is at a "maximum moment of danger" and all countries with nuclear weapons must make a commitment to "no first-use".

That didn't prevent shelling close to Zaporizhzhia early Tuesday. Regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko said Russian forces fired on nearby Marhanets and Nikopol on the right bank of the Dnieper River, continuing weeks of relentless overnight shelling. Amid the death and destruction, there was one small point of light. All professional soccer was stopped in February, but a new league season starts on Tuesday in Kyiv. The Olympic Stadium will see the opening-day meeting of Shakhtar Donetsk and Metalist 1925 from Kharkiv — teams from eastern cities that are fighting for their very existence.

No fans will be allowed in the 65,000-capacity downtown stadium for the kickoff at 1 pm local time, and the players must be rushed to bomb shelters if air-raid sirens sound.

9,000 Ukraine troops killed since war started with Russia

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that all general public by my client Mr. Sameer Mohad, S/o Fakir Mohad, address at J-12A & J-12B, Garamin Garden, Loni Ghaziabad, that my client has filed a NCR vide LR No. 6657/02/2022 dated 05.08.2022 wherein he declared that the original Khata in favour of Mr. Aslam, Original GPA, Agreement to Sell and Will dated 30.03.1996 and Original GPA, Agreement to Sell and Will dated 26.12.2009 have been lost and same is not traceable.

Through this publication, want to inform to the general public that if anyone found the above mentioned documents, please return the same to my current residence address or to my legal counsel.

If any person has any objection regarding the above mentioned property No. J-12A & J-12B (50 sq. yard), contact the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication.

Sd/- Advocate Amarendra K. Dubey, (Enr. No. D-2002/013) 501A, 5th Floor, Usha Kiran Bldg, Connaught Place, Azadpur, Delhi-33 M. 959801188.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Brij Mohan S/o Sh. Ram Chand R/o DDA Janta Flat No. O-26/A-6, Ground Floor, Pocket-O, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 has applied for conversion of the DDA Janta Flat No. O-26/A-6, Ground Floor, Pocket-O, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The Original Demand-cum-Allotment Letter of the above flat have been lost. An NCR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch vide S.O. No.430/2014 LR No.1003298/2022 dated 02.12.2021. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9910668444 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) or Director (H-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Sh. Ramakrishna S/o Sh. Atar Singh, who is a recorded owner through Khatooni vide Fasil Year 1980, is intending to sell Property bearing on plot no. 19 Khaza No.45 Garden Enclave, sector 23, Sanjay Nagar Village-Mohini, Mainpur, Jalandhar, Punjab, India. U.P. 2010/11, to Sanjay Kar S/o Dulal Chandra Kar and Sanita Kar, who Sanjay Kar to be financed & mortgaged by M/s. DMI Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. The boundaries of the aforesaid property are as follows: East-Road 21F; West-Land of Ram Kumar, North- House No. 20, South- House No. 18/ House of Ramakrishna.

If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 14 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patilwa House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob. :- 91-9876188329

United Textiles Limited

Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana)
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Public Notice

NOTICE FOR BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that Registrar of Members and Transfer Books in pursuance of Regulation 42(1) SEBI (Listing obligation & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 shall remain closed w.e.f. Thursday the 29th day of September, 2022 to Friday the 30th day of September, 2022 for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.

Yours Faithfully
For United Textiles Limited
(Vivek Aggarwal)

Place: Hisar Whole Time Director
Dated : 19.08.2022 (DIN 07079208)

AP ■ NIKOPOL (UKRAINE)

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has already killed some 9,000 Ukrainian soldiers since it began nearly six months ago, a general said, and the fighting on Monday showed no signs that the war is abating.

At a veteran's event, Ukraine's military chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said many of Ukraine's children need to be taken care of because "their father went to the front line and, perhaps, is one of those almost 9,000 heroes who died."

In Nikopol, across the river from Ukraine's main nuclear power plant, Russian shelling wounded four people Monday, an official said.

The city on the Dnieper River has faced relentless pounding since July 12 that has damaged 850 buildings and sent about half its population of 100,000 fleeing.

"I feel hate towards Russians," said 74-year-old



Liudmyla Shyshkina, standing on the edge of her destroyed fourth-floor apartment in Nikopol that no longer has walls. She is still injured from the August 10 blast that killed her 81-year-old husband, Anatoly. "The Second World War didn't take away my father, but the Russian war did," noted Pavlo Shyshkin, his son.

The UN says 5,587 civilians have been killed and 7,890 wounded in the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, although the estimate is likely an undercount.

The UN children's agency

said on Monday that at least 972 Ukrainian children have been killed or injured since Russia invaded. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said these are UN-verified figures but "we believe the number to be much higher".

US President Joe Biden and the leaders of Britain, France and Germany pleaded on Sunday for Russia to end military operations so close to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant — Europe's largest — but Nikopol came under fire three times overnight from rockets and mortar shells.

UN chief demands halt to 'nuclear saber-rattling'

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has demanded a halt to "nuclear saber-rattling," saying the world is at a "maximum moment of danger" and all countries with nuclear weapons must make a commitment to "no first-use".

The UN chief on Monday told the Security Council that the commitment to dialogue and reason that led to the recent deal restarting grain and fertiliser shipments from Ukraine and Russia must be applied to "the critical situation" at Europe's largest nuclear power plant at Zaporizhzhia in southeastern Ukraine, where continued shelling and fighting in the area has raised fears of a nuclear catastrophe.

Saying "humanity's future is in our hands today," Guterres urged all countries "to recommit to a world free of nuclear weapons and to spare no effort to come to the negotiating table to ease tensions and end the

nuclear arms race, once and for all". The secretary-general spoke at a council meeting organised by China, which holds the presidency this month, on "promoting common security through dialogue and cooperation".

Across the world, Guterres said, collective security is being tested as "never before," pointing to geopolitical divides, conflicts, military coups, invasions, lengthy wars and differences between the world's great powers, "including at this council".

He also cited "challenges that were unimaginable to our predecessors -- cyberwarfare, terrorism, and lethal autonomous weapons".

"And the nuclear risk has climbed to its highest point in decades," Guterres warned.

The council meeting took place during the pandemic-delayed conference to review the 50-year-old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is considered the cornerstone of international disarmament efforts.

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "ULLANWADI" MAJARAAN BAZAR, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND, PIN CODE: 248001
Tele: 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: www.ujvn.com

Tender Notice

Date: 23-08-2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. 08/EE(Gen)/Khodri/2022-23: Servicing & Overhauling of 11 kV VCB at Khodri Power Station.

Tender No. 09/EE(Gen)/Khodri/2022-23: Supply of Stationary & Consumable items at Khodri Power Station.

Tender No. 10/EE(Gen)/Khodri/2022-23: Overhauling work of 33 kV isolator/control panel at Khodri Power Station.

Estimated cost: ₹8,90,000/-, ₹3,66,886/- & ₹6,35,000/- G.S.T. extra respectively.

Date of availability of bid document on website: 25.08.2022, 11:00 hrs. Last date for submission of tender: 15.09.2022 up to 16:00 hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (Generation)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter No.: 1714/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/267 Date : 23-08-2022

E-Tender Notice

- Name of the work:- Supply, installation and commissioning of L.P.G. cremation machine and construction of shed for cremation machine at Vishvanath Ghat Almora, District - Almora.
- Estimated Cost:- Rs.119.68 Lakh
- Period of Completion:- 8 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 23-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
- Online Bid submission: End date :- 06-09-2022 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 08-09-2022 (11.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 29-08-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Ranikhet.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

GENERAL MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter No.: 1713/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/266 Date : 23-08-2022

E-Tender Notice

- Name of the work:- Construction of Play Ground at Government Inter College Machod, District Almora
- Estimated Cost:- Rs.80.25 Lakh
- Period of Completion:- 8 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 23-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
- Online Bid submission: End date :- 06-09-2022 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 08-09-2022 (11.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 29-08-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Ranikhet.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

GENERAL MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of Our Clients, Ms. Ruhani Takhar and Ms. Siya Takhar both daughters of Mr. Raminder S. Takhar R/o. Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi 110049 that Our Clients have undivided, indivisible and impartible ownership rights in the property being Entire Third Floor and Entire terrace/roof above/upon the entire Third Floor of House No.1 Siri Fort Road, Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi constructed on a plot of land measuring 500 Sq. Yds., with all interest, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereto, with all fittings, fixtures, connections, structure standing thereon, with all rights in common entrances, passages, staircase lift and other common facilities and amenities provided therein. Therefore any person(s) dealing in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby cautioned not to deal in any manner whatsoever with respect to above referred property or part thereof without prior intimation to the undersigned at their office at F-31, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 within a period of 5 days (both days inclusive) of the publication hereof failing which the transaction, if any shall be void ab initio. In the event any person(s) deal in respect of the above referred property or part thereof the same shall be done at the costs, risks and consequences of the said person(s) and Our Clients shall be entitled to be indemnified for the same.

Schedule of the property :

North East : Lane
North West : Plot No.2
South East : Road
South West : Road

THE LAW CHAMBERS
HIMANSHU SAPRA ADVOCATE
F31, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001

German gas storage 80% full, progresses despite Russian cuts

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany's natural gas storage facilities are now more than 80 per cent full, showing steady progress despite a drastic reduction in deliveries from Russia amid the war in Ukraine.

Gas storage in Europe's biggest economy has reached 80.14 per cent of capacity, according to industry figures released on Tuesday.

The head of Germany's network regulator, Klaus Mueller, tweeted that storage is "being filled steadily" but cautioned that a planned three-day halt to deliveries through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline from Russia next week "could temporarily dampen" the effort.

Natural gas is used to power industry, heat homes and offices, and generate electricity.



reserve has been a key focus of the German government since Russia invaded Ukraine to avoid rationing for industry as demand rises in the winter.

The country's storage was about 56 per cent full when Russian state-owned energy company Gazprom started cutting supplies through Nord Stream 1 in mid-June.

It cited technical problems that German authorities have dismissed as cover for a political power play.

US: Russia looks to step up hits on Ukraine infrastructure

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US State Department has issued a security alert warning that Russia is stepping up efforts to launch strikes against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days.

The US Embassy in Kyiv on Monday urged US citizens still in Ukraine to depart the country immediately.

"If you hear a loud explosion or if sirens are activated, immediately seek cover," the State Department said in its alert.

"If in a home or a building, go to the lowest level of the structure with the fewest exterior walls, windows, and openings; close any doors and sit near an interior wall, away from any windows or openings."

The State Department issued the alert after the US intelligence community on Monday declassified a finding that determined that Russia would increasingly target Ukrainian civilian infrastruc-



ture, according to a US official familiar with the intelligence.

The official was not authorized to comment publicly about the finding and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The new intelligence comes as Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine will hit the six-month mark on Wednesday, which coincides with Ukraine's independence day from Soviet Union rule.

President Joe Biden spoke on Sunday with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron

and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz about concerns about shelling near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeastern Ukraine and called for the United Nations nuclear watchdog to visit the power plant.

The official said, however, that the intelligence finding is not specifically tied to concerns about Zaporizhzhia.

The Biden administration is battling to keep western allies — and Washington — focused on maintaining pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on Monday the "single most important thing going on in the world right now is to beat the Russians in Ukraine".

Speaking at a luncheon event in Scott County, Kentucky, McConnell said the one fear he has is that the US and others will "all kind of lose interest" as the war drags on.

"We need to stick with them," McConnell said. "It's important to us, and to the rest of the world, that they succeed."

Lanka to replace draconian counter-terrorism law

With new national security Act

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday announced that it will soon replace the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) with a new security law, amid international condemnation over Colombo's use of the draconian counter-terrorism law to detain student activists.

"PTA has been there since 1979. The justice minister informed the cabinet that a new National Security Act would be drafted by deleting the undesirable parts of the PTA," Cabinet spokesman and minister Bandula Gunawardena told reporters.

The development comes a day after the US and the European Union on Monday expressed concern over the detention of three student activists under its draconian counter-terrorism law for participating in protests, which led to the resignation of former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

"Using laws that don't conform with international human rights standards - like the PTA - erodes democracy in Sri Lanka. We encourage the government to uphold the rights of the people to express their views," US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung tweeted.

The European Union also voiced its concern.

"Concerned about reports on the use of the PTA in recent arrests as we refer to information given by the (Sri Lankan) government to the international community about the de-facto moratorium of the use of PTA," an EU statement said.

Mary Lawler, US special rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, has also expressed concern over the use of PTA to detain the students.



The three students - Mudalige Wasantha Kumara, Hashan Jeewantha and Buddhist monk Galwewa Siridhamma - of the Inter-University Students Federation (IUSF) have been detained since August 18 when the IUSF staged an anti-government demonstration.

The Sri Lankan police on Sunday began a probe into their possible links to an anti-government conspiracy and inciting violence and arson attacks across the country amid widespread protests over the worst economic crisis.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka has asked the President and the law enforcement authorities to refrain from using the PTA and immediately rescind the Detention Orders.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) in a statement said it is deeply concerned at the use of the provisions of the

PTA to arrest and detain persons who have been involved in protests against the Government.

The rights group, Amnesty International, too said protesters must not be detained under the PTA.

On Monday, the police said that three student activists have been detained under PTA. The detainees were transferred to the southern prison at Tangalle on Tuesday.

The police said the IUSF activists are needed to be detained to probe the alleged anti-government conspiracy in the background of recent incidents of violence since 9 May.

After months of protests over Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives from Sri Lanka on July 13, then flew to Singapore, where he announced his resignation as the president a day later.

Provide protection to Gotabaya, his family: Lanka's rights body

PIT ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's top human rights body has urged President Ranil Wickremesinghe to provide adequate protection to the family of his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa as guaranteed by the Constitution and facilitate the former president's return to the crisis-hit country.

In a letter, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) on Monday said that it had received several complaints alleging that the former president had tendered his resignation under threat and coercion and the government had failed to provide adequate security to him during this period.

"And now, the ex-president and his family intend to return to the country. The complaint is based on the premise that the ex-president and family cannot return to the country due to the prevailing threats they face and that it violates fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution for every citizen," it said.

The HRCSL also cited Article 14 (1) (i) of the constitution, which claims that "every citizen is entitled to the freedom to return to Sri Lanka."

"It is alleged in the complaint that Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his family, who are citizens of this country, are unable to return to the country due to prevailing threats to their lives," the rights body said.

"It is recommended that the Government of Sri Lanka takes all necessary steps to assess the threat situation and provide



the ex-president with the security protection provided under the law for an ex-president to return to the country whenever he makes such a request," the letter said.

However, there is no confirmation if Rajapaksa would return to the country on Wednesday as predicted by his cousin Udayanga Weeratunga last week.

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.

He is currently staying in a hotel in Bangkok with his wife Loma Rajapaksa.

President Wickremesinghe has reached out to Rajapaksa to finalise arrangements and facilitate his return to the crisis-hit country, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported on Monday, citing highly-placed sources.

Last week, the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) said Rajapaksa has the right to return to the



Sikhs protest in Pak over forcible marriage of Sikh woman

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Members of the minority Sikh community staged a protest in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday against police inaction in a case involving the forcible marriage of a Sikh woman to a Muslim man.

The protesters blocked the main Buner road for hours. The Sikh community members in their speeches complained that the local police were not cooperating with them and demanded protection for their lives and property.

They said Sikh woman Meena Kumari, 25, was first compelled to elope and then forcibly married to the Muslim man.

However, Kumari in her statement before the local police said she was not pressured and eloped with the Muslim man of her own free will.

"I am 25 years old and working as a teacher at a government school. I married the Muslim boy after studying Islamic studies. I don't want to go to Darul Aman and want to live with my husband," she said.

Taiwan's Tsai says resolve in self-defence cannot be shaken

AP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan's president invoked an armed conflict from 1958 as an example of the island's resolve to defend itself while she met Tuesday with more foreign visitors amid the highest tensions with China in decades.

US Policy researchers and Japanese lawmakers are the latest visiting delegations, just weeks after China reacted to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan by holding large-scale military exercises that included firing missiles over the island and sending ships across the midline of the Taiwan Strait.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory, to be taken by force if necessary, and sees high-level foreign visits to

the island as interference in its affairs and de facto recognition of Taiwanese sovereignty.

In speaking to policy researchers from Stanford University's Hoover Institution think tank, President Tsai Ing-wen referred to the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1958, a conflict in which the Chinese military conducted prolonged shelling in Taiwan's outlying Kinmen and Matsu islands.

Tsai said the military and civilians worked together then to safeguard Taiwan.

"That battle to protect our homeland showed the world that no threat of any kind could shake the Taiwanese people's resolve to defend their nation, not in the past, not now and not in the future," she said. "We, too, will show the world that the peo-



ple of Taiwan have both the resolve and the confidence to safeguard peace, security, freedom and prosperity for ourselves." Tsai later said to the Japanese lawmakers that aggression against Taiwan would have a

major impact against the entire Indo-Pacific region.

Leading the Japanese delegation was Keiji Furuya, an ultra-conservative who heads a Japan-Taiwan parliamentarians group. Furuya criticised China's

military exercises in the past few weeks in his speech ahead of his meeting with Tsai.

"China's actions are unacceptable toward the Japanese and Taiwanese people who have shared values in democracy

freedoms, rule of law and human rights. We oppose this type of threat from China," he said. Furuya also said "what is most important is for Taiwan to cooperate closely with the international community with Japan and the U.S. At the center to completely suppress China's attempts to change the status quo."

On Monday, Tsai met with the Indiana state governor, who came to discuss business and academic cooperation with Taiwanese institutions on the issue of semi-conductors, an industry in which Taiwan dominates globally.

A delegation of former Japanese defense officials and a U.S. Congressional delegation that followed Pelosi have also visited Taiwan recently.

Mozambique's rebels launch new offensive

AP ■ MAPUTO

A new offensive by Mozambique's Islamic extremist rebels in the embattled northern province of Cabo Delgado has increased the number of displaced by 80,000 and undermines the government's claims of containing the insurgency.

The rebels have expanded their area in a campaign that has lasted for more than two months. The new offensive, which started in June, follows a period of relative calm when the commander-general of Mozambique's national police had declared that "the war against terrorism is almost at an end."

That claim proved to be hollow as the fighters have struck further south than ever before, burning villages and beheading civilians in the Ancuabe, Chiure and Mecufi districts which had previously been untouched by the conflict since it began in



October 2017.

The latest bout of violence brings the total number of people displaced in Cabo Delgado to just under 950,000, according to estimates by the International Organization for Migration.

Despite the military support that Mozambique is receiving from troops sent by neighbouring countries and Rwanda, the

rebels are far from defeated. The foreign troops were deployed in Cabo Delgado a year ago, following the extremists' seizure of the strategic town of Palma in March, 2021.

"The prevalence of attacks a year after the beginning of the foreign military intervention confirms what was already clear" that the government is wrong to

say the insurrection has been caused by an external invasion with obscure interests, said Albino Forquilha, executive director of FOMICRES, an independent peacebuilding organisation in Mozambique.

"The truth is that the conflict has internal origins due to bad governance and a poor relationship between the state and the local population," Forquilha continued. "As long as the government ignores this fact, the attacks will not stop."

Mozambique's security forces and the allied foreign troops have succeeded in driving insurgents from the main towns of Cabo Delgado into the forests, but this has effectively put rural civilians on the frontline. Since June, the insurgency has been characterized by relentless hit-and-run assaults on undefended villages, forcing the military and police off-balance as they rush to respond from one incident to the next.

Redrawn maps shuffle US House primaries in New York, Florida



AP ■ NEW YORK

Redrawn maps shuffling U.S. House districts in New York are threatening the political career of a first-term progressive and will ensure the ouster of one of the most powerful Democrats in Congress.

The scramble has led to contentious races between Democrats in the second-largest blue state in the country, with both challengers and incumbents sensing a rare win-

dow to seize or lose power in Tuesday's primary elections.

There's an added degree of uncertainty to how New York's congressional primary contests will shake out as voter turnout is expected to be low. It's the second primary election day in New York this summer after statewide and state assembly primaries were held two months ago. New York voters are not accustomed to casting primary ballots this late in the summer — and certainly not used to casting them twice — and many are finding their longtime district lines have shifted, adding to confusion.

Primary elections for House seats in Florida will feature a test for a conservative firebrand with the specter of a federal investigation looming over him and a rematch between two Democrats after a razor-thin loss last year.

Thai court asked to rule if Prime Minister must step down

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand's Constitutional Court on Monday received a petition from Opposition lawmakers seeking a ruling on whether Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has reached the legal limit on how long he can remain in office.

The petition, signed by 171 members of the House of Representatives, asks the nine-member court to rule on an article in the constitution limiting prime ministers to eight years in office.

The court is widely expected to announce on Wednesday whether it will rule on the petition. It is uncertain whether the court, if it accepts the case,



would temporarily suspend Prayuth from his duties until it issues a ruling.

At issue is the date that should be used in determining how long he has been in office. Prayuth, then army commander, seized power in May 2014 after toppling an elected government in a military coup. He

led a ruling junta and was installed as prime minister on August 24, 2014, under a provisional post-coup constitution.

His critics and several legal experts contend this means he will complete eight years in office on Tuesday.

His supporters say the country's current constitution, which contains the provision limiting prime ministers to eight years, came into effect on April 6, 2017, and that should be used as the starting date. An even more generous interpretation is that the countdown began on June 9, 2019, when Prayuth took office under the new constitution following a 2019 general election.

Malaysia top court upholds ex-PM Najib's graft conviction

AP ■ PUTRAJAYA (MALAYSIA)

Malaysian ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak lost his final appeal on Tuesday in a graft case linked to the looting of the 1MDB state fund, with the top court unanimously upholding his conviction and 12-year prison sentence.

The loss means Najib will have to begin serving his sentence immediately, becoming the first former prime minister to be jailed.

The five-member Federal Court panel said it found the High Court judge was right in his judgment and that Najib's appeal was "devoid of any merits."

"This is a simple and straightforward case of abuse of



power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering," said Chief Justice Maimun Tuan Mat, who read out the verdict.

"We are unable to conclude that any of the findings of the High Court, as affirmed by the Court of Appeal, were perverse or plainly wrong so as to warrant appellate intervention. We agree that the defense is so inherently inconsistent and incredible that it does not raise a reasonable doubt on the prosecution case," she said.

Australia to prevent PMs gaining secret powers

AP ■ CANBERRA

The Australian government will launch an inquiry aimed at preventing a prime minister from ever again secretly amassing new ministerial powers, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday.

Albanese's predecessor Scott Morrison secretly appointed himself to five ministerial roles between March 2020 and May 2021, usually without the knowledge of the original minister.

After the revelations, Solicitor-General Stephen Donaghue issued legal advice that Morrison had been "validly appointed" in the duplicated portfolios.

PERFECTPAC LIMITED

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NOTICE OF 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

In compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ('Act') and rules made thereunder, Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI') (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022 (collectively referred as 'MCA Circulars') and SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 ('SEBI Circular') (MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular collectively referred as 'Circulars'), NOTICE is hereby given that the **Fiftieth (50th) Annual General Meeting ('AGM')** of the Members of **Perfectpac Limited ('Company')** will be held on **Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 12:30 P.M. (IST)** through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means ('VC/OAVM'), without the physical presence of the Members at the AGM, to transact the business as set out in the AGM Notice. Members attending the AGM through VC/OAVM shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Act.

In compliance with the Circulars, AGM Notice along with the Annual Report for FY 2021-22 ('Annual Report') has been sent only through electronic mode to those Members whose email ids are registered with the Company/Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA)/Depository Participant ('DP'). The emailing of AGM Notice to all members has been completed on August 23, 2022. The aforesaid documents are also available on the Company's website at www.perfectpac.com, website of the Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ('NSDL') at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Members whose email ids are already registered with the Company/RTA/DP, may follow the instructions for remote e-Voting as well as e-Voting at AGM as provided in the AGM Notice. Members who have not registered their email ids, are requested to register the same for receiving all communications including Annual Report, Notices etc. from the Company electronically as per process mentioned below:-

- Shareholders holding shares in physical mode are requested to provide a duly signed Form ISR-1 along with supporting documents to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent-Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, either at their office at Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, D-153/A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020, Tel: 011-40450193-97; or by e-mail at admin@skylinertn.com. The said form is available on the website of the Company at <https://perfectpac.com/pdf/kyc/Form-ISR-1.pdf>.
- Shareholders holding shares in dematerialised form are requested to register / update their email address, mobile number and bank account details with their relevant depositories through their depository participants.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('Listing Regulations'), Members will be provided with the facility to cast their vote electronically, through the remote e-Voting facility (before the AGM) and e-Voting facility (at the AGM), on all the resolutions set forth in AGM Notice. The facility of casting votes will be provided by NSDL. Facility for e-Voting at the AGM will be made available to those Members who are present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and have not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-Voting. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the AGM may also attend/ participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be eligible to vote at the AGM. All the Members are informed that:

- The business as set forth in the 50th AGM Notice will be transacted through voting by electronic means in the form of e-Voting.
- The voting rights of member(s) shall be in proportion to their shares in the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, September 09, 2022. A person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date, i.e. Friday, September 09, 2022 only shall be entitled to vote through remote e-Voting-Voting at the AGM.
- Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes member of the Company after sending the notice of the AGM and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. Friday, September 09, 2022, may obtain the User ID and password by sending an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or info@skylinertn.com by mentioning their Folio No./DP ID and Client ID. However, if a person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-Voting then existing user ID and password can be used for casting the votes.
- The remote e-Voting period commences at 09:00 A.M. (IST) on Monday, September 12, 2022 and ends at 05:00 P.M. (IST) on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. The remote e-Voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- During this period, Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form may cast their vote by remote e-Voting before the AGM.
- The Members will be provided with the facility for e-Voting at the AGM and those Members participating at the AGM & who have not already cast their vote by remote e-Voting before the AGM, will be eligible to vote at the AGM.
- The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC/ OAVM, but shall not be eligible to vote again at the AGM.
- Detailed process and manner of remote e-Voting, e-Voting at the AGM and instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM is being provided in the AGM Notice and also available on the Company's website at www.perfectpac.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in who will also address the grievances connected with the voting by electronic means.
- The Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Ravi Sharma (FCS No. 4468, C.P. No.: 3666), and/or Ms. Suman Pandey (FCS No. 7606, C.P. No.: 8404) Partners of M/s. RSM & Co., Company Secretaries, has been appointed as 'Scrutinizer' to scrutinize the process of e-voting during the AGM and remote e-voting held before the AGM in a fair and transparent manner.
- The Results shall be declared within two working days of the conclusion of the AGM and the same, along with the consolidated Scrutinizer's Report, shall be placed on the website of the Company at www.perfectpac.com, NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com and shall be communicated to BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.

Notice is further given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Act read with rules made thereunder and Regulation 42 of the Listing Regulations, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Friday, September 09, 2022 to Thursday, September 15, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

For Perfectpac Limited

Place : New Delhi

Date : 23.08.2022

Sanjay Rajgarhia
Managing Director

Govt keen to use AI in e-Marketplace: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the Centre is keen to use Artificial Intelligence in the Government e-Marketplace procurement process to make it more effective and sought industry cooperation to achieve this.

The commerce and industry minister also asked the industry to share if they are facing any issues of harassment and stressed that these would be openly addressed.

“Goyal remarked that our TRP in public procurement is: Trust, Reliability and Prosperity. He mentioned that Government is keen to use Artificial Intelligence in GeM procurement process to make it more effective and sought industry cooperation to that end,” the commerce ministry said in a statement.

Goyal urged the industry to play the role of whistleblower in instances of the wrong declaration in terms of indigenisation of products put up on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

This would help in transparency in the procurement process, which encourages domestically made goods and services, the minister said.

“Goyal remarked that our TRP in public procurement is: Trust, Reliability and Prosperity. He mentioned that



Government is keen to use Artificial Intelligence in the GeM procurement process to make it more effective and sought industry cooperation to that end,” the commerce ministry said in a statement.

Recalling one of the 5 prans given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address, Goyal spoke about getting rid of the colonial mindset and stated that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will engage with the Industry to ensure the use of domestic standards in various sectors of manufacturing.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the “Conclave on Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017” here to sensitise stakeholders about the order.

Addressing the conclave,

the minister expressed confidence in the capability of the local industry and congratulated them for their active participation in this growth journey.

The “Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017 (PPP-MII Order, 2017)” has been issued pursuant to Rule 153 (iii) of General Financial Rules, 2017 as an enabling provision to promote the local industry by providing them preference in public procurement. The order is applicable to the procurement of goods, services and works by central ministries/departments, their attached/subordinate offices, autonomous bodies controlled by the Centre, government companies, their joint ventures and special purpose vehicles.

Sensex, Nifty snap two-day fall as bank, auto shares shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty snapped their two-day losing streak to close nearly half a per cent higher in a volatile session on Tuesday following gains in banking, metal and auto stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded more than 1,000 points from the day’s low before settling at 59,031.30, showing net gains of 257.43 points or 0.44 per cent. As many as 21 of Sensex shares closed in the green while nine declined.

The broader NSE Nifty rose by 86.80 points or 0.50 per cent to settle at 17,577.50 as 42 of its constituents advanced. The key indices opened lower due to losses in IT and FMCG shares as uncertainty prevailed over the interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve to control inflation. Losses in Asian markets also hit the sentiment.

However, late recovery in banking, metal and auto shares helped the indices recover from the lows and snap the two-day losing streak.

From the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 3.78 per cent. Bajaj Finserv rose by 2.75 per cent, Titan by 2.6 per cent, Tata Steel by 2.38 per cent, State Bank of India by 2.12 per cent. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank also



advanced.

On the other hand, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

“Markets witnessed heightened volatility as the Sensex gyrated more than 1,000 points intra-day before late buying in banking, auto, metal & realty stocks aided recovery. Markets may witness bouts of volatility in coming days as global factors will continue to keep investors on tenterhooks,” Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Fear of uncertainty is visible in the market as they move with high volatility, led by weak signals from global peers, while a stronger domestic economy is providing some comfort, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

India’s crude oil production falls 3.8% in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India’s crude oil production fell 3.8 per cent in July on lower output from fields operated by state-owned ONGC and private sector firms, government data released on Tuesday showed.

Production of crude oil, which is refined to produce fuels such as petrol and diesel, fell to 2.45 million tonnes in July from 2.54 million tonnes a year back. The output was lower than the monthly target of 2.59 million tonnes, the data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas showed.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produced 1.7 per cent less oil at 1.63 million tonnes on lower output from western offshore. Fields operated by private firms saw a 12.34 per cent decline in production.

But the oil production during the first four months of the current fiscal that began on April 1 was only marginally

lower at 9.91 million tonnes as opposed to 9.96 million tonnes during April-July 2021.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on August 4 tweeted that the declining trend in crude oil production has been reversed.

“We have already been able to reverse the declining trend in oil production from 2011-12 with an expected 29.7 million tonnes in 2021-22 to 30.8 million tonnes in 2022-23 & 34 million tonnes (estimated) in 2023-24, and are confident of rapidly ramping up the nation’s oil production in the years to come,” he had said.

According to the ministry data, ONGC’s oilfields in Gujarat and Assam produced less oil while Vedanta’s Rajasthan block had a lower output. Natural gas output was almost unchanged at 2.88 billion cubic meters in July but was 3.4 per cent higher during April-July at 11.43 bcm, according to the data released Tuesday.

ONGC’s gas output was almost 4 per cent lower in July due to less gas production in the Daman field in Mumbai offshore. The country’s 22 oil refineries processed 10.52 per cent more crude oil at 21.43 million tonnes as demand for fuel picked up.

Domestically produced crude oil forms just 15 per cent of the processing at refineries, the rest being imported oil.

India to become world’s number one producer of steel: Scindia



New Delhi: Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia on Tuesday exuded confidence that India will become the number one producer of steel in the world in the days to come.

India is the world’s second largest producer of crude steel after China.

The minister was speaking during a conference on Indian minerals and metals industry organised by NMDC and Fici. He was of the view that India has moved from becoming the net importer of steel to the net exporter of steel.

He said India’s per capita consumption of steel has increased from 57.8 kg in 2013-14 to 78 kg.

The government intends to achieve 300 million tonne (MT) of steel production target by 2030, Scindia said.

Steel across the world is the primary sector which results in economic, capital and infrastructure growth.

“Our target policy and focus also has been to turn India from just another player in the steel sector to becoming a force to reckon with,” he added.

17 non-operational mines left by PSUs to go under hammer

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Government plans to put on auction 17 mines surrendered by public sector undertakings which could not put the blocks into operation, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday.

The statement comes in the wake of the government making efforts to ramp up domestic coal production to ensure adequate availability of dry fuel to different sectors.

“Just the day-before yesterday (Sunday) I got 17 blocks back and they are very good blocks and I am putting them for auction now,” Joshi said.

Speaking during a conference on the Indian minerals and metals industry organised by NMDC and FICCI, the minister said many PSUs in the country in sectors like coal were sitting on big mines.

The government decided to take away all those mines from the public sector undertakings which do not get into operation even after the lapse



of five to six years and put them on sale.

“I talked to the chief ministers and ministers of a few states and asked them the reasons for sitting on mines. These mines could not get into operation even after 10 to 15 years,” Joshi said.

Joshi also said that his ministry was in deliberations with the Ministry of Environment and Forest on how the exploration of mines can happen without cutting down trees.

Through an amendment to MMDR Act in 2021, private exploration agencies which have been accredited are allowed to carry out exploration without prospecting licence upon their notification and so far nine private exploration agencies have been notified for this purpose.

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 79.88 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 79.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking a strong American currency in the overseas market and rising crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.85 and saw an intra-day high of 79.81 and a low of 79.90 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 79.88, down 4 paise over its previous



close.

In the previous session, the rupee had closed at 79.88 against the US dollar.

“Momentum in the dollar has taken off after hawkish comments from the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes.

“Euro fell below parity as the dollar strengthened across the board. The pound fell sharply as surging energy costs...Highlighted the UK cost of living crisis and intensified fears of further economic slowdown,” said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Somaiya further said the focus will be on the preliminary manufacturing PMI number from the US.

“We expect the USD/INR(Spot) to trade sideways with a positive bias and quote in the range of 79.40 and 80.05,” he added.

Gold gains ₹157; silver jumps ₹364



New Delhi: Gold rose by ₹157 to ₹51,707 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday amid an increase in international yellow metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹51,550 per 10 gram.

Silver also jumped by ₹364 to ₹55,662 per kg. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,739 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 19.03 per ounce.

“Gold prices halted decline on a softer dollar which is still trading near six-week high,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Govt to approach capital mkt for four road projects’ funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said the government will approach the capital market next month to raise funds for four road projects.

The money will be raised through Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), and there will be an investment limit of Rs 10 lakh for retail investors, he added.

“We will be approaching the capital market to raise funds for the four road projects... There will be an assured return of 7-8 per cent,” Gadkari said while addressing a Fici event.

The minister said the government will soon list InvITs on stock exchanges so that retail investors can trade in units of InvITs.

Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are instruments on the pattern of mutual funds, designed to pool money from investors and invest in assets



that will provide cash flows over a period of time.

“In the near future, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will be monetising various road projects through a mix of InvITs and toll-operate-transfer (TOT) model,” he noted.

Gadkari said the road ministry will also be opening up projects under the build operate transfer (BOT) model once again.

The minister said he has set a target to take the national highway network length to 2 lakh km by 2024.

The total length of national highways (NHs) in the country has increased from about 91,287 km in April 2014 to about 1,40,937 km at the end of November 2021.

Gadkari reiterated his aim of replacing the use of petrol and diesel with alternative fuels.

Indian EV market to hit annual sales of 17 mn units by 2030: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s electric vehicle market is expected to expand at a compounded annual growth rate of 49 per cent between 2021-2030, with the segment’s volumes set to cross annual sales of 17 million by 2030, a new report said on Tuesday.

This projected growth is expected to be driven by factors such as rising fuel prices, entry of new players, advancement in EV technology, continued subsidy support from both the central and state governments as well as anticipated implementation of emission standards, India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) said in its report.

The EV industry in India experienced one of the quick-



est recoveries from the pandemic-induced slowdown in 2020, the report observed, noting that the electric two-wheeler segment, accounted for 50 per cent of the total over 4.67 lakh EV sales in the domestic market followed by the low-speed e-three-wheelers in 2021.

However, other segments also showed notable increase

over the course of the year, it stated. The report said that with a Business as Usual (BAU) scenario, the Indian EV market would expand at a CAGR of 49 per cent between 2021 and 2030 and is predicted to reach annual sales of 17 million units by that time, with almost 15 million of those projected to be electric two-wheelers.

Pharma industry expects to report 7-9% revenue growth in FY23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic pharma industry is expected to report moderate revenue growth of 7-9 per cent in the current fiscal, due to headwinds in export sales in the regulated markets and high-base effect in the domestic formulations business, as per rating agency CRISIL.

Operating profitability will shrink another 200-250 basis points (bps) after the 130 bps decline last fiscal due to continued pricing pressure in the US generics market, and high input and freight costs which offset moderate revenue growth, it said. The rating agency’s estimates are based on a study of



184 drug makers that account for 55 per cent of the Rs 3.4 lakh crore-a-year sector revenue.

CRISIL stated that the domestic formulations market is expected to grow 7-9 per cent this fiscal, on a 15 per cent growth last fiscal, led by a 6-8 per cent average price increase allowed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in March 2022 and on the back of new product launches.

IFFCO, NPC join hands to boost digital innovation

PIONEER NEWS SERVIC ■ NEW DELHI

Eying the tech-savvy younger generation, cooperatives in the country are gearing up to adopt digital services. To help them achieve this aim, IFFCO and the National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Union Ministry of Commerce, have decided to join hands to promote innovation and productivity in the sector. This will also help in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s goal of realizing a five trillion dollar Indian economy, Dileepbhai Sanghani, IFFCO Chairman said, about the pact proposed at a meeting held on Tuesday here.

He pointed out that the NPC has been mandated to bring about decisive improvement in the MSME ecosystem in the country. Cooperatives form a major group within MSME. It is not only MSME type of cooperatives but the entire cooperatives’ ecosystem have to deliver outcomes in a more productive manner. Sundeeep Nayak, Director General, NPC agreed saying that the partnership should be seen in the context of the Government plans to computerize the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

Investment via P-notes declines to ₹75K-cr in July

New Delhi: Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes declined to ₹75,725 crore at the end of July, the lowest level in nearly two years, mainly in the wake of aggressive rate hikes by the US Fed. This also marks the third consecutive monthly decline in investment numbers.

Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets— equity, debt, and hybrid securities— stood at ₹75,725 crore at July-end.

Rated Indian cos better placed to withstand rising interest rates, inflation: S&P

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Companies and banks in India could feel the bite of rising rates and inflation, but rated firms are better cushioned to withstand the pressure, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

It said further hike in interest rates is on the cards as the inflation remains above the RBI’s upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent despite a 140 basis points increase in policy rate in the current fiscal year.

“In a stress scenario we conducted, credit profiles will deteriorate for companies that account for 20 per cent of the outstanding debt analyzed.

This is according to a stress test of more than 800 largely unrated companies in India, representing USD 570 billion in debt. Rated issuers are generally better cushioned to withstand rising rates and higher input costs,” S&P said in a report.

The US-based rating agency said it expects India’s

continued strong economic growth to positively affect companies’ revenues.

S&P had in May cut India’s growth projections for the current fiscal year to 7.3 per cent from 7.8 per cent estimated earlier, on account of high oil prices, slowing exports, and high inflation.

“... Inflation is eroding the purchasing power of the poor because energy and food account for a chunk of their consumption basket. Despite this, there are factors support-

ing growth,” it said.

S&P said a normal monsoon will prop up agriculture production and help control food inflation.

The rebound in contact-based services will also boost growth, especially as Covid-19 vaccination penetration improves and people learn to live with the virus.

“More rate rises are coming, in our view... Despite the 140 basis points rise in 2022 so far, policy rates are well below historical levels,” S&P said.

Leading economists see economy clipping 13-15.7% in Q1

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Leading economists have pencilled in a high 13-15.7 per cent uptick in the economy in the first quarter of 2022-23 with an upward bias.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at State Bank of India, on Tuesday said he expects the GDP to clip past 15.7 per cent in the first quarter with more chances of the final numbers printing in higher, while Aditi Nayar, the chief economist at the rating agency Icra, said the economy will grow much lower

at 13 per cent in the June quarter.

The national statistical office will announce the first quarter GDP numbers later next week.

While GDP contracted by 23.9 per cent in June 2020 due to the first wave of the pandemic, the same had given a higher boost in June 2021 clipping at 20.1 per cent, despite the period being more devastating in terms of loss of lives from the second wave of COVID-19.

The Reserve Bank-led monetary policy committee in

the August 5 policy review projected the economy to grow 16.2 per cent in the April-June quarter.

According to SBI Research, the GDP is expected to print 15.7 per cent in Q1, with a large possibility of an upward bias. If this materialises, it expects upside to the central bank’s growth projections of 7.2 per cent for FY23.

The high base effect along with the impact of the heatwave on wheat output, geo-political issues and elevated commodity prices on demand/margins will temper the pace of growth

in Q1 at 13 per cent, Nayar of Icra said, adding the gross value added to come in at 12.6 per cent.

Icra expects sectoral growth to be driven by the services sector which will log in 17-19 per cent growth, followed by the industry (9-11 per cent).

The SBI report said that of the 41 high frequency leading indicators that it tracks, as much as 89 per cent accelerated in Q1 compared to 75 per cent in Q1FY22, indicating strong and broad-based growth momentum.

AIFF REQUESTS FIFA TO LIFT BAN AFTER SC VERDICT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday requested the FIFA to lift the ban imposed on it following Supreme Court's decision to terminate the mandate of Committee of Administrators (CoA) as demanded by the sport's world governing body.

AIFF's acting general secretary Sunando Dhar requested FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura to 'reconsider their decision of suspending the AIFF'.

"It is with immense pleasure that we inform you that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India took up our matter and vide order dated 22.05.2022 was pleased to pass directions regarding the full repeal of the CoA mandate and consequently the AIFF having full charge of the AIFF's daily affairs," Dhar wrote in the letter.

"In view of the above, we request the FIFA and especially the Bureau to reconsider their decision of suspending the AIFF.

"Since the conditions set out in your Letter for lifting of the suspension stand satisfied, we request that a order to that effect be passed at the earliest for the AIFF to continue with the smooth running of football in India," the letter further stated.

FIFA had suspended the AIFF on August 15 for 'undue influence from third parties' and had said the U-17



AIFF elections on September 2, nomination to be filed from Thursday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The elections to the AIFF Executive Committee will be held on September 2 and aspiring candidates can file fresh nominations from August 25, the returning officer has announced.

The Supreme Court on Monday terminated the Committee of Administrator (CoA), as demanded by the

world governing body FIFA, and pushed back the AIFF election by a week.

Hours after the SC order, returning officer Umesh Sinha issued a fresh notice, outlining the process afresh.

The nominations for the posts can be filed between Thursday and Saturday while the scrutiny will be done on Sunday (August 28).

The candidates, whose

nominations are deemed valid, will have a chance to withdraw the nomination, if they want, on August 29 while the returning officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates and put it on the AIFF website on August 30. The polls would be held on September 2 at AIFF Headquarter in New Delhi and the results could be announced either on

September 2 or 3, according to the returning officer's notice.

As per revised order, there will be no "eminent footballers" as individual voters, something that violates the FIFA Statutes.

The implication of this order means that former captain Bhaichung Bhutia will have to come from a state unit in order to contest the election unlike earlier time when he filed as an eminent footballer.

Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned."

The country is scheduled to host the FIFA tournament from October 11-30.

It is the first time the AIFF has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year history.

On Monday, the Supreme Court modified its earlier orders to facilitate the revocation of the suspension and the holding of the Under-17 Women's World Cup in India.

The day-to-day management of AIFF shall be exclusively looked after by the AIFF Administration led by the Acting Secretary General. The mandate of the Committee of Administrators appointed by the order of this Court stands terminated," the SC said in its verdict on Monday.

The three-member CoA, headed by former Supreme Court judge A R Dave, had been overseeing the affairs of the AIFF since the May 18 SC order. The other two members of the CoA are former chief election commissioner SY Qureshi and ex Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly.

The top court also postponed the August 28 elections of the AIFF by one week to allow a changed electoral college and the start of the nomination process.

The order came on a fresh plea filed by the Sports Ministry seeking modification of the May 18 and August 3 orders of the court after consultation with the FIFA.



Djokovic will not play in US Open: Reports

IANS ■ NEW YORK

World No. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic will miss the US Open, scheduled to be played from August 29, according to his official website.

Becoming the player with most men's Grand Slam singles titles is Novak Djokovic's ultimate career goal but it seems he has to wait until next year to fulfill his dream. The Serb won his 21st major title at Wimbledon in July, leaving him one behind Rafael Nadal's all-time men's record.

"There are no scheduled events at this moment," reads Djokovic's official website.

Djokovic's decision not to be vaccinated against Covid-19 has meant he has missed opportunities this year to add to his haul. The nine-time Australian Open champion was unable to play in Melbourne and could also be missing the US Open,

although he recently said he had his "fingers crossed" for the U.S. Open.

According to a report in *Forbes.com*, the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demands a non-US citizen must "show proof of being fully vaccinated against Covid-19" before travelling by air from a foreign country.

The ruling stopped Djokovic from playing ATP Masters 1000 events at Indian Wells and Miami in March and April, along with last week's Cincinnati Open.

There had been hoping he might be able to play in New York after the CDC earlier this month relaxed many Covid rules in the US.

"In the coming weeks CDC will work to align standalone guidance documents, such as those for healthcare settings, congregate settings at higher risk of transmission, and travel, with today's update," the organisation said.

Smalling heads Roma past Cremonese

AP ■ GENOA

Juventus were held to an uneventful goalless draw by Sampdoria on Monday, while Chris Smalling headed Roma to a 1-0 win over Cremonese to make it two wins from two.

Massimiliano Allegri's side were uninspired and failed to create much against a solid Samp at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris in Genoa.

The closest they came to taking the points was when Adrien Rabiot's low strike was correctly ruled out for offside, the France midfielder a starter after his move to Manchester United collapsed in the week.

Filip Kostic also forced a save from Emil Audero in stoppage time but that was about it from a team aiming to make a league title charge after finishing way behind champions AC Milan last term.

Juve were missing the injured Angel Di Maria and they lacked the stardust which the Argentina winger brought to the team in their season-opener win over Sassuolo last week.

SMALLING SAVES ROMA

England defender Smalling met Lorenzo Pellegrini's corner in the 65th minute with a perfect header to send a wave of relief around a packed Stadio Olimpico and secure a hard-fought win.

The 32-year-old dedicated his winner to Wijnaldum, who signed from Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month but fractured his shin in training on Sunday.

"We're gutted for him and we hope he's back as soon as possible because he's such a quality addition for us," Smalling told DAZN.



Roma, who travel to Juve on Saturday, have a maximum six points from their first two games after a summer full of optimism following their Europa Conference League triumph last season and an impressive transfer window which also brought in Paulo Dybala.

Already reeling from Wijnaldum's injury, more of that positive feeling was drained when attacking starlet Nicolò Zaniolo had to be taken from the field just before half-time with a left shoulder injury following a thumping tackle from Luka Lochoshvili.

Neeraj Chopra to compete in Lausanne Diamond League on Friday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has recovered from the "minor" groin strain injury he had suffered last month and is set to take part in the Diamond League Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, on August 26.

A good show in Lausanne can ensure Chopra a berth in the Diamond League Finals in Zurich on September 7 and 8 as he is at fourth spot in the standings. The top six in the standings will make the Zurich Finals. The Lausanne event is the last leg which has men's javelin throw competition.

The 24-year-Chopra had pulled out of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games last month due to the injury he had suffered during the final of the World Championships on July 24 in Eugene, USA, where he had won a historic Silver.

He pulled out of the Birmingham CWG (July 28-August 8) just two days before the start of the multi-sport event as he was advised a four-week rest by his medical team. He then underwent rehabilitation in Germany.

"Feeling strong and ready



for Friday. Thanks for the support, everyone. See you in Lausanne!" Chopra tweeted.

Chopra's name figured among the participants for the Lausanne leg when the organisers issued the list on August 17 but his appearance in the competition had been a matter of speculation due to the injury.

After his second place finish in the Stockholm leg — first ever on podium — on June 30, Chopra is in fourth spot with seven points in the standings. Tokyo Olympics Silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech

Republic leads the standings with 20 points, followed by Germany's Julian Weber (19 points) and world champion Anderson Peters (16 points) of Grenada.

At the start of the season, Chopra had said that he would like to do well in the Diamond Leg Finals.

The groin injury may have affected his preparations, but Chopra can aim for his maiden Diamond League title as the six-man field in Lausanne is not that strong as compared to the Stockholm leg.

MINISTRY FUNDS BAJRANG, DEEPAK PUNIA'S WORLD C'SHIPS PREPS IN US

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry is funding Olympic Bronze medalist Bajrang Punia and CWG Gold winner Deepak Punia's 19 days travel-and-training plan in Michigan, USA ahead of the World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade, Serbia next month. The international training has been cleared under the

Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) with Deepak and Bajrang set to fly out to Michigan on Tuesday.

Bajrang and Deepak are accompanied by coach Sujet Mann, and physiotherapist Anand Kumar who will join them in a few days. The duo will train at US's Michigan University under the University's head coach Sean

Bormet who in the past has trained Olympic bronze medalist Myles Amine (86kg), Olympian Stevan Micic (57kg), Olympian Andy Hrovat (84kg) among many top athletes of the country. The camp is scheduled to last for 19 days with Deepak and Bajrang set to travel to Belgrade, Serbia for the World Championships directly from the US.

Man Utd beat Liverpool to give Ten Hag lift off

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erik ten Hag secured his first win as Manchester United manager as goals from Jadon Sancho and Marcus Rashford beat Liverpool 2-1 at Old Trafford on Monday.

United had started the weekend bottom of the Premier League, but moved above Liverpool on a massive night for their new Dutch manager.

Liverpool's expected title challenge is fading fast with Jurgen Klopp's men yet to win three games into the new season.

Ten Hag responded to the concession of four goals inside 35 minutes at Brentford by dropping Cristiano Ronaldo and captain Harry Maguire among four changes.

After becoming the first United manager in more than a century to lose his first two games, the former Ajax manager got the response he desired in an explosive opening half hour that rocked Liverpool back on their heels.

Anthony Elanga should have opened the scoring when he curled off the base of the post after two passes from Scott McTominay and Bruno



Fernandes carved Liverpool wide open.

Defensive disorganisation has been a repeated failing of Liverpool's winless start to the season and they failed to learn their lesson for the opening

goal on 16 minutes.

A neat one-two between Elanga and Christian Eriksen opened up the Liverpool defence once more and when the ball was cut back to Sancho, he left James Milner on the

floor before coolly slotting home.

United nearly gifted Liverpool an equaliser when Fernandes blasted Milner's header towards his own goal and was fortunate to see the ball rebound back off Lisandro Martinez on the line.

Liverpool's reluctance to refresh Klopp's midfield options will face more scrutiny in the final days of the transfer window.

Liverpool's lack of energy in midfield was exposed for United's second goal as Jordan Henderson's poor touch presented possession to Anthony Martial and his perfect through ball set Rashford free to score his first goal since January.

United goalkeeper David de Gea's error opened the floodgates at Brentford but the Spaniard also played his part in a night of redemption with a point-blank save from Luis Diaz.

Mohamed Salah's header set up a grandstand finish 10 minutes from time, but United summoned a steel rarely seen in recent seasons to see out the closing stages and secure a much-needed boost for their new boss.

Ten Hag hails Man Utd's change of attitude

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said a change in attitude and spirit from his players was the reason behind a huge 2-1 win over Liverpool.

"We can talk about tactics but it is all about attitude," said Ten Hag.

"I am happy with the performance but we have to bring it every game. Don't just bring it against Liverpool. Every Premier League game is difficult, we need to bring it to every game. It starts, once again, with the spirit."

"Today was really important for us," said Bruno Fernandes, who was made captain in the absence of Maguire.

"We showed the right intensity and more importantly the right character. We got the three points. Scoring first was really important for us, for our confidence."

"It was important for us to take the first step in the league, now we have to carry on."

Saina advances to BWF Worlds last 16, Gayatri-Treesa too win

PTI ■ TOKYO

London Olympic bronze medalist shuttler Saina Nehwal produced a fine performance to kick-off her BWF World Championships campaign with a straight game win over Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi here on Tuesday.

A former world number one, Saina took 38 minutes to dispatch Ngan Yi 21-19 21-9 in the opening round.

The 32-year-old Indian, who has a silver and bronze from the Worlds, thus moved into the pre-quarterfinals as her second-round opponent, Nozomi Okuhara pulled out of the tournament due to an injury, giving the Indian a bye.

The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also made a winning start.

The Indian duo hardly broke a sweat as it inflicted a 21-11 21-13 defeat on Malaysians Yeen Yuan Low and Valerie Siow.

Young women's pairing of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam also progressed to the second round after beating the Italian duo of Martina Corsini and Judith Mair 21-8 21-14 in 30 minutes.

Saina had showed signed of regaining her form during her stunning win over He Bingjiao of China en route her first quarterfinal appearance in 16 months at Singapore Open in July.

The Hyderabad shuttler dished out another gritty show on Tuesday as she recovered from 4-7 to turn the tables at 12-11 just after the interval.

Fighting for each point, Saina kept herself in



contention as she maintained a narrow one-point lead over Ngan Yi, before moving ahead with the two crucial points at 19-19 to pocket the opening game.

Saina then switched gears in the second game even as Ngan Yi struggled. Soon, the Indian moved to a 11-6 advantage at the interval and marched ahead to eventually seal the contest without much fuss.

However, it was the end of the road for the mixed doubles pair of Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan as they went down 10-21 21-23 to Gregory Mairs and Jenny Moore of England.

Men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala also crashed out of the tournament, losing 14-21 18-21 to France's Fabien Delrue and William Villerger.

Mixed doubles duo of Tanisha Crasto and Ishaan Bhatnagar also didn't have a good outing, losing 14-21 17-21 to 14th Supak Jomkoh and Supissara Paewsampran of Thailand.

Cornet wins 500th career match

AP ■ CLEVELAND

Aлизé Cornet picked up her 500th victory on the WTA Tour, beating Dayana Yastremska 6-2, 6-1 in the completion of a match that was suspended by thunderstorms a day earlier.

Cornet advanced to the second round of Tennis in The Land, a US Open tune-up in downtown Cleveland.

"I've been on tour for 15 years and played a lot of matches, so I'm proud of getting 500 wins," said Cornet, whose record is 500-410.

"I thought about it at the beginning of the season as a short-term goal, and here we are in August. It meant something to me."

The 32-year-old from France made her tour debut in 2005 at Roland Garros and owns six singles titles, the most recent at Gstaad, Switzerland four years ago.

Cornet, ranked No. 37, held serve every game in the 1-hour, 12-minute match against Yastremska. One set was played each day.

‘INDIA MUST CONTINUE WITH AGGRESSIVE BATTING APPROACH’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ravi Shastri on Tuesday said India must continue with their ultra-aggressive approach with the bat in the shortest format after being a tad 'timid' in the past. India's conservative approach at the start of the innings had contributed to their early exit from the T20 World Cup last year. The tournament was Shastri's last assignment as India head coach. "They should not change the approach (they have shown of late). Even when I was coach we discussed we were a bit timid at the top considering the players we had down the order. "It is the right approach. You will lose a few games in between but if you start winning with this approach you can take that confidence in big games and use the same tactics," said Shastri in a press conference organised by Star Sports.

Virat Kohli will come back into the playing eleven after being rested for the West Indies series, while K L Rahul returns after an injury lay off. Can the two senior batters show the same aggression the younger players have shown in their absence? "Why not? They are very experienced players," said Shastri. "They have played enough IPL and T20s and it should not be tough for them to adjust. With Rishabh, Hardik, Jadeja there is enough depth in the middle and lower order to get the innings back on track if top order falls cheaply." The return of Hardik Pandya, the all-rounder, has lent much needed balance to the Indian playing eleven. "He is one of the most important cogs in India's wheel. You take him out, the balance goes awry. We missed him last year at the World Cup where he could not bowl. No



one is close to the quality that he possess," Shastri said. "He has to be watched very closely. With the games coming up (before the T20 World cup), Bumrah and Hardik need to be observed very carefully to ensure there is no breakdown. They are your two important players." Shastri also backed Kohli to end his lean run in Asia Cup. "I haven't spoken to him (recently). It is not rocket science. Mental fatigue can creep into the best in the world. This down time was not just needed for his body but to reflect," the 60-year-old said. "He will come back with a much calmer mind. He gets 50 in the first game, mouths will be shut. Public memory is very short and works both ways. "There is no cricketer fitter than him. People keep saying one innings can make a difference but with a player like Kohli it makes a massive difference. His hunger and passion

remains undiminished. He would have learnt from this phase let me tell you that," he said. Shastri also added that efforts should be made to negate the toss advantage. Even in the World Cup in UAE last year, toss played a massive role with most teams opting to bat second amid dew. "90 percent of the games were won by teams who won the toss. You must start when there is dew in both the innings. 6 pm start makes the start extremely important (with the fielding team not experiencing dew). If you have to make sure that both sides get to face same amount of dew." Pakistan great Wasim Akram was also part of the media interaction conducted ahead of the Asia Cup. "It gets boring that way. Something should be done about the dew factor but I doubt if anything can be done," said Akram.

Still too early to compare Babar with one of all time greats Virat: Akram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli has struggled for runs over the past two years but Pakistan legend Wasim Akram feels the former India captain remains one of the all time greats and comparing Babar Azam with him is still a bit premature. All eyes will be on Kohli when India meet Pakistan in their Asia Cup opener in Dubai on Sunday. Kohli will come into the match with a fresh mind having taken a break for the away series against the West Indies. While Kohli has gone through an extended lean patch with no hundred since November 2019, the much younger Babar seems to be at the peak of his powers and doing well across formats. "First of all let me start by saying that criticism from Indian fans against Kohli has been unnecessary. He is one of the greatest of all times not just this era. He still fit as a fiddle. He is still one of the best fielders in the



Indian squad. "As they say class is forever and that is Virat Kohli. Hope he doesn't come back to form against Pakistan but he will come back eventually," said Akram. On Babar being compared

with Kohli, the former Pakistan captain said it is still a tad too early. "The comparisons are only natural. When we played people used to compare Inzamam, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar.

‘Shaheen’s absence big setback’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shaheen Afridi, who had rocked India's top order in the ST20 World Cup last year to set up a 10 wicket victory, has been ruled out of Asia Cup due to a knee injury. Putting him among the top three bowlers of the world, Akram said Shaheen's absence changes a lot for Pakistan. "Shaheen Afridi will be missed a lot. He is important because of the new ball. In this format if you have to restrict the opposition by taking early wickets and that is what he does. He attacks the stumps in all formats. "There was criticism when he did not take a break but he is only 22. He has got a knee injury which takes time to heal and you always fear that it might come back. He is one of the world's top three bowlers so a big setback for Pakistan. "There is still pace in the bowling department but there is no variation (in the absence of Shaheen's left arm pace). They all are right handers," Akram rued. Among the Indian players, he is looking forward to see Suryakumar Yadav in action. "I saw him first when I was with KKR, he played couple of shots (the pick up shot off middle stump).

Dravid tests positive for COVID-19

Not travelling to Dubai for Asia Cup for now, says Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India head coach Rahul Dravid has tested positive for COVID-19 and didn't accompany the Rohit Sharma-led team that left for Dubai to compete in the Asia Cup, starting August 27, BCCI secretary Jay Shah confirmed on Tuesday. India play arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening game on August 28. "Team India Head Coach Rahul Dravid has tested positive for COVID-19 in a routine test conducted ahead of the team's departure to the UAE for Asia Cup 2022. "Dravid is under the supervision of the BCCI Medical team and has mild symptoms. He will join the team once he returns with a negative COVID-19 report," Shah said in a release. It is understood that for the time being, assistant coach Paras Mhambrey will be in-



charge of the team but a call on whether NCA head VVS Laxman will join the team in Dubai will be taken later. "We haven't taken a call on whether VVS will be going to Dubai from Harare or not. A call will be taken accordingly and if required, he will join. Till then Paras Mhambrey will be in-charge. All other members are fit and left for UAE early in the day," a BCCI source said.

India remain static on third

Dubai: A clean sweep of Zimbabwe helped India maintain their third spot in the latest ICC ODI Team Rankings, released here on Tuesday. India now have 111 rating points on the back of the 3-0 series win in Harare. Pakistan too was rewarded for their recent series sweep against the Netherlands. The Babar Azam-led side eked out a hard-fought victory by a similar 3-0 in their Cricket World Cup Super League series, moving to 107 rating points and fourth in the standing. New Zealand continue to reign supreme at the top of the table with 124 rating.



Mary Kom undergoes ACL surgery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Six-time world champion boxer MC Mary Kom on Tuesday underwent a reconstructive surgery to repair an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in her left knee. The veteran boxer had torn her ACL when she twisted her knee in the first few minutes of her 48kg bout during the the Commonwealth Games selection trials in June. The surgery was done at a Mumbai hospital. "Mary had an ACL

injury in her knee for which she underwent surgery today in Mumbai," Mary Kom's coach Chhote Lal Yadav said. Due to the injury, the 39-year-old had missed the CWG, where she had become the first Indian woman boxer to claim a Gold medal in the 2018 edition. The multiple-time Asian Championship Gold medalist had last competed in the Tokyo Olympics, where she had bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals.

Krunal's stay with Warwickshire cut short

PTI ■ LONDON

Out-of-favour India all-rounder Krunal Pandya's stint with English county side Warwickshire was cut short after he sustained a groin injury, forcing him out of the ongoing Royal London One-Day Cup. The 31-year-old had picked up the injury while batting during Warwickshire's first innings against Nottinghamshire on August 17. The spinner didn't return to the field in the second essay. He was not part of the team for the next two games against Middlesex and Durham as well. Pandya, who had been roped in by the county team in July to play in the 50-over competition, played five games for Warwickshire in the ongoing tournament, scoring 134 runs at an average of 33.50 and also took 9 wickets.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The advent of multiple T20 leagues might have led to a paradigm shift in priorities for some leading international cricketers but England Test captain Ben Stokes is very categorical that his participation in the 2023 IPL will depend on the national team's calendar. Stokes, one of the world's leading all-rounders, has already called it quits in 50-over format, in order to strike a better work-life balance and nothing is more important for him than wearing the pristine whites. "It is a case of looking at schedules, looking ahead at what we have got coming up. But as I have made it very clear, Test cricket is at the forefront of my mind and all of my time decisions will be based around Test matches. "Now being the captain, I have the responsibility to do that," Stokes said. For the 31-year-old, who has scored 5320 runs and taken close to 200 wickets (185) in 84 Tests, IPL is an

Stokes to decide on IPL participation based on English calendar

"amazing tournament" but he will only play if his jam-packed schedule allows him to. "I've played in the IPL for four years. I've loved it every time I've been there. It's an amazing competition to be part of, not just for the spectacle of the IPL but the opportunity to work along with the best players in the world, and some of the best coaches. "It is just an amazing experience to be involved in but as I said, there is a schedule to be looked at around the window of the IPL," Stokes, who had once got more than \$2 million bid from Rajasthan Royals, added. He then explained the reason why it always becomes difficult for England players to feature in the IPL. "As England cricketers, our schedule is jam-packed and we seem to be playing all year around. I think our sum-



mer is everybody's winter and when our winter comes along, it is everybody's summer. So, people are either coming here to play or we are touring to play cricket." **DECISION TO RETIRE FROM ODIs** The decision to quit ODIs was a "tough one" for Stokes but his gut feeling told him that he needed to take that call in order to prolong his career. "It is a pretty tough decision but at the same time, it was made easy for me. I always had it at the back of my mind that I would have to walk away from one of the white-ball formats. "I just did not know which one, and I wasn't going to make a decision until I was clear in my mind which one it was." The inner call came during the India ODI series and the decision was a quick one.



Ankita Raina given wild card entry for Chennai Open in singles draw

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India's number one ranked women's tennis player Ankita Raina on Tuesday was awarded a wild card entry for the upcoming Chennai Open which is scheduled to be held here from September 12-18. Along with the 29-year-old, the 2014 Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard of Canada will also be taking part in the WTA 250 tournament as a wild card entrant. "The wildcards for the 32-player singles main draw have been given to Eugenie Bouchard and Ankita Raina. The two

other (wildcards) to be given to anyone in the top-20 willing to come and play here," TNTA president and former Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj said. Amritraj said that the wildcards were awarded to both Raina and Bouchard in the women's singles draw as per the WTA rules. Meanwhile, the India duo of Sharmada Balu and Riya Bhatia were awarded a wildcard in the doubles draw. Amritraj further said that there has no confirmation yet on whether star tennis player Sania Mirza will feature in the

tournament, given the fact that the 35-year-old also pulled out the US Open with a tendon injury. "I had a long chat with Sania during Wimbledon where she had said that she was going to participate at the US Open and also had a good chance of making it to the WTA Finals which would have made it hard for her to come back to India for the Chennai Open and then go back," Amritraj said. "But now that she is injured, it does not look like she is going to play at the US Open and whether she will be fit enough to play with us, we will have to

wait and see. "Even if she does not play, TNTA would like to invite and felicitate her for the incredible career that she has had," he added. Former world number 4 Caroline Garcia of France is likely to be the top-seed in the singles draw, as she stormed back into the top 20 after clinching the Cincinnati Masters, defeating Petra Kvitova in the final. World number 29 Alison-Riske Amritraj and Belgium's Elise Mertens of Belgium (world rank 32) would be among the other leading names in the fray.

Rourkela added as 2nd Indian host city for FIH Pro League matches

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Odisha's Rourkela was on Tuesday added as the second Indian venue, besides Bhubaneswar, for the upcoming FIH Pro League season beginning in October with the matches to be held at the stadium built to host the men's World Cup in January. A brand new stadium has been built in Rourkela to host some of the matches of the FIH men's World Cup to be held from January 13 to 29. Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, which will host most of the matches of the World Cup, is the other Indian venue which will also stage FIH Pro League games.

Other venues which will host matches of the FIH Pro League from October 28, 2022 to July 5, 2023 are Newcastle and Hobart in Australia, Mendoza and Santiago del Estero in Argentina, Antwerp (Belgium), London, Eindhoven and Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and Christchurch and Wellington in New Zealand. The FIH also said that it will implement the system of promotion and relegation from the upcoming season of Pro League. While the team finishing last will be relegated as usual, the side winning the newly-added 2022 FIH Nations Cup will be promoted to the Pro League season in 2023.