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HOLISTIC APPROACH
FOR EDUCATION REVAMP**WORLD 8**
UKRAINE GIRDS FOR HEAVY
ATTACKS AS IT MARKS I-DAY**MONEY 10**
GOVT PICK, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS
FOR SOCIAL MEDIA APPELLATE

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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SHUBMAN GILL
RISES IN ICC
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CBI raids RJD leaders in land-for-Rly-jobs scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/PATNA

The CBI on Wednesday conducted searches at 27 locations, covering two RJD Rajya Sabha members and an under-construction mall in Gurugram allegedly linked to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, in connection with a 14-year-old land-for-jobs scam in the Railways.

During the operation which was spread across Bihar and Delhi-NCR, the agency's officers raided the premises of an RJD MLC and a former MLC of the party. The raids started before the newly-formed Mahagathbandhan Government of the JD(U), the RJD, the Congress, the Left, and other parties faced a trust vote in the Assembly.

The CBI has alleged that Lalu Prasad as the Minister of Railways during the period 2004-2009, and his family members, had acquired land at throwaway prices from people in lieu of appointments in Group "D" posts in different zones of the Railways.

In the FIR, the CBI has alleged that the job-seekers sold and gifted their land situated in Patna to family members of Prasad and a private company controlled by them.

In the Assembly, Tejashwi



Security personnel outside the residence RJD MLC Sunil Kumar during a raid by CBI in connection with the alleged land-for-jobs scam that took place when Lalu Prasad was the Railway Minister, in Patna on Wednesday

PTI

Yadav strongly refuted allegations of his links with the mall, saying it belongs to someone based in Haryana, and was inaugurated by a BJP MP.

"People sitting in Delhi do not understand the spirit of Bihar. Intimidation does not work here. Sending three 'jamaai' (ED, CBI, I-T department) is not going to scare us. The BJP is looking like a wedding procession without the groom," remarked the young leader in an apparent dig at the BJP's inability to decide on who should be Opposition leader.

The CBI sources said the mall belongs to Yadav who has made investment in the project through a company.

The Registrar of Companies (ROC) details given on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs website show that Whiteland Corporation was incorporated on February 14, 2021 with two directors Viren Mehta and Krishan Kumar, both Gurugram residents. Later, Mehta was replaced by Sumit Chaudhary, also from Gurugram.

Continued on Page 2

ED finds 2 AK-47s in house of J'khand mining scam broker

Ranchi Police claim guns belong to cops**ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday seized two AK-47 rifles from a house in Ranchi, belonging to Prem Prakash, an alleged middleman involved in dubious deals in the State, during raids as part of an ongoing probe into an alleged mining scam pegged at ₹100 crore. The probe agency also recovered 69 cartridges.

The news of recovery of the weapons from Prakash, who is said to be close to the people in the corridors of power in both the present and previous Governments, spread like wildfire. The BJP left no time in attacking the JMM-led Government. BJP MP from Godda Nishikant Dubey tweeted, "According to sources, @dir_ed has recovered AK 47



Two AK 47 rifles recovered from the residence of Prem Prakash, in Ranchi on Wednesday

Ratan Lal I Pioneer

from the premises of Prem Prakash ji, who is the kingpin of Jharkhand's touts... @NIA_India should take up the investigation."

However, as the news of recovery of sophisticated guns from Prakash spread, the Ranchi Police sprang into action claiming that the guns belong to Ranchi Police.

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Govt should call all-party meet to end freebies: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday favoured an all-party meeting on the "serious" issue relating to the practice of political parties promising freebies.

The court said that until there is unanimity among political parties that freebies would destroy the country's economy and have to be stopped, nothing can happen.

"Why doesn't the Government of India call for an all-party meeting?" the top court asked.

"There must be a debate. The issue is serious; there is no doubt about it. The question is, why do not all political parties meet and the Government of India can call for a meeting," it observed.

The observations by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and Justices Hima Kohli and CT Ravikumar came on a plea against the promises of such handouts by the parties during election campaigns.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, suggested that a retired judge of the apex court like former Chief Justice of India RM Lodha should be the chairman of the committee proposed to be constituted on this aspect.

However, Justice Ramana observed, "a person who retires



or who is going to retire has no value in this country. That is the problem."

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said that he has filed an intervention on behalf of NGO "Centre for Public Interest Litigation".

Bhushan argued that they have said three kinds of freebies must be prohibited—those which are discriminatory or which violate fundamental rights; those which are against public policy; and those which are rolled out immediately before the election, like in the last six months before the polls, by the ruling party.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said there are political parties, which may not be in power in the State or at the Centre, and are rolling out such promises.

"The focal point is would the voter have an atmosphere where he can take an informed decision. It is not a question of ruling or losing a party. Can

you promise the moon to get elected?" Mehta said.

As the bench asked why the Government of India cannot call for an all-party meeting on the issue, Mehta said the political parties are already there before the apex court claiming that this is their right.

"There are some political parties who think it is their fundamental right to offer freebies and have come to power by only offering freebies," the SG argued. The bench observed that the biggest problem is who will lead the committee.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, whose assistance has been sought by the bench, had mooted the idea of setting up a panel of the statutory finance commission.

He had said as per the Fiscal Management Responsibility Act, if some freebies are given, then the benefit cannot go beyond 3 per cent.

CAPSULE

6 COVID DEATHS, 945 CASES IN CAPITAL

New Delhi: Delhi on Wednesday recorded 945 fresh Covid-19 cases and six fatalities, while the positivity rate stood at 5.55 per cent, according to data shared by the health department here. The fresh cases came out of 17,024 tests conducted the previous day, the department said in its latest bulletin. With the fresh cases and fatalities, Delhi's infection tally increased to 19,96,352 and the death toll to 26,442, it said.

CONG LEADER QUILTS OVER 'SYCOPHANCY'

New Delhi: Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill quit the party on Wednesday, alleging that sycophancy is eating into the organisation like "termites". In a letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi, Shergill resigned from the post of its national spokesperson, saying the primary reason was that "the ideology and the vision of the current decision makers of the Congress is no longer in sync with the aspirations of the youth and modern India".

LONE JD(U) MLA IN ARUNACHAL JOINS BJP

Itanagar: The lone JD(U) MLA in Arunachal Pradesh, Tech Kaso, joined the ruling BJP on Wednesday. Assembly Deputy Speaker accepted the Itanagar legislator's merger with the BJP.

Nitish wins House trust; BJP walks out



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav greet acting Speaker Maheshwar Hazari during special session of Bihar Legislative Assembly in Patna on Wednesday

PTI

PNS ■ PATNA

The newly-formed Mahagathbandhan Government in Bihar on Wednesday comfortably won the motion of confidence amid a walkout by the BJP MLAs.

Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari ordered a headcount upon a request by Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, who said that though a voice

vote had clearly shown support of the majority, the count would "leave no room for any confusion". Altogether 160 MLAs voted in favour of the confidence motion, while no vote was cast against the same.

The lone MLA of AIMIM, Akhtarul Iman, whose party is not a part of the ruling alliance, also took part in the exercise and supported the confidence motion.

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Affordable holistic healthcare Centre's priority, says Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
FARIDABAD/CHANDIGARH

Maintaining that holistic healthcare has always been the Centre's priority, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated a hospital each in Haryana and Punjab — the 2,600-bed Amrita Hospital in Faridabad and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Punjab's Mullanpur (New Chandigarh).

In his inaugural address at Faridabad, the PM said, "This hospital is a blend of modernity and spirituality as along with having excellent infrastructure and the latest modern technology, the hospital is equally spiritual in terms of service and spiritual consciousness. This hospital will certainly become a medium of accessible and affordable treatment for the poor and needy patients. I am grateful to Amma (Amritanandamayi) for such a big 'maha yagya' of service and express hope that this project will become a role model for other institutions in India."

The Amrita Hospital has 534 ICU beds and 64 modern



Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks blessings from spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi during inauguration of state-of-the-art Amrita Hospital in Faridabad on Wednesday

PTI

operation theatres. The institution will have 150 fully residential MBBS seats, a nursing college, a college for allied health sciences, and a fully automated smart lab, claimed to be the largest in the country. Later in Punjab, Modi ded-

icated the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre to the nation and claimed that the BJP-led Central Government improved the country's ailing healthcare services in the past eight years, as compared to what was done

in seven decades.

The PM said that his Government's thrust was on creating a healthcare system that would cater to the poorest of the poor, while giving thrust on "six fronts".

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Play Azadi Quest e-game to know unsung Azadi Veer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and to bring forth the story of the Indian freedom struggle, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur on Wednesday launched "Azadi Quest", a series of online educational mobile games developed in collaboration with Zynga India.

Launching the games, Thakur said this was another in a series of efforts by the Government to acknowledge the contribution of our freedom fighters and unsung heroes to the freedom struggle. "These games are an effort to tap into the huge market of



online gamers and to educate them through games. Various arms of the Government of India have collected information about unsung freedom fighters from the corners of the country. Azadi Quest is an effort to make the learning of this knowledge engaging and

interactive," the Minister elaborated.

Thakur expressed confidence that people of all age groups will be hooked on to these games and they will become household favorites quickly.

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AAP alleges plot to poach its MLAs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday passed a resolution condemning the BJP's efforts to "poach" its MLAs.

The AAP's PAC asked the BJP to tell the nation from where it has accumulated money to offer millions of rupees to MLAs of other parties.

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has convened a meeting of all AAP legislators at 11 am on Thursday to decide the party's future strategy.

After the meeting, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the PAC in its resolution also demanded that Prime Minister

Narendra Modi spend time on addressing problems of the people instead of making efforts to topple the Governments of other parties. The PAC meeting was convened by Kejriwal after the several MLAs claimed that the BJP has approached them to switch sides or else face "false cases, the CBI and the ED".

"We want to assure the people that the AAP Government in Delhi is stable. None of our MLAs are going to join the BJP," Singh told reporters.

Earlier, Kejriwal said some of his MLAs have approached him alleging that they have been threatened and offered bribes to break the party.

Continued on Page 2

AAP Govt gave liquor licences to blacklisted firms on hefty cut: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday alleged that the Arvind Kejriwal Government handed out tenders to blacklisted companies in lieu of huge amounts of funding for the Punjab Assembly polls. Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the "kingpin" of the liquor policy "scam", but he did not sign a single file in an attempt to escape investigation.

Patra said the Delhi Government handed over wholesale liquor business to private players despite the expert panel recommending against it. Patra alleged that Deputy Chief Minister Manish

Sisodia gave wholesale work to private players without tender or public notice.

"The AAP Government has ignored recommendations of an expert panel set up to reform liquor trade in the Capital and gave licences to companies that paid 'hefty commissions' to the AAP leaders," said Patra.

"Manish (Sisodia) ji, you may be the world's best Education Minister, but you should immediately convene a press conference and answer what were you doing in your capacity as the Excise Minister?"

"Before the implementation of the new excise policy, a three-member committee was constituted which submitted a

report in March 2020. It was suggested in that report that the Government should keep the wholesale work with itself while the retail work should be given to the individual on the basis of the lottery system instead of giving it to the big company," said Patra.

Patra also alleged that it was clearly stated in the suggestion that if the tender is given to big companies, then there will be loss, but despite that Sisodia did just that.

"Not only retail work was given to big companies but by including the manufacturer in retail, he (Sisodia) increased the commission by 10 per cent so that big money could be earned."

Continued on Page 2

NCR-PULSE

20-YR-OLD INMATE DIES IN SCUFFLE AT TIHAR
New Delhi: A 20-year-old inmate lodged in the Tihar jail died following a scuffle with another prisoner inside a barrack. The incident occurred on Monday. The inmate identified as Samir Khan, a resident of Bhalaswa Dairy, was lodged in Tihar's central jail number five in a robbery case.

MCD TAKES STRICT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL MEAT VENDORS
New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday took strict action against illegal meat vendors, following which the civic body has issued notice to 449 shops and fined 420 shops from April 1st, 2022 to July 31st, 2022. Municipal Corporation has also penalised persons involved in illegal slaughtering and selling of live chicken, fish etc. in open and levied composite fee of Rs. 72,40,550/-. MCD also forwarded a list of 196 persons involved in illegal slaughtering to the Delhi Police for registering FIR against them, said official.

ADESH GUPTA ORGANISES JAN CHAUPAL
New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Wednesday organised Jan Chaupal to expose the corruption done by the ministers of the Delhi Government. Addressing the Chaupal, Gupta said that aid its shocking to see that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal came to power promising to fight corruption but today his own government is inundated in corruption scams.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL HELD FOR CYBER FRAUD
New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a Nigerian national in connection with a case of cyber fraud. Accused Godwin Udorji Onurah was arrested on Monday from Mahavir Enclave in South West Delhi. A resident of Malviya Nagar here approached the police saying he received an e-mail from a woman friend, who sought money citing an emergency.

TATA POWER ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH ANYLINE
New Delhi: With an aim to facilitate the over seven million people of the national capital, the Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) on Wednesday announced a partnership with Anyline, to reduce non-technical losses through the introduction of a new forensic meter reading solution for field workers.

17-YR-OLD GIRL KILLED BY YOUTH AT TIKRI BORDER
New Delhi: A 17-year-old girl was killed allegedly by a youth who worked with her mother in outer Delhi's Tikri border area on Wednesday. The accused, Harish (18), was overpowered by the public at the spot and handed over to the police. Harish worked with the victim's mother at a factory in Bahadurgarh. He also lived with her family, the police said.

WOMAN HELD TRYING TO SMUGGLE US DOLLARS
New Delhi: A 50-year-old wheelchair-bound woman was apprehended by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport on Wednesday for allegedly trying to smuggle US dollars valued at about Rs 25 lakh by concealing them in her underclothes. The woman was intercepted by the security personnel at the Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport during frisking at about 1:20 AM.

5-YR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY TEENAGER IN SLUM
Gurugram: A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a teenage boy in a slum in a village in Gurugram. The boy has been apprehended and sent to a correction home. The girl and the boy live in the same neighbourhood. According to a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, she and her husband left to work at a construction site on Tuesday morning, leaving their daughter alone at home. They returned in the evening to find their daughter injured and bleeding profusely from her private parts.

Play Azadi Quest e-game...

From Page 1
I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra and country head of Zynga India Kishore Kichli were present at the function.
In the past few years India has risen to stand among the top 5 countries in the gaming sector. The gaming sector has grown by 28 per cent in 2021 alone. The number of online gamers has risen by 8 per cent from 2020 to 2021 and by 2023 the number of such gamers is expected to reach 45 crore, the Minister added.
The Azadi Quest games are available for android and iOS devices in English and Hindi for the people of India and will be available worldwide from September 2022. The online gaming company Zynga India was established in 2010 in Bengaluru and has developed some of the most popular game franchises across mobile and

web.
First game in the series is Azadi Quest: Match 3 Puzzle, a simple and easy to play casual game presenting the players with the colorful journey of India's independence from 1857 to 1947. As players progress through the game, spread across 495 levels, they can collect 75 trivia cards, each showcasing key moments in history, compete on leader boards, and share in-game rewards and progress on social media.
On the other hand, Azadi Quest: Heroes of Bharat is designed as a quiz game to test the knowledge of the players about the heroes of India's independence through 750 questions spread across 75 levels and also tell them about the lesser known heroes through 75 "Azadi Veeer" cards which can be shared across social media platforms.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed that my client's wife SMT. SANTOSHI KAPURIA daughter of Late Shri Ram Rang Joshi wife of shri S.K. Kapuria Resident of Flat No.-50, Plot No.-74, Ashwini Apartments, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, expired on 19.01.2018 and he has applied to transfer the above flat in his name on the basis of Survival Member Certificate and Relinquishment Deed executed on 02.12.2021 duly registered as Document No. 7449 in Book No. 1 Volume No. 2259 On Page 94 to 97 Dated: 02.12.2021, with the office of S.R. VIII-A PREET VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110092. If any objection may be raised within 15 days of this notice to the SOCIETY OFFICE OF DELHI CORP GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY PLOT NO.-74, I.P. EXTENSION, PATPARTGANJ DELHI-110092.
Sahil Arora (Advocate)
Enrol. No. D/2186/2019
Off. No. 107, F.N.S. Chambers,
Laxmi Nagar Delhi-92

Nitish wins House trust...
From Page 1
Some of the BJP MLAs, who had staged a walkout while Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was delivering his speech, stormed into the Well of the House demanding that the Deputy Speaker not waste time on a redundant headcount but take up businesses scheduled for the day and announced

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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1	Name of work with its location A Annual maintenance of P/Way Zone work in the section of SSE/P/Way/DEE under ADEN/DEE for the period ending 30.06.2023. Similar nature of work : Any type of track work. B Provision of RPF barrack of 20 bedded at new washing line at HN2M on NDLS-PWL section. Similar nature of work : Construction of building/quarter. A Rs. 6999787.46 B Rs. 7251384.35
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National Conference may go it alone in J&K Assembly polls

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The National Conference seems to have made up its mind and has decided to 'ekla chalo re' or go it alone in the forthcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dropping clear hints on Wednesday one of the key constituents of People's Alliance for Gupka Declaration (PAGD) suggested the party was in no mood to jointly contest the polls under the banner of PAGD. "Provincial Committee members (of National Conference unanimously resolved that JKNC should prepare and fight all 90 seats," the party said in a statement after a meeting chaired by party's vice president Omar Abdullah.

During the meeting the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah also



declared that the only way to protect J&K's identity is to first register, and cast your vote in huge numbers.

PAGD - an amalgam of five parties - the National Conference, PDP, Awami National Conference, CPI(M) and CPI - was formed in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 provisions with the main aim of restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed on August 4, 2019. Peoples' Conference

led by Sajad Lone had earlier exited the PAGD.

In July this year, NC president Farooq Abdullah, and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti had announced that PAGD will contest together. However, nothing concrete fructified on the ground during the period. No formal meeting was convened by the leaders to specifically chalk out their future course of action focusing only on the joint preparations for the Assembly polls.

Affordable holistic healthcare...

From Page 1
"NDA Government's thrust was on creating a healthcare system that would cater to the poorest of the poor...The health sector has been our priority. The work our Government has done for the health sector in the past eight years was not done in 70 years," he said while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 300-bed Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Mullanpur in Mohali district on Wednesday afternoon.

The Cancer Hospital is expected to provide world-class cancer care to the residents of Punjab and neighbouring States of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, and Union Territories. A tertiary care hospital, it is equipped with mod-

ern facilities to treat all types of cancers using surgery, radiotherapy, and medical oncology, comprising chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and bone marrow transplant. This state-of-the-art facility has been built by the Central Government at an outlay of over ₹660 crore.

Modi, who was accompanied by Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Congress MP from Sri Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari on the dais, was given a rousing reception by the party workers and supporters amid slogans of "Jai Shri Ram", and "Modi, Modi".

Listing out "six fronts" to upgrade the country's health

system, Modi said that the Centre's focus is on "promotion of preventive healthcare, opening small and modern hospitals in villages, opening medical colleges and big medical research institutes in cities to increase the number of doctors and paramedical staff across the country, to provide cheap medicines, cheap medical equipment to the patients, and use of technology to reduce the difficulties faced by patients".

Further, Modi said, "Our government has decided to open around 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres. In Punjab, 3,000 health and wellness centres are giving their services. Our Government is making efforts to open one medical college in each district of the country."

ED finds 2 AK-47s in house of J'khand mining scam...

From Page 1
In a press release, the police stated that cops who were allotted weapons had kept their weapons locked in an almirah at the residence of Prakash for the safety and protection of the weapons as they were caught in rains.

Apart from raids at Prakash's residence, the raids were also conducted at 20 locations in State and across the country such as Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and the Delhi-NCR. Sources said that while the ED is looking into the money-laundering angle, the case is primarily for illegal mining and extortion.

Sources said that Prakash is alleged to be deeply connected with the who's who of previous NDA Government and the current UPA Government in Jharkhand.

In the ongoing MGNREGA and illegal mining scam, the ED is investigating his role and he was also summoned for questioning.

The Ranchi police claimed that on August 23 both the cops were returning from duty when they were caught in the rain. They were acquainted with a staff of Prakash hence they kept their weapons there in an almirah, locked it, and returned along with the key.

The police further stated that on Wednesday (August 24) when they went there the ED officials were carrying out raids, hence, they could not collect their weapons. The Ranchi police further stated that both the cops informed their seniors about this and cops have been put under suspension. Further, the Ranchi police have requested

the ED to return the weapons and bullets.

Sources said that the theory put up by Ranchi police is loosely threaded as per standard procedure that if a cop on duty is allotted any weapon, he will have to deposit it either at the police line or the police station. In this case, the nearest police station from Prakash's residence is Argora.

Moreover, in another development the ED on Wednesday carried out a search on the premises of Ranchi-based Chartered Accountant Shiv Shankar Jaipuria. His premise is situated at C-218, Road No.2 of Ashok Nagar. As per the information, the ED began the raid on the basis of information provided by Pankaj Mishra.

to cause a split in the JD (U) through his former protege RCP Singh.

Kumar asserted that he had "no personal ambitions", rejecting the BJP's charge that his latest volte face was aimed at becoming the prime ministerial candidate of the Opposition camp. He, nonetheless, spoke of his interactions with leaders from across the country and his appeal to them to stay united for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The JD(U) leader also recounted his old association

with the BJP and underscored the contrast between the current dispensation and the era of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi. Without mentioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi by name, he said, "The current dispensation does little except publicity (prachar prasar)". As BJP MLAs protested, he added, "Speak against me. Maybe this will earn you some rewards from your political bosses".

Stung by raids on a number of RJD leaders during the day, Deputy Chief Minister

Shinde faction, NCP MLAs clash at Vidhan Bhawan entrance

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ugly scenes were witnessed at the entrance of the Vidhan Bhavan on Wednesday, as the MLAs belonging to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp virtually clashed with some Opposition NCP MLAs while trying to snatch away carrots that the latter were carrying inside to taunt the ruling alliance MLAs on the floor of the State Assembly.

Nearly two months after the massive rebellion within the Shiv Sena led to the change in government in Maharashtra, the MLAs from the Shinde faction first raised slogans against the Opposition. Later, they jostled with one another and also exchanged mild fist blows.

The trouble began began after the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) MLAs, most of them being NCP legislators, raised slogans against the MLAs

belonging to the Shinde faction but they also dubbed the latter as 'gaddars' (traitors) and '50 khoke' (Rs.50 crore).

Upset by the accusations of the Opposition, the Shinde faction MLAs tried to snatch away the carrots the Opposition legislators were carrying inside the House ahead of the start of the fourth day proceedings of the ongoing monsoon session of the state Legislature.

At one stage, Shinde faction MLA Dilip Lande and NCP legislator Amol Mitkari exchanged mild blows and lunged at each other, before others present intervened and separated them.

Not to be outdone, the Shinde faction MLAs were seen trying to shout down NCP MLAs with counter slogans like: "(Sachin) Vaze-BMC Khoke, Matoshri, Shiv Sena Ok", "Lavasa Khoke, Baramati Ok"

The friction between the Shinde faction and NCP MLAs

broke out a day after Shinde warned the Opposition that "he could expose records of those targeting him and his group" of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs.

It may be recalled that Shinde and 39 other Shiv Sena MLAs had revolted against Sena president Uddhav Thackeray resulting in a vertical split in the parent Sena. The rebellion engineered within the Shiv Sena led by Shinde had led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government comprising the Sena, NCP and Congress. On June 30, Shinde and BJP's Devendra Fadnis were sworn in as the chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively.

On his part, leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Ajit Pawar hit out at the chief minister saying that the latter's warning amounted to a virtual threat handed to the Opposition.

Modi likely to attend Abe's state...

From Page 1
India and Japan are cooperating in the Quad format of comprehensive partnership, alongside the United States and Australia. Modi and Abe maintained friendly ties both during and after the latter's tenure.

Meanwhile, Japan and India are also planning to hold a sec-

ond round of "two-plus-two" security talks involving their foreign and defence ministers on September 8 in Tokyo, the Kyodo report said on Wednesday.

At the planned ministerial two-plus-two security talks, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defence Minister Yasukazu

Hamada will engage their Indian counterparts S Jaishankar and Rajnath, the report said. They are likely to discuss joint exercises involving the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and the Indian military, among other topics, it said. The two countries launched the two-plus-two framework in 2019.

AAP Govt gave liquor licences to...

From Page 1
The one who gave huge amount for Punjab elections was given tenders, bypassing the rules and reports, even if it was a blacklisted company," said Patra.

"Before this policy was withdrawn, 19 companies of five zones had surrendered citing the loss in the contract of liquor, but instead of giving that zone to others, Sisodia continued with the same companies so that big money could come from them," he added.

He also said the city Government allowed cartelisation in liquor business by giving multiple retail licenses to big companies.

Asked about the AAP's claim that the BJP tried to bribe four of its legislators in Delhi, Patra said: "They may have got such offers from liquor mafia. Why don't they tell the names of persons who approached them?" Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, who also addressed the joint press conference, said the AAP has failed to give direct and specific answers to questions posed by his party.

AAP alleges plot to poach...

From Page 1
"Some MLAs told me that they have been threatened, offered bribes to break the party. This is a very serious matter," he said.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has also warned the BJP after four AAP MLAs on Wednesday claimed that now they have been approached by the BJP with offers of Rs 20 crore each. "BJP, be careful. These are Arvind Kejriwal's soldiers, followers of Bhagat Singh. They will sacrifice their lives, but will never betray. The CBI and the ED are of no use in front of them," Sisodia tweeted hours after Somnath Bharti, Sanjeev Jha, Kuldeep Kumar, and Ajay Dutt-- four AAP MLAs-- claimed that they have been threatened that if they don't join the BJP, the CBI and the

ED action will be taken against them.

Earlier, addressing a Press conference, Singh alleged AAP MLAs in Delhi have received veiled threats from the BJP leaders that if they don't take Rs 20 crore from the BJP and don't quit the AAP, they will face the same fate as that of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia. Singh alleged that the four AAP MLAs have been approached by the leaders of the BJP with whom they have "friendly relations". "The same model which worked on Shinde in Maharashtra failed on Sisodia, but now the BJP is targeting our MLAs," Singh said. In the press meet on Wednesday, four AAP MLAs were also present.

"They have been offered Rs 20 crore each if they join the BJP and Rs 25 crore if they

bring other MLAs along with them," Singh said. "Shame on you Modiji," Singh said and asked the Prime Minister to "stop" making such efforts and focus on addressing issues like price rise and unemployment that the country is facing.

AAP MLA Bharti said he was approached by a friendly BJP leader whom he knows for a long time. "As I resisted him, he finally got fed up and said the BJP will finish the AAP Government at any cost," Bharti said. Burari MLA Jha, at the press conference, said, he was also approached by a BJP leader with whom he shared a close connection. "I was offered Rs 25 crore if I manage to take some MLAs with me. I asked the BJP leader what will happen if I don't oblige. The BJP leader cited the example of Sisodia," the MLA said.

have the same ideology. You (BJP) cannot reap what we socialists have sown," said Yadav.

Tejashwai also expressed dismay over a section of the media saying that a mall being raided by CBI in Gurugram belonged to him. "These media outlets should do some research. It belongs to someone based in Haryana, and was inaugurated by a BJP MP," said Yadav.

Yadav also said that Nitish Kumar has taken a "courageous decision" and that brought a

"new ray of hope" for the people of the country. "You are all scared of facing 2024 polls as the united Opposition in Bihar will trounce the BJP. Hence the three 'jamaai' are being sent," he added.

Taking part in the discussion, former Deputy CM Tarkishore Prasad said Nitish Kumar has lost "political credibility" and mocked Kumar's "personal ambition to become the Prime Minister despite not having the ability to become the Chief Minister on his own steam".

spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari said that with a change of guard, these officials may end up being probed by the very agencies in which they are holding posts.

The CBI had registered a Preliminary Enquiry on September 23, 2021 related to the land-for-jobs scam in Railways which was converted into an FIR on May 18.

The candidates were allegedly appointed as substitutes in group D positions within three days of applying in "undue haste" by Railway officials and were later regularised in return for the "individuals themselves or their family members transferred their land", according to the agency.

The transfers were made

through deeds in the name of Rabri Devi and daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, the agency alleged.

The agency has alleged that land measuring about 1.05 lakh square feet in Patna was acquired by Prasad's family members by making payments to the sellers in cash.

"The current value of the above said seven parcels of land, including the land acquired through gift deeds, as per the existing circle rate is about Rs 4.39 crore...Enquiry has revealed that the parcel of land, which was directly purchased by the family members of Lalu from the sellers, was purchased at lower rates than the prevailing circle rates," the FIR alleged.

Twin towers: Tension, excitement as demolition date approaches

No airplanes, traffic, people or animals allowed near Supertech towers on Aug 28 till dust settles

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Ahead of the demolition of the twin towers in Noida on Sunday, Supertech has written to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) requesting them to take precautionary measures with regards to the security of airplanes that may cross the area on the day.

A no-fly zone has also been imposed for around half an hour, from 15 minutes before the blast to until the dust settles. The Noida Traffic Police said that traffic will be stopped at both ends of the Yamuna Expressway for at least half an hour and movement is likely to resume only after the dust from the demolished buildings is settled.

Though the people living in the residential complexes around Supertech's twin towers are relieved that the sky-scrapers will no longer cast a



shadow on their homes, but there is palpable anxiety as the demolition date approaches. According to officials overseeing evacuation preparations, around 7,000 residents of the nearby societies including Emerald Court and ATS Village in Sector 93A, along with more than 150 pets, will have to vacate their homes by 7 A.M. while the security staff of these societies will also be moved out latest by 12 P.M. on Sunday. Around 2,700 vehicles from both the societies will also be removed. The residents would be allowed to return after 4 P.M. only after safety clearance from officials.

The electricity and water connections of the society will also be disconnected while the

officials have requested residents to turn off gas connections, in order to avoid any untoward incident. The nearly 100-metre-tall towers, which came up illegally in Emerald Court's premises, will become India's tallest structures to be demolished by the use of implosion technique in pursuance of a Supreme Court order.

If all goes according to plan, the structures will go down at 2.30 P.M. on August 28, leaving behind a whopping 55,000 tonnes of debris. Emerald Court's Rajesh Rana (63), whose flat in Aster 2 tower is just nine metres from the twin towers, said these days the demolition is the only topic of discussion for them and it has

been like this since the last few weeks. "Of course there is anxiety among people but we are more happy than worried about the demolition. It's a result of a long struggle for us," Rana said. ATS' residents' group president Atul Chaturvedi, a retired Central Government bureaucrat, said, "Considering that it's an unprecedented event with not much document evidence of such demolitions except for the Maradu complexes in Kerala, there is a fear of the unknown among residents."

Uday Bhan Singh Teotia (75), the president of Emerald Court residents' association said, "The adjoining Parsvnath Srishti, Parsvnath Prestige and Eldeco Utopia have offered to provide space in their community clubs to anyone from our societies who want to go there for the demolition period."

While some residents are considering the offer, a large number of them are planning to move to their relatives' homes in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad even as some have planned to go on a vacation to places like Uttarakhand and Rajasthan among others, ATS' Chaturvedi said. Meanwhile, Felix Hospital has announced that it is reserving 50 beds on day of demolition in case of any emergency.

Toll charges on Yamuna Expressway hiked

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Toll rates on the Yamuna Expressway between Greater Noida and Agra on Wednesday increased between ₹2.60 per kilometre and ₹18.80 per kilometre. The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), which functions under the Uttar Pradesh Government and manages land along the 165-km-long expressway, made the announcement after its 74th Board meeting.

According to the new hikes, the toll rate for cars, SUVs, vans and light motor vehicles has been increased from ₹ 2.50 per kilometre to ₹2.65 kilometre. For light commercial vehicle, light goods vehicle or mini buses, it has been hiked from ₹3.90 per kilometre to ₹4.15 per kilometre, the YEIDA said in a statement. Toll rates for bus and trucks increased from ₹7.90 per kilometre to ₹8.45 per kilometre, it stated.

Toll for vehicles having three to six axles increased from ₹12.05 per km to ₹12.90 per kilometre, while that of large size vehicle and bigger vehicles changed from ₹15.55 per kilometre to ₹18.80 per kilometre, according to statement. "The concessionaire of expressway has spent ₹ 130.54 crore in works as per suggestions from the road safety audit of IIT, Delhi," YEIDA said.

Govt derecognises JD Tytler School, Rajinder Nagar branch

SC/ST committee found that the school had not admitted some students under EWS quota: Chairman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The JD Tytler School in Rajinder Nagar has been derecognised by the Delhi Government's education department for violating the order to provide admissions to students under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota and not providing free stationery, books and uniforms to students already admitted under EWS category.

The JD Tytler School, has also been asked not to admit any students for the 2022-23 academic session, and pay salaries and arrears of the staff till the school is in operation.

There was no immediate reaction from the school authorities. The decision has been taken based on the recommendations of the SC/ST Welfare Committee.

This order by the Directorate of Education (DoE) will be in effect from April 1, 2022. Vishesh Ravi, the chairman of the committee, said that according to the order issued by the Education Department on July 16, 2022, children have the

right to free and compulsory education. "Violation of the order of the department was found at JD Tytler School located in New Rajinder Nagar," he said. "The committee had found that the school had not given admission to some students under the EWS quota and also had not provided free stationery to students already admitted under the EWS category. The action was recommended keeping in mind the interests of the children studying in the school," said Ravi.

"It has been instructed by the Education Department that the school will not admit new students in any class from the academic session 2022-23 and after that. The concerned District DDE will ensure that the students of JD Tytler School are accommodated in the nearest Government Schools if they so desire," said Ravi.

The DoE had issued show-cause notices to private schools

in the national Capital refusing to admit students under the EWS quota. Even after the notice, some private schools had not taken admission of EWS students and had not even given them stationery. Therefore, the committee had asked the education department to withdraw the recognition and register an FIR on receipt of complaints against such private schools.

Earlier, on the recommendation of the committee, the Education Department had issued several show cause notices to JD Tytler School.

"The Education Department delegation visited the school several times and held several meetings with the school administration to ensure fair treatment to EWS students and parents. But the school refused to take admission of students under EWS quota even after several attempts," said Ravi.



COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES IN 2020 RIOTS IN NORTH-EAST DELHI

L-G hires 40 more assessors to speed up claim settlement

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the appointment of 40 more Loss Assessors to assist the North-East Delhi Riots Claims Commission (NEDRCC) and issued directions to clear all 2,575 pending cases within three months.

Till now only 14 of the 25 assessors hired were assisting the NEDRCC, which has so far settled just seven per cent (200) of the total 2,775 claims filed by victims of the February 2020 riots.

According to sources in Raj Niwas, with the L-G's approval of the appointment of



40 'Loss Assessors', their number goes up to 54. "Earlier, 25 loss assessors were appointed but only 14 were conducting surveys without any deadline, resulting in delays," sources said.

"Apart from the 54 assessors, 10 additional loss assessors have been approved for a

reserve list so that they could be engaged to assist the Claims Commissioner if any of the 40 does not report for duty," he said. Sources alleged that even after more than 1.5 years the Commission has been able to process only seven per cent of the total claims. "The L-G has expressed displeasure at this laxity resulting in suffering to victims who had sustained losses in the 2020 riots.

Saxena has also directed the existing 14 loss assessors to submit their reports on the claims within three weeks, failing which their services will be discontinued and they will be blacklisted from the panel of assessors," officials said.

Cong raps AAP over alleged irregularities in Excise Policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Tuesday attacked the Aam Aadmi Party over alleged irregularities in excise policy in Delhi, saying that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy should get the Bharat Ratna if there is a new category for corruption.

The Congress alleged that "Kejriwal and company" have traversed the distance from honesty and transparency to corruption in a very short span of time and asked the AAP convenor why he was not sacking his tainted ministers.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Anil

Chaudhary said that in the first FIR by the CBI, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has been recognised as the 'number one corrupt' and this is the certificate of AAP's 'hardcore honesty'.

Slamming Kejriwal, Chaudhary said the chief minister, who raised questions on the excise policy of his predecessor and Congress leader Sheila Dikshit, has returned to her policy and found it to be correct.

"Will those who question Sheila Dikshit ji's policies apologise to her today," he asked.

Chaudhary said if "a new category is started, which is unlikely, then Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia must get 'Bharat Ratna' in the category of corruption."

NDMC rejects Govt's proposal for opening liquor vends

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the row over the liquor Apology, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday rejected a proposal for the allotment of five shops to Delhi Government-run DSIIDC and DTTDC for opening liquor vends for the sale of retail liquor in the area, under its jurisdiction, during the council meeting.

The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) and Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) on August 16 also wrote a letter to the municipal council requesting the allotment of shops for opening vends in Lutyens' Delhi. Member of the NDMC, Kuljeet Singh Chahal said that due to



the controversy over the excise policy in the national capital, the council has rejected the proposal for the allotment of the shops for opening liquor vends in the New Delhi area, to the Delhi Government-run corporations. "The council will only take the decision on the matter after the detailed study of the situation in the capital. Till then the council is rejecting the proposal," Chahal

said. As per the letter written by the DTTDC to the NDMC, the new liquor policy will come into force with effect from September 1, as per which the four Corporations under Delhi government, namely DTTDC, DSIIDC, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (DSCSL), Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesaler Store Ltd. (DCCWS) will run liquor vends.

Kejriwal flags off fleet of 97 electric buses at Rajghat depot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday flagged off 97 electric buses from the Rajghat bus depot that took the number of such vehicles to 250. The CM said that nearly 80 per cent of the city's entire bus fleet will be completely electric by 2025.

The CM also announced that 8,000 e-buses are in the pipeline to arrive by 2025 and by November 2023, Delhi will have the highest number of e-buses in India with 1,800 e-buses.

Kejriwal said that the city government is phasing out old-polluting buses and replacing them with electric buses. "We have developed world-class education and healthcare models in Delhi and now it is time to transform Delhi's transport sector into a model for the world to reckon with," said Kejriwal. "Many countries have very



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, with Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, flags off a fleet of 97 electric buses, at Rajghat Bus Depot in New Delhi on Wednesday

modern transport systems. We will take a page out of their book and develop the most effective and efficient transport model in Delhi," said Kejriwal.

He further said that 153 e-buses are already plying on roads of Delhi, and with new fleet of 97 e buses the numbers have now reached to 250. Further, 50 more e buses are to be added by September. By November 2023, 1500 more electric buses will be acquired to take number of e-buses to 1800," said Kejriwal.

"Delhi will soon boast of highest number of electric buses in any Indian city. By end of 2025, the number of buses in Delhi will increase to 10,380 of which about 80 per cent (8180) will be electric buses. At present, 7,373 buses are running in Delhi including DTC and Cluster buses, this is highest number of buses in fleet of Transport Department in history of Delhi," said Kejriwal.

CM taking credit for induction of electric buses, says Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Leader of Opposition of Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday said that the Central Government has provided fund for the electric buses but Arvind Kejriwal is taking credit for the same. Bidhuri further added that even before this, the e-buses running on city roads were also gifted by the Modi government.

"I am surprised that how the Chief Minister did not feel any shame and was patting his back and taking the credit for bringing electric buses to Delhi roads. Kejriwal should thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi



for giving these state-of-the-art buses as he always thinks about the development of the national Capital," said Bidhuri adding that these buses were funded by the Central government.

The BJP leader said that Delhi is already facing the stigma of being the most polluted capital of the world today due to the wrong policies of the

AAP government. "In such a situation, today's inducted electric buses will prove to be a lifeline for Delhi. This shows the concern of the Central Government towards Delhi. These electric buses will help in fighting pollution and Delhi's public transport system will also become more accessible with these buses," said Bidhuri.

"Delhi has the least number of 3760 DTC buses on roads today. In the year 2015, when AAP government came to power, the number of these buses was more than 6500. Due to non-availability of buses in last eight years, all these 3760 buses have become overage and there are reports of a fire in them every day," he said.

BJP tweets old video of Katyal saying he was told to call AAP MLAs

NEW DELHI: After Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed that the BJP has offered them money and removal of CBI and ED cases, the old video of former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Paramjit Singh Katyal was tweeted by the BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya, where he claimed that he was asked to call AAP MLAs in the name of BJP on the orders of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The ex-AAP leader Yogendra Yadav on Wednesday said that Katyal had told him about these seven years ago. Yogendra Yadav also took it to Twitter and wrote, "Paramjit ji had informed me about this incident 7 years ago. Then I

inquired and found that his statement was completely true. In December 2013, on orders of Arvind Kejriwal, his own MLA was called in the name of BJP. We were disillusioned with the AAP leadership because of such acts." The old video resurfaced after BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya tweeted it on August 23.

Sharing the video, Malviya wrote on Twitter, "If Arvind Kejriwal is done nominating Satyendar Jain for Padma Vibhushan, Sisodia for Bharat Ratna and himself for Oscars, he should explain why new excise policy was reversed immediately after inquiry was ordered, how much bribe was received, total loss to Delhi Govt?" he tweeted.

Sisodia reviews 11 hospitals' construction work progress

NEW DELHI: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia on Wednesday reviewed the progress of 11 new hospitals in the national Capital.

Addressing the media, Sisodia said that these upcoming hospitals will add more than 10,000 beds in the healthcare infrastructure of the city.

He reviewed the progress of construction works of hospitals being built at Siraspur, Jwalapuri, Madipur, Hastal (Vikasपुरी) as well as seven new semi-permanent ICU hospitals with a capacity of 6,838 ICU beds.

Lockdown hero commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old Delhi based Amushroom farmer, who bought flight tickets for his Bihar-based workers to send them home during the Covid-19 pandemic-necessitated lockdown, allegedly died by suicide at a temple in Tigipur Village. The deceased has been identified as Pappan Singh Gahlot, a resident of village Tigipur. According to police, the farmer left behind a suicide note, citing an illness as the reason behind taking the extreme step.

The body has been sent for post-mortem. The farmer is survived by his wife and a daughter. According to a senior police official, at around 5 PM, a police control room (PCR)



call was received at Alipur police station regarding hanging of a person in Shiv temple following which a police team rushed to the spot. "When police team reached the spot, they found Pappan hanging from the ceiling fan in temple. His body was taken down. He had his house in front of the temple and he used to visit the temple daily," said the senior

police official. "During initial enquiry, it was revealed that around 5 PM, the temple priest saw him hanging on the ceiling fan and the police was informed," said police official privy to investigation.

"Police have also found a suicide note in which Pappan had stated that, due to blood pressure and sugar issue he had taken this step," he added. "There is no doubt and foul play till now. The dead body has been preserved for autopsy in BJRM hospital.

The family is not suspecting any foul play too," said police official adding that inquest proceedings will be done accordingly. According to local villagers, Pappan, the farmer, was doing farming of mushroom for last 29 years.

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI**

ASSESSMENT & COLLECTION DEPARTMENT (H.Q)
14th Floor, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002.
No. A&C/HQ/MCD/2022-23/360
Dated 24.08.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject : Interim Report by Municipal Valuation Committee-V-reg.
The Government of NCT of Delhi has set up the Fifth Municipal Valuation Committee u/s 116 (1) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 (as amended). As per the Section 116 (5)(a), the functions of the Fifth Municipal Valuation Committee are as follows:
"To make recommendations to the Corporation on matters relating to classification of vacant lands and buildings in any ward of Delhi into colonies and groups of lands and buildings and fixation of base value per unit area of vacant land or per unit area of covered space of building and factors for increase or decrease, or for no increase or decrease thereof."
The Fifth Municipal Valuation Committee has submitted its Interim Report to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The Corporation invites objections from the property owners/occupiers, RWAs, Civil Society organizations, Co-operative Group Housing Societies and any other stakeholders, on the Interim Report.
The objections may be sent to the e-mail ID at mvs5.sdmc@mcd.nic.in or physically at office of Chairman, Fifth Municipal Valuation Committee situated at Room No. 18, Ambedkar Stadium office complex, Delhi Gate, Delhi-110002 within **30 days** from the date of publication of this Public Notice.
The Interim Report containing recommendations on the Classification of colonies, Unit Area Values etc. is available on MCD website i.e www.mcdonline.nic.in.
RO NO. - 27/DP/VMCD/22-23
ASSESSOR & COLLECTOR

CWC to fix on Sun party chief poll date

Gehlot front runner for top job even as he publicly urges Rahul to become party chief again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, will hold a virtual meeting on Sunday to approve the exact schedule of dates for the election of the Congress president even as Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's name for the top post gained traction.

A non-Gandhi as president is also being planned to blunt Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's attacks against the party and the Gandhis for pursuing 'dynastic politics'. Gehlot sought to downplay speculation that he could be made Congress chief, saying nobody knows what will be decided. Gehlot's meeting with Sonia led to the buzz that the two may have discussed the possibility of him being the next party president. Asked about the possi-

bility of him being Congress president, Gehlot said, "This has been doing the rounds in the media for a long time. You keep talking about it. Nobody knows what is going to be decided."

The veteran Congress leader added that he is concentrating on the two responsibilities given to him -- senior observer for the upcoming Gujarat assembly polls and chief minister of Rajasthan.

In a scenario of having a non-Gandhi president, the possibility of the G-23 grouping putting up a candidate against Gehlot too is not being ruled out. Besides Gehlot, the names of Mallikarjun Kharge, Kamal Nath, K C Venugopal, Meira Kumar, Mukul Wasnik and Kumari Selja have been doing the rounds.

"A virtual meeting of the CWC will be held on the 28th August, 2022 at 3:30 PM, to approve the exact schedule of dates for the election of the Congress president.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will preside over the CWC meeting," Congress general secretary in-charge organisation K C Venugopal said. Congress president will join the

meeting virtually from abroad as she is travelling for medical check-ups. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi are also accompanying her.

The party did not divulge any specific date of travel or their places of visit but said Rahul Gandhi will address the Congress' 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol' on September 4, 2022 scheduled in the national Capital. "The Congress president will also visit her ailing mother before she returns to New Delhi," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

Their visit abroad comes at a time when the party is prepping for its Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' starting September 7. It also comes ahead of the election of party president, the schedule for which is expected to be out this week.

Several leaders, including Gehlot, have been publicly exhorting Rahul Gandhi to become party chief again. However, uncertainty and suspense continue on issue. Several party insiders say Rahul is persisting with his stance that

he will not be AICC president. Rahul 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.

Cong spokesman Shergill quits citing 'sycophancy'

New Delhi: In a fresh blow to the Congress, its national spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill on Wednesday resigned from the party alleging that the decision-making of the party is no longer in sync with the ground realities. Shergill, 39, is a lawyer by profession and has been one of the youngest spokesmen of the party.

He hit out at the party saying sycophancy is eating into the organisation like 'termites'. "I've been seeking time from Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for more than a year, but we are not welcomed in the office," Shergill told The Pioneer. "In the past 8 years, I have not taken anything from Congress but only poured into the party.



Today when I am being pushed to bow down before people because they are close to the top leadership. This is not acceptable to me," he added. In a letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi, Shergill said the primary reason was that 'the ideology and the vision of the current decision makers of the Congress is no longer in sync with aspirations of the youth and modern India'. **PNS**

SC: No tree to be felled in Mumbai's Aarey Colony

If any violation takes place, strict action will be taken, top court warns MMRC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) to strictly abide by its undertaking that no trees would be cut in Mumbai's Aarey colony and warned that any violation will result in strict action.

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice UU Lalit said he would hear the matter on August 30 after counsel for the Maharashtra Government sought time to collate documents.

"The counsel for MMRC submits that her clients have already filed an affidavit that no trees have been or would be cut in any manner. The said undertaking by the MMRC director has already been taken on record and MMRC shall be strictly bound by the same," the bench also comprising Justices SR Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia said. Senior advocate Anitha Shenoy, appearing for the petitioner, alleged that clearing and levelling work is going on despite the apex court's order. The MMRC had earlier told

Supreme Court that no trees have been cut in Mumbai's Aarey colony after October 2019. The apex court in 2019 had taken suo motu cognisance of a letter petition addressed to the then Chief Justice of India by a law student seeking a stay on the felling of trees in the

Aarey colony. The Bombay High Court in October 2019 refused to declare Aarey Colony a forest and declined to quash the Mumbai Municipal Corporation's decision to allow the cutting of over 2,600 trees in the green zone to set up a metro car shed.

Justice Chandrachud-led Bench to hear BCCI case on constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the matters related to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), including amending its constitution, would be heard by a Bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud. A Bench, headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, said that the earlier judgment of August 9, 2018 in the BCCI matters.

On July 21, the apex court had appointed senior advocate Maninder Singh as an amicus curiae to assist it in the BCCI matters and had posted the hearing on the plea of the cricket body for amending its constitution concerning tenure of office bearers.

The plea of the cricket body seeks to amend its constitution concerning the tenure of its office bearers including its President Sourav Ganguly

and Secretary Jay Shah by doing away with the mandatory cooling-off period between tenures of office bearers across state cricket associations and the BCCI. Earlier, the Justice R M Lodha-led committee had recommended reforms in the BCCI which have been accepted by the top court.

The BCCI, in its proposed amendment, has sought the abolition of a cooling-off period for its office bearers which would enable Ganguly and Shah to continue in office despite them having completed six years at respective state cricket associations.

The constitution of BCCI, which has been approved by the top court, stipulates a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for anyone who had served two consecutive terms of three years each in the state cricket association or the BCCI.

SCO must fight unitedly against terror: Rajnath

Af territory should not be used as launch pad for terrorist activities, Def Min tells SCO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday called upon the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to unitedly fight against terrorism and eliminate the menace in all its forms.

He also said Afghanistan territory should not be used as launching pads for terrorist activities. Expressing India's concern on the situation in Ukraine, he said New Delhi supports talks between Russia and Ukraine to resolve this cri-



sis. Underlining these points during his address at the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting at Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Rajnath asserted that terrorism in any form, including cross-border terrorism, committed by anyone and for whatever purpose, is a crime against humanity.

"Terrorism is one of the most serious challenges to global peace and security. India reiterates its resolve to fight all forms of terrorism and make the region peaceful, secure and stable.

We seek to develop joint institutional capabilities with

the SCO member states, which, while respecting the sensitivities of each country, create the spirit of cooperation among individuals, societies and nations," he said.

In this context, Rajnath proposed to host a workshop in India in 2023 on the theme 'Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief - Risk mitigation and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' for the Defence Ministries of SCO Member States.

He also suggested an annual seminar on 'Topic of Interest' among the defence think tanks

of SCO countries and propose to organise the first such defence think tank seminar in India in 2023.

As regards Afghanistan, the defence minister voiced India's full support to a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, while emphasising to respect its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs. He urged all parties to encourage Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation and establish a broad-based, inclusive and representative political structure in the country.

He underlined the importance of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions in this regard. Rajnath said the Afghan territory must not be used to intimidate or attack any country by providing safe havens and training to terrorists and supporting their

activities through financial assistance.

He stressed on the need to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and safeguard their fundamental rights.

He invited all the SCO Member States to visit India next year when New Delhi takes over the presidency of the Organisation from Uzbekistan.

Rajnath met Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu on Wednesday on the sidelines of the SCO meet and conveyed his deep appreciation and thanks for arresting in Moscow a terrorist who was planning attacks in India. On Tuesday, he had held bilateral meetings with his Uzbek, Kazakh and Belarusian counterparts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the SCO summit in Tashkent in September and is likely to meet Chinese President and Pakistan Prime Minister on the sidelines of the summit.

Keep watch on long Covid patients: Study

SARS-CoV-2 continuously evolve due to occasional mutations in the genetic code that may occur when they replicate: Weissman

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Warning that the coronavirus variants of concern from chronic, long-Covid patients can be more deadly, scientists have called for keeping a watch on such people. The study is published in *Frontiers in Virology*.

Earlier studies have shown that some immune-compromised people, such as those taking medication for other chronic disorders, have carried active Covid-19 infections for a year or even longer.

Now the researchers have stressed that it's critical to identify these people not only to help them get treated for Covid-19 but also to conduct genomic surveillance of the SARS-CoV-2 viruses that they



carry. "Rather than evolving from transmission chains of acute Covid-19 infections in hundreds of millions of people, our results show that the variants of concern come from rare cases when someone may have an active infection for months," said Daniel Weissman, a professor of biology and physics at Emory University in the US.

Viruses like SARS-CoV-2 continuously evolve due to occasional mutations in the genetic code that may occur when they replicate. "When a virus copies itself, it doesn't always make perfect copies," said Weissman.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a SARS-CoV-2 variant of con-

cern as one that is more likely to cause infections even in those who are vaccinated or in those who were previously infected.

"A key take-home message is that it is important to find these individuals who are chronically infected and provide support for them to recover," said Mahan Ghafari, first author of the paper and a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford.

"In many cases, they may be asymptomatic and not even realise that they are infected with Covid-19 although they are actively shedding the virus," he added.

The WHO dubbed three variants of concern alpha, beta and gamma. The researchers have built a mechanistic, theoretical model to study the problem.

The resulting model rules out the theory that the variants of concern emerged from the sustained transmission of acute infections and fully supports the theory that each variant evolved within a single individual with a chronic infection.

UPSC OTR to obviate need to fill in aspirants' data again



PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The UPSC has started a one-time registration (OTR) facility for government job aspirants who will now not be required to fill in their basic details every time they apply for different recruitment examinations.

The aspirants, who wish to apply for any future examination of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), are required to register themselves in the OTR platform by filling up their basic personal information indicated therein.

"A large number of aspirants apply for a host of examinations conducted by the UPSC throughout the year to

select officers for different central government departments/organisations. The OTR platform will help them in saving time and make the application process more easy," a senior official said on Wednesday.

Once the registration of an aspirant is completed, the information will remain stored securely in the Commission's servers, the UPSC has said. An aspirant's information will get automatically populated in the online application form of an examination for which she or he applies, it said.

The OTR will be quite useful for the candidates as it will not only save them from filling in their basic personal details again for any subsequent examination being conducted by the UPSC, but also eliminate any possibility of submission of incorrect information by them as their basic personal details will be validated by the candidates themselves, the Commission said.

"With a view to facilitate the process of submission of applications by the aspirants of its examinations, the Union Public Service Commission is glad to launch 'one time registration' (OTR) platform on the Commission's website at upsc.gov.in and upsonline.Nic.In on 24 X 7 basis," it said in a statement.

Since about 70 per cent information of an aspirant in the OTR will automatically be pre-populated in the online application form of an examination, the time for filling or submitting an online application form will be reduced considerably, the UPSC said.

Aspirants have been advised to peruse the OTR instructions and fill in the information with extreme care to avoid any complications in future, it said. The Commission has also issued Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) "with respect to attempts in the civil services examination".

Ayushman Bharat health cards to be co-branded with States' health schemes

Delhi, Odisha and West Bengal have opted to remain out of it

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to ensure that States are encouraged to 'own' the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the Government has decided to allow co-branding on Ayushman Bharat health cards with states' health schemes. This means that the cards can now be used for both central and state health schemes.

Until now, the cards only bore the Centre's logo even

though the Ayushman Bharat scheme is funded by states and the Central Government in a 40:60 ratio, an issue that some states had objected to. So far, 30 of 33 states have agreed to the co-branding plan. Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal have opted to remain out of it.

"The National Health Authority — the administrative authority for the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the tertiary care arm of Ayushman Bharat (AB) — has decided to bring greater integrity and uniformity into the beneficiary cards issued under the scheme by re-christening them under a common

name, 'Ayushman cards,'" said the Union Health Ministry in a statement issued here on Wednesday. Therefore, the card that entitles eligible families to aid under the PMJAY, will now have logos of both AB and state government health schemes.

Launched on 23 September 2018, PMJAY gives an annual health cover of ₹5 lakh to eligible families.

In 2019, West Bengal pulled out of the scheme, with the State Government accusing the Centre of taking all the credit for it. Following year, she, however, said that the State would be willing to rejoin if the Centre funded scheme fully.

Transgenders to get benefits of Ayushman Bharat scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Almost four years after Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY was launched, the Government has now finally brought the transgender persons under the ambit of the central health scheme, ensuring them to avail composite healthcare services.

A pact has been inked between the National Health Authority (NHA) under the Union Health Ministry and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment which will fund Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover per beneficiary per annum.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday hailed the MoU as one of its kind in the country

which will give impetus to ensuring a rightful and respectable place for transgenders. The MoU will extend all healthcare benefits to transgender persons (holding a transgender certificate issued by the National Portal for transgender persons) across the country, Mandaviya said.

A comprehensive package is being prepared for transgender category including the existing AB PM-JAY packages and specific packages like Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) and treatment for transgenders, he said.

They will be eligible to seek treatment in any of the AB PM-JAY empanelled hospitals across the country, where specific packages are available.

The scheme would cover all transgender persons not receiving such benefits from other centre/state sponsored schemes.

The pact was signed by Dr R S Sharma, CEO, NHA and R Subramanyam, Secretary DoSJE in presence of Mandaviya, and Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. The MoU comes in the wake of various rights entitled to the community under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

According to it, the Government must take steps to provide health facilities to transgender persons, including separate HIV surveillance cen-

tres and gender affirmation surgery. Section 15 of the Act also mandates that the government must provide hormonal therapy and counselling, both before and after the surgery. "This MoU has laid the foundation for a landmark transformational reform in the society. The move, which provides special healthcare benefits to the transgender community, goes beyond ensuring equality for the disadvantaged community," said the Union Health Minister.

Noting that the transgender community suffers stigma and exclusion, he stressed that the provisioning of healthcare services under AB-PMJAY is a significant and firm step towards an inclusive society.

The Minister emphasised that the government is working in a decisive way to not only recognise rights of the transgender community but has taken various systematic steps for their welfare.

The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment enlisted several steps taken by MoSJE for implementing the package of five assurances of education, life with dignity, health support, opportunities for livelihood and skill enhancement, he said these steps have been taken to ensure that marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the population can emerge from restrictive social constructs by providing them dignified life and livelihood.

IN SHORTS

RAHUL RAPS PM OVER TWITTER SNOOPING

New Delhi:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday slammed at the Centre over media



reports, based on a whistleblower's account, that it had agents inside Twitter who accessed user data, alleging "snooping, threatening and stealing" are the foundations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promised 'Amrit Kaal'. The reports quoted the whistleblower alleging Twitter knowingly allowed Indian government to place its agents on company payroll where they had "direct unsupervised access to company's systems and user data."

SC REJECTS HIGH COURT'S ACTION

New Delhi:

The Supreme Court Wednesday disapproved the action of the High Courts to entertain petitions under Article 226 of the Constitution seeking to execute the award passed by the Arbitral Tribunal/Court.

Ultra spills beans: Pak Col plotted to target Indian posts

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A Pakistani terrorist, captured alive by the jaws of the Indian Army along the Line of Control in the Jhangar sector of Nowshera in Rajouri district on August 21, has claimed a sinister plot to target forward Indian posts in the forward areas was hatched by a Colonel of the Pakistani Intelligence agency to disturb peace.

At present the terrorist, identified as Tabarak Hussain, resident of Sabzkot village, district Kotli of Pakistan occupied Kashmir is undergoing treatment in an army hospital in Rajouri. Hussain was captured alive by the troops while he along with the two terrorists were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory. The two terrorists who were hiding behind, fled the area by taking cover of dense jungle and bro-

ken ground. According to a Jammu based Defence Spokesman, Lt Col Devendra Anand, "the terrorist has confessed about their plan to attack the Indian Army post. The Defence Spokesman said, "Tabarak Hussain has said he was sent by Col Yunus Chaudhry, a Colonel of Pakistan Intelligence Agency, to target the Indian army posts. "I was paid 30,000 Pakistani Rupees by the Pakistani officer", Tabarak Confessed

"Tabarak also revealed that he along with other terrorists had carried two/ three close recedes of Indian forward posts with an aim to target them at an opportune time. The go ahead to target the Indian post was given by Col Yunus Chaudhry on 21 Aug 2022". Tabarak Hussain was earlier captured by the Indian Army from the same sector in 2016



along with his brother Haroon Ali, and was repatriated on humanitarian grounds in November 2017.

Meanwhile, a day after the two more infiltrators were killed along the line of control in the Lam sector of Nowshera the Indian army troops Wednesday retrieved their dead bodies from a heavily mined area. Briefing media persons about the operation Brigadier Kapil Rana in Rajouri said, "on the night of 22/ 23 August 2022, a group of two to

three terrorists tried to infiltrate in Lam sector of Naushera(J&K). Our alert troops were able to observe the terrorists as they crossed the Line of Control and continuously monitored this movement. As they moved ahead into our mine fields a series of mines got activated and two terrorists got eliminated on the spot". The other terrorist is possibly injured and is hiding in the area or has gone back taking advantage of the inclement weather and dense

Mondal in 14-day judicial custody; CBI raids North Bengal V-C's house

CBI raided the Siliguri residence of Vice-Chancellor Subiresh Bhattacharya, in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A CBI special court on Wednesday remanded Trinamool Congress strongman Anubrata Mondal in 14 days' judicial custody.

Mondal, a TMC national executive member and party Birbhum district president, was arrested early this month for his alleged role in multi crore cow smuggling along Bangladesh border.

The CBI told the court that there was strong suspicion that the properties belonging to Mondal's relatives and aides were linked to cow smuggling.

The Birbhum TMC president who is known for his proximity to Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee, was arrested days after the arrest of another Trinamool heavy-duty and minister Partha Chatterjee after the Enforcement Directorate recovered Rs 50 crore and huge amount of jewellery and property deeds from his aide Arpita Mukherjee's flats.

According to sources the ED too had taken up Mondal's case after the CBI discovered a large number of properties including a number of rice mills, hotels, resorts, farm-houses etc worth several hundred crores through out Birbhum and other places.

A group of about 50 ED officials had come to Kolkata and we're preparing to take



Mondal in their custody after registering cases under PMLA laws.

Meanwhile the CBI on Wednesday raided the Siliguri residence of North Bengal University Vice-Chancellor, Subiresh Bhattacharya, in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam.

A second CBI team raided his flat in Bansdroni area of South Kolkata. As the flat was locked the central Agency sealed the apartment

Bhattacharya was the chairman of School Service Commission when the school level recruitment scam took place.

Undeclared emergency in Modi's rule since 2014: Maha Congress

Modi Govt misusing probe agencies to topple Opposition Govts, says Patole

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Contending that the BJP was running as ruling the country in a dictatorial manner, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Nana Patole on Wednesday charged that since 2014, an un-imposed emergency was on in the country and that the ruling dispensation at the Centre was "misusing" investigating agencies like ED, CBI and Income Tax to "topple" the opposition governments and break their parties.

Talking to the media persons here, the MPCC chief said that the BJP had adopted the divide and rule method like the British.

He said that action was being taken through the CBI and ED against the leaders or political parties who did not support the BJP.

"The BJP is working to



eliminate the opposition in the country. CBI raids on Aam Aadmi Party's Manish Sisodia and Rashtriya Janata Dal MLA's house in Delhi is an example of this.

BJP is misusing CBI, ED, Income Tax systems to gain political advantage. BJP is restless after losing power in Bihar," he said.

Patole alleged that no action is taken against those who support BJP.

"The BJP is working in the country in a more brutal way than the British. BJP has

forgotten the promise given to the people," he said.

Patole said that the BJP came to power at the centre by making promises to reduce inflation, double farmers' income, provide 2 crore jobs every year, bring back black money, "but since coming to power, this government has been working only for a handful of industrialists, not for the people".

Patole said that inflation and unemployment had increased tremendously in the country, while problems of farmers and workers had multiplied.

"But the Narendra Modi government has failed to solve them," he said.

The State Congress chief said that to avoid giving answers to the real questions, the BJP continued to raise religious issues. "People are tired of BJP and their place will be shown in the upcoming elections," Patole said.

Bihar Assembly Speaker quits ahead of floor test

"The Chair is 'panch parmashwar'. What message do you want to give by casting suspicions on the Chair? People will make a decision..." Sinha said as he quit

PTI ■ PATNA

Shortly before Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and his new ally - Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal - were to face a floor test, speaker and Bharatiya Janata Party leader VK Sinha, who had been served a no-confidence motion, resigned from his position. Sinha called the motion against him 'unclear' and claimed 'eight of nine letters were not as per rule' but stood down anyway. "The Chair is 'panch parmashwar'. What message do you want to give by casting suspicions on the Chair? People will make a decision..." Sinha said as he quit.

"The notice received in the assembly secretariat seems to have ignored rules, provisions and parliamentary decorum. Being in the chair, it is my natural responsibility to reject such a notice," he had said.

Sinha had said that he wanted to "resign on his own" after the sudden change in the Bihar government, but decided otherwise after he learnt that a no-confidence motion was moved against him.

This morning, though, he told the Assembly, "It had become incumbent upon me to respond to the motion. Some of the members moving the motion alleged that I had been undemocratic and dictatorial. This I cannot accept."

In view of the resignation, Deputy speaker of the Bihar assembly Maheshwar Hazari presided over the trust vote when the Bihar assembly proceedings resume till 2 pm. Speaker Sinha had adjourned the House till 2 PM after announcing his resignation.

"The proceedings of the House have been adjourned till 2 pm. According to the rules, after the resignation of the Speaker, all the work of the



Assembly will be handled by the Deputy Speaker," Hazari said.

On August 10, 55 MLAs of the newly-formed Grand Alliance had moved the motion against Sinha, wanting to have him removed

2 killed, several injured in fire at multi-storey building in Auraiya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident in Auraiya, two people suffocated to death while several others, including five employees of the fire brigade, were injured after a fire broke out in the 5-storey building late on Tuesday night. According to reports, a massive fire broke out in a 5-storey building located in Auraiya district late on Tuesday night in which two people present there died of suffocation.

The wall was broken to remove a woman and a child from the same building. Not only this, during the rescue, three women, four children and five fire brigade personnel who came to extinguish the fire, fainted due to suffocation.

After getting the information, Superintendent of Police Charu Nigam also reached the spot. The people who fainted were taken to the community health centre for treatment.

The deceased were identified as Pranav and Kallu. Both the youths were trapped in the upper floors. By the time the rescue team reached him, they had died.

Remarks against Prophet: More forces deployed in Hyderabad



PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Additional police forces have been deployed in parts of the city following overnight protests against suspended BJP legislator Raja Singh's alleged remarks against Prophet Mohammed, that stretched into Wednesday morning. Singh was arrested by the city police on Tuesday for making remarks against Islam and Prophet

Mohammed in a video, which was later pulled down by the social media platform on which it was uploaded. Later, he was granted bail by a local court. Following his release protests erupted with people taking to streets on late Tuesday night in various parts of the city including Charminar area, prompting the police to beef up security.

Phogat's brother says she was killed by 2 associates

PTI ■ PANAJI

BJP leader Sonali Phogat's brother has filed a formal complaint with the Goa Police, claiming she was murdered by two of her associates.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the state police were conducting a detailed investigation into the death of Phogat.

Considering the opinion of doctors and Goa Director General of Police (DGP) Jaspal Singh, it preliminary looks like she died due to a heart attack, Sawant told reporters.

However, Phogat's brother Rinku Dhaka alleged that a short while before her death, Phogat had spoken to her mother, sister and brother-in-law during which she sounded disturbed and complained against her two colleagues.

He also claimed that the CCTV cameras, laptop and other crucial things from her farmhouse in Haryana have gone missing after her death.

Phogat (42), the BJP leader from Hissar in Haryana who had found fame on Tik Tok, was "brought dead" at the St



Anthony Hospital at Anjuna in North Goa on Tuesday morning, a police official earlier said, adding that she died of a suspected heart attack.

The Anjuna police had registered a case of unnatural death.

The family members of Phogat arrived in Goa on Tuesday night.

Dhaka in his complaint filed with the Anjuna police in Goa claimed that two of Phogat's associates murdered her in Goa.

"We had asked her to stay away from them and return to Hissar the next day (after Phogat spoke to her mother)," Dhaka told reporters outside the Anjuna police station.

He claimed the police have refused to register a First Information Report (FIR) against the two persons.

"If the FIR is not filed

against them, we will not allow the postmortem to be conducted in Goa," he said.

Dhaka said the family members would prefer the postmortem to be conducted at the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi or at AIIMS, Jaipur.

"She was a BJP leader for last 15 years. We will also appeal to the prime minister to help us in getting justice for her," he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sawant said he has been following up the matter with Director General of Police Jaspal Singh.

"The Goa Police are conducting a detailed investigation into the case," he said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi earlier said Phogat had arrived in Goa on August 22 and was staying in a hotel in Anjuna area.

She was brought to the hospital from the hotel around 9 am on Tuesday, he said.

Phogat was brought to the St Anthony Hospital after she complained of uneasiness, DGP Singh told PTI on Tuesday.

Hathras case: Kerala scribe moves SC for bail in UAPA case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, arrested in October 2020 while on his way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped, has approached the Supreme Court seeking bail in the case.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had earlier this month rejected the bail application of Kappan, who was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the alleged Hathras conspiracy case.

The plea was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, which agreed to list it on August 26.

Advocate Haris Beeran mentioned the matter before the bench, also comprising Justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar, and said the high court has denied bail to Kappan.

"Presently, the petitioner has spent almost two years



behind bars, on the basis of trumped up charges, only because he sought to discharge his professional duty of reporting on the infamous case of the Hathras rape/ murder," the plea said.

"Therefore, the present petition raises seminal questions pertaining to the right to liberty, as well as the freedom of expression and speech vested in independent media under the aegis of the Constitution," it said.

The plea claimed that the high court has failed to take note of the fact that the FIR or the charge sheet, "ex-facie" does not make out a case for the invocation of sections 17 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Yogi for ending poverty, anarchy and inequality

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Emphasising that peace and harmony cannot be achieved without valour, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday urged citizens to dedicate themselves with utmost honesty to eliminate poverty, anarchy and inequality to build a powerful, self-reliant nation in the next 25 years.

While paying rich tributes to Awadh Kesari Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singhji freed the entire Awadh region from British tyranny 90 years before India attained freedom, for a



in Rae Bareilly, Chief Minister Yogi said that Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singhji freed the entire Awadh region from British tyranny 90 years before India attained freedom, for a

period of nearly one and a half years.

"Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh and Veera Pasi not only led the freedom struggle in the Awadh region during India's first war of independence in 1857, but also inspired generations to continue fighting against slavery and for India's independence with dedication till it was attained," Yogi Adityanath said during the 'Bhav Samarpan Samaroh'.

Stating that all Indians are extremely fortunate to witness India's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, the chief minister said that every citizen must

work to fulfil the resolutions laid by the prime minister to achieve the goal of India we dream of in the next 25 years.

"To bring India at par with other leading nations in the world, we as citizens must discharge our duties towards the nation with utmost honesty and dedication," the chief minister emphasised.

Yogi said that every citizen and the section that they represented in society must ensure their maximum and honest contribution towards building a self-reliant nation and a super power.

"While the government

has prioritised development of the state and is working in that direction by preparing strategies and forming roadmaps, every citizen must also contribute to achieve the goal of an India where there is no place for poverty, inequality, anarchy, and an India which is seen leading the world towards humanity, peace and harmony," Yogi said.

He went on to say that the contribution of Prithviraj Chouhan, Maharana Pratap Singh and Guru Gobind Singhji was towards ending the foreign rule that was present in India during their times.

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As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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1.	Karan Singh/ Preeti/ LBROH00005148839/ LBROH00005148840/ LBROH00005320987	Plot No.168-P. Situated at Sector 2 (P) Huda Rohtak Haryana/ August 23, 2022	May 30, 2022 Rs. 1,07,78,555/-	Rohtak/ Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : August 25, 2022
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Fairness needed

KCR must act against the trouble makers of all parties so that nobody can accuse of him being partisan

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been quick to suspend its Hyderabad MLA T Raja Singh for allegedly blaspheming against Prophet Muhammad. Now is the time for its rivals, especially Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, to show that they place peace and communal amity above political interests. Consider the case of the influencer Syed Abdahu Kashaf, who claims to be a social and civil rights activist. He has not just used but also defended the use of the slogan, "Gustakh-E-Rasool ki ek hi saza, sar tan se juda, sar tan se juda" (There is only one punishment maligning the Prophet, and that is beheading. In a video, which Kashaf himself posted on Monday night, he is seen raising the violent sar tan se juda slogan. He was also haranguing people to protest against Raja Singh in Hyderabad outside the South Zone DCP office. In this protest, he told a news organization, he did not have any intention of doing anything unconstitutional; and yet he shouted the sar tan



se juda slogan, calling it his "religious belief." The problem with such people is that they can't detect the contradictions within themselves and between the mutually conflicting positions they hold simultaneously. The bigger problem is that there are a lot of people who hold similar views; a large section of people tend to agree with Kashaf, who is actually presenting the widespread Islamic stance on blasphemy.

KCR has become very critical of the BJP; he is indeed striving to become a challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. So he has to be even-handed in dealing with all manner of trouble makers. A

Congress MLA reportedly said that he would take the law in his own hands if Raja Singh was not arrested. Raja Singh was arrested, though he secured a bail for himself soon after. Now is the time for KCR to assert that the law would be maintained at any cost, even if it means action against politicians of different parties. The Telangana Chief Minister should not be seen as tough on loose-talking BJP leaders and soft on the Muslim leaders who make inflammatory statements. It is a sad commentary on the state of affairs that politicians in all parts of India, whether it is Telangana or Uttar Pradesh, feel that maximum political mileage could be derived by milking emotive issues, even as a variety of issues—ranging from governance deficit and environmental degradation to unemployment—affect people. So, the BJP is trying to play the Hindu card in the southern states. In Karnataka, senior BJP leader and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa flagged off the Savarkar Rath Yatra in Mysuru, ostensibly to inform people about the Hindutva ideologue's views and principles. In Telangana, the BJP had to take a step back because of Raja Singh's remarks, but it is still all about emotive issues. KCR's response must be rational if he wants to be seen as a serious national player.

PICTALK



Fishermen cast their net in the Hooghly river during sunset, in Nadia district of W Bengal

PTI

Chinks in the armour!

Gadkari has been criticizing his own govt, how far he goes with his dissent remains to be seen

After Nitin Gadkari the former BJP president was dropped from the BJP parliamentary board, one of the party's key decision making body it was clear that internal politics of the party was simmering and the ouster of Nitin Gadkari was a clear indication of that. Not too long ago Ravi Shankar Prasad was dropped from the cabinet. Both the leaders are from Advani camp and his admirers. LK Advani along with Murl Manohar Joshi happens to be in the Margdarshak Mandal, group of senior BJP leaders who are supposed to give vision to the party. But actually the 'mandal' is the glorified resting place for the BJP leaders who have outlived their relevance in the party. Now it looks like that a few more leaders might be joining the club soon. However, Nitin Gadkari is no walkover and is a go-getter and as a minister of Road transport and highways his work speaks for itself. Though he has not been close to the prime minister but his proximity to RSS top brass is well established as he hails from Nagpur, the place where RSS headquarters is located.

Since Gadkari is a former BJP president, so his drop was not following the conventions as former chiefs have always been on it. Even earlier Gadkari had been showing his displeasure with party's top brass and had said that today's politics was more about power-play and that at times he thought of quitting politics. Gadkari after his recent jibe also said that the BJP's rise to power could be credited to Mr Vajpayee, LK Advani and Deendayal Upadhyaya. That he would not be sidelined so easily

was apparent when the Gadkari, took a jibe at his own government saying the government is 'not taking decisions in time'. Even earlier Gadkari have been vocal about his displeasure with the functioning of the government albeit in a mild manner. However his recent salvo is rather a direct attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and counters his claim of his government's success in crossing big milestones in 'Amrit Kaal' or golden era. One thing is for sure if Gadkari was taking a dig at the government he had backing of the RSS. But how far he can walk on the road of dissent remains to be seen as the party's top brass led by Prime Minister Modi is firmly saddled and the leaders of erstwhile era are either marginalized or subdued.

Holistic approach for education revamp

Holistic education is the only way to bring about a lasting change, in fact it is the only way that can change the world for the better

Nelson Mandela has rightly said, that, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world". It is a stairway to the growth and development of humankind. The right to education must be universal so that everyone can pursue a better future. However, the right to education is not only the right to access education but also about receiving quality education.

Quality education fosters the knowledge, skills, and values required to create a fairer and more sustainable world. According to Education International and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, quality education "is one that focuses on the child's overall development- social, emotional, mental, physical and cognitive, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or geographic location." We now realized that education alone will not lead to a sustainable future, therefore, learning about sustainable development (SD) is necessary. Target 4.7 in the 2030 Agenda for SD, emphasizes the importance of transformative education- that promotes global citizenship, sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, peace, and cultural diversity.

It is a holistic approach and is often depicted as three overlapping circles: ecological, social, and economic — to demonstrate the interplay between all parts of life and the need for their equal consideration to find lasting prosperity. But we generally have a uni-directional approach towards sustainability based on our predisposition. To comprehend basic principles of ecology, one must think holistically about relationships, connectedness, and context to realize the intricate interdependence and often unpredictable dynamics of ecological, social, and economic systems. This shift of focus from analytical thinking (parts) to contextual thinking (whole) is a prerequisite for building a more resilient world. It is regarded as a critical ability in education as it enables students to



untangle and work within the complexities of life on Earth.

Integration of education for sustainable development (ESD) into teaching and learning can help in the realization of quality education, which is critical to fulfilling many of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It is also essential for addressing other key issues, including, wasteful consumption, biodiversity conservation, and waste management. ESD is an interdisciplinary field that integrates concepts from multiple disciplines to understand how natural and man-made processes interact with each other and ultimately affect the various biomes on the planet. Adopting a wide range of participatory methodologies in education, is essential to change the behaviors and equip the current and future generations with the knowledge and skills they need to shape a sustainable future. These methodologies will allow them to develop problem-solving, interdisciplinary, and systemic thinking skills, which will help them learn, 'how to think rather than 'what to think within the context of sustainability.

In collaborative learning, students in small groups work together on a common goal to seek understanding and solutions. It fulfills the primary

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purpose of education - nurturing responsible citizens who can work together to solve complex ecological, social and economic issues. Thus, working on collaborative learning projects at an early age can boost their confidence and help them develop critical thinking, positive interdependence, diverse understanding along with various other social skills such as leadership, decision-making, communication, trust-building, conflict management, and a sense of ownership. Integration of ESD at all levels requires a systemic change in all kinds of textbooks, including science, math, social sciences, humanities, etc. Only a few degree programs in India provide students with employable skills. However, emerging challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and disruptive technologies will necessitate a workforce with cross-disciplinary skills.

Teaching ESD requires knowledge of several disciplines that is generally beyond the teachers' expertise. Reforms of this magnitude, however, will not be possible without effective policies, operational frameworks, political will, financial assistance and stakeholders' cooperation. National Education Policy 2020 is the

first education policy of the 21st century, which aims to align the education system with SDGs and make education holistic, inclusive, multidisciplinary, learner-centric, inquiry-driven and experiential. It will hopefully shift humanity back onto the right path of development and secure the future for the coming generations. Although, the successful implementation of this policy will not only diversify India's global image but also make the education system at par with the best in the world. Our collective responsibility to improve the quality of education is essential for achieving the ambitions of Agenda 2030. However, "we stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road - the one less traveled by - offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."

(The author is an advisor to Amity School of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, Uttar Pradesh)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SISODIA IN DEEP TROUBLE

Sir — Entangled in a flawed liquor policy and its subsequent withdrawal, the AAP is still unable to answer why it had to withdraw the policy. The Congress has also trained guns on Sisodia, demanding his resignation. AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Sisodia are seen flaunting a *New York Times* report describing the latter as the best Education Minister. The BJP has dubbed it as a paid report. The raging criticism against Sisodia is not about the education policy. Good education policy, if it is true, enunciated by Sisodia does not offset the effect of bad liquor policy aimed at making money through unfair means.

Faced with the wrath of his political opponents, Sisodia has alleged he was told all cases against him would be dropped if he joined the BJP; the veracity of this claim needs to be verified. Sisodia has stated that the offer's recording would be released at an 'appropriate' time, but what better time than now? The allegation against the BJP, true or false, does not whitewash Sisodia's own misdeeds. The message is clear: the startling revelation would not have been made had Sisodia not been targeted for the liquor policy.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sir — Driven by technological advances and global integration, the world GDP is projected to expand, bringing with it increased pressure on environmental and social resources. Governments pursuing sustainable development face the challenge of discerning how best to balance the challenges and opportunities of growth and to decouple economic growth from environmental pressure. Between 2030-2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 2,50,000 additional deaths per year mainly because of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress. By 2060, material use globally could double to 190 million tonnes (from 92 million).

Congress crisis deepens



It refers to 'More trouble for Congress'. After senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who had earlier resigned from a key party post in his State of J&K, it was the turn of another senior functionary Anand Sharma to do the same after being sidelined by his party. It was nearly two years ago that 23 leaders formed a group and wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi about their displeasure over

the way the party's affairs were being handled, but it seems nothing has changed in these two years and maybe these senior leaders are running out of patience.

The Congress is seeking to wrest power from the BJP in Himachal Pradesh and there is a direct fight between the parties, but Anand Sharma's resignation would showcase the Congress as a divided house. He may not leave the 'grand old party', but this development does not show the Gandhis in a good light. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul may have been occupied with the current National Herald ED case, but they cannot afford to let senior leaders go away like this. Rather, only a united show will keep them in good stead, both for their own electoral future as well as the Opposition. Hope better sense prevails upon the Gandhis and they conduct internal elections as early as possible and change the way the party is functioning.

Bal Govind | Noida

Worse, greenhouse gas emissions could increase by 43 per cent. After 2G and 3G networks, we developed 4G, now 5G and one doesn't know how many Gs will be developed. There are many examples of excessive development around us. The Kedarnath flash flood in June 2013 was the result of environmental negligence while undertaking development. Remember 'When Nature wreaks havoc on the tab, the door of the found facility flies away'. Better late than never, we still can change humankind's attitude towards Mother Earth; otherwise the medical oxygen masks used during COVID-19 may become a permanent fixture of our life.

Ishita Patidar | Ujjain

THE RULE OF THE STICK?

Sir — Since gaining Independence, what has changed for us as a nation? Earlier, it was the rule of white people, today it is the rule of brown people! The rules and regulations are similar. The relationship

between the ruler and the ruled is the same as that of a king and his subjects. Even before 1947, the British used to rain down blows upon us, open fire on us in the name of maintaining law and order. The Crown used to file a case of sedition. The same is still happening in our beloved country.

Recently, in the name of controlling the TET candidates who were protesting at the Dakbanga crossroads of Patna, the attitude of the police was no less than an Indian citizen-hater. Even ADM KK Singh was seen beating the protesters with sticks. A protesting candidate held the Tricolour in his hand but the ADM still thrashed him. Just a week ago, many debates were hosted about the importance of the Tricolour. The world saw its power even during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But, in Patna, the same Tricolour could not save the youth from the administration's brutality.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

... time is the most important thing in the construction. The biggest problem is the government is not taking decisions on time.

Minister for Road Transport

—Nitin Gadkari



Canada can be the reliable supplier of the clean energy. We're working towards exports of clean hydrogen to Germany by 2025.

PM Canada

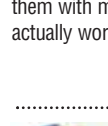
— Justin Trudeau

I can't keep defending myself verbally. And if you don't like me, don't watch me. I can't help it. That's something I can't do anything about. Hopefully, I will prove to them with my movies that I am actually worth the space I occupy.



Actor

—Alla Bhatt



Mental fatigue can creep into the best in the world. This down time was not just needed for his body but to reflect. He gets 50 in the first game, mouths will be shut.

Former cricket coach

—Ravi Shastri

The heated atmosphere across the country has not even cooled down completely over the controversial remarks by Nupur Sharma. Now another BJP leader, Telangana MLA Raja Singh did the same kind of provocative act, which is disgraceful and utterly condemnable.



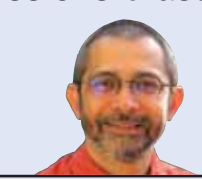
BSP chief

—Mayawati

FIRST COLUMN

BUILD SMART HOMES TO OVERCOME HEATWAVE

Smart homes can help cut carbon emissions drastically



PRASAD VAIDYA

Consider yourself lucky if you didn't face the recent heat wave. To escape that, you either had to be abroad or be one of the eight per cent of households in India who afford to have air-conditioning. This is climate change, and we feel its impacts like storms and floods close to home. Devastated vegetables, grains and fruit crops bore the impacts.

Governments move slowly, but as consumers, we can act more nimbly to close the climate divide. We can begin with three things with changes in food, travel, and the spaces we live in. Let's see what we can do for the buildings and spaces we inhabit.

How much do buildings matter? Buildings contribute to about 40 per cent of the global greenhouse gas emissions. Temperatures within our cities will rise by 3-4°C. Our buildings need to be the first defence against such climate change events but only if we build them smartly.

For most people, a home is possibly the biggest life investment. So, being smart means building and operating your home to protect this investment and make it work for you.



Being smart means making new and existing buildings net-zero for energy and water, and building them for improved health and resilience. Going Net-Zero Energy involves minimising the energy use and using renewable energy like Solar PV to offset that minimal energy use. Since cooling and heating consume about 50 per cent energy, one can tackle this first by avoiding apartments with windows facing East and West directions where the low angle sun causes discomfort.

Large glass windows can be avoided, for the window area should be 30 per cent or less of the exterior wall, which should be shaded with balconies. Movable exterior screens can be added to let the sun in only when required. Thick or insulated walls should be opted, and AAC (auto-claved aerated concrete) blocks provide good thermal insulation.

Gadgets such as ACs, refrigerators and TVs should be three-star rated, while ceiling fans should be in all rooms. The ACs are kept at 25°C or higher with the ceiling fans on. The ACs can be programmed to higher temperatures after one falls asleep, or even turn it off.

Going 'Net-Zero Water' isn't easy, but most people can get 50-75 per cent of the way there. For this, aerators be used on taps, and water-efficient showerheads be installed, while there should be dual flush toilets. IAPMO's WEP-I star rating may be used as a guide.

In the garden, water guzzling lawns are minimised and plant native/adapted species be kept, which will boost the biodiversity of birds and other fauna.

Efficient drip irrigation can also be employed, while also providing ponds or water baths for birds and animals to help them cope with climate change. Rainwater should be stored and used for washing and bathing, while recharge pits be built to recharge bore wells.

Buildings should be made healthy and climate resilient, which is a no-brainer, as it improves the long-term value of the property. Apartments and houses should have every room with good natural ventilation, while low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) be used which will improve indoor air quality.

Installing an inverter/ battery and connecting ceiling fans, lights, internet equipment and refrigerator to it can also be tried, with a solar photovoltaic system connected to the battery.

Sites in flood prone areas should be avoided, and floor levels be raised to avoid regular flooding, while all electrical be kept above the flood level. Underground tanks should be secured so that flooding does not contaminate water. Building elements should be tied down to secure from wind and storms.

(The author is Director, Solar Decathlon India.)

Let big cats roar in far away jungles of India

Most of the protected areas of the big cats are saturated; robust conflict management be put in place



Big cats are dispersing in new territories from their secured occupancy areas in India. Wildlife conservation is a practice to protect flora and fauna and their prime habitats. Today, 987 protected areas in India (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves), cover about 5.3 per cent of the nation's geographical areas.

These protected areas include five Asiatic Lion Reserves in Gujarat, 52 Tiger Reserves in 18 states and 385 protected areas in 30 leopard states and Union Territories. Status of key wildlife species or apex predator as part of habitat is an indicator of health and resilience of natural ecosystems. Today, Management effectiveness evaluation indicates that the majority of the protected areas have poor conservation status due to intense biotic pressure, including progressing human-encroachment and inadequate management inputs.

In India, management effectiveness achieved high standards in about one-tenth of the protected areas, which support fascinating mega-species such as tigers, Asiatic lions, elephants, rhinoceros and a few other critically endangered species. In fact, management and financial inputs in these protected areas are much higher than the rest of similar regions in the country.

Globally, there are seven big cats – tiger, lion, jaguar, puma, leopard, cheetah, and snow leopard. Tiger, lion, leopard, and snow leopard are found in India.

Introduction of the fifth big cat Cheetah in India in Rajasthan and Kuna National Park in Madhya Pradesh is at an advanced stage. Large scale poaching two decades ago had impacted tiger and leopard, but the constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and National Wildlife Crime Bureau in 2006 provided effective support to their protection.

Numbers of big cats have declined consistently in Africa and Asia, but India has reversed the trend successfully by providing strict protection and secured habitats to them. In Asia, the number of big cats crashed in all countries, but increased in India.

Despite high human density and biotic pressure, the number of lions, tigers and leopards increased consistently in their secured habitats and started dispersing in new areas after their saturation in some of the Big Cat Reserves. At present, an Asiatic lion is found only in Gujarat in India, although Asia Minor was prime land for this royal predator 150 years ago.

In 2018, out of the global population of 3,850 tigers, about 2,960 were found in India and the rest of 850 individuals in over a dozen Asian countries. Similarly, out of 22,000 Asiatic leopards belonging to eight sub-species, 18,000 adult and sub-adult of the Indian leopards were estimated in India and the rest of 4,000 leopards in about three dozen countries in Asia.

Outcome of the focused conservation practices in Gir Lion Conservation Land-



AT PRESENT, THE NUMBER OF LIONS OUTSIDE THE GIR WILDLIFE PROTECTED AREAS IS MORE THAN THE NUMBER WITHIN THEIR BOUNDARIES

(The author is a retired Indian Forest Service officer, and Gujarat State Member, National Board for Wild Life.)



scape is apparent. Asiatic lions had a single population in the world and its number was low, about 170 individuals in the 1960s. After the declaration of Gir Wildlife Sanctuary in 1965, there has been consistent focused conservation activities during the last five decades. Settlement of about two-third of maldharis, cattle rearing community, outside the Gir forests laid the foundation for recovery of wildlife ungulates there. As a result, the lion's number increased consistently and reached over 700 individuals in 2022 (676 lions in 2020).

Although the state government has expanded Lion Reserves and constituted five protected areas for lion conservation, its distribution range expanded beyond such zones from about 5,000 sq. km in the 1970s to over 16,000 sq. km. in five districts. At present, the number of lions outside the Gir Wildlife Protected Areas is more than the number within their boundaries.

Leopard population has also increased there. Over 1,350 big cats (lions and leopards) in the Lion Conservation Landscape in the four districts in Saurashtra have thrown a big challenge to management. With such a high concentration of big cats, man-leopard conflicts in the landscape are obvious, although a strong man-wildlife conflict response system has been placed there. Observing the present trend of lion's dispersion, the Government has planned to launch "The Project Lion" for the long term (2022-2047) by securing and consolidating habitats and protecting lions in the expanding distribution range in 10 districts of Saurashtra.

Tiger conservation had ups and downs since the declaration of the Project Tiger in 1973. A large-

scale poaching impacted the tiger. The supreme cat disappeared from a few of the tiger reserves and its number declined in other reserves. About 1,600 sub-adult and adult tigers (1411 in surveyed areas) were estimated in 2006. After the constitution of National Tiger Conservation Authority and National Wildlife Crime Bureau in 2006, scale of poaching was contained and tiger conservation was re-focused by expanding and consolidating tiger reserves. At present, tiger conservation activities intensified in 52 tiger reserves and compactness of the habitats improved by translocation and resettlement of villages from inside the core areas to other areas.

In 2018, about 2960 adult and sub-adult tigers were estimated in India which was about three-fourth of the global tiger population. Present ongoing counting of tiger, co-predators and prey using camera image capture and recapture method in 2022 indicates that tigers' number has further improved. At present tiger occupancy area is over 89,000 sq. km. of the prime forests in 18 states of India.

The Indian leopard, the smartest big cat, exploited various development and conservation activities, including creation of a network of medium and minor irrigation dams, expansion of sugarcane cultivation and tea-garden. Its number has consistently increased in 28 states and two Union Territories. In 2018, about 12,850 adult and sub-adult leopards were estimated in tiger landscapes in 18 tiger states.

If its number from all habitats in all leopard states and Union Territories are accounted for, the actual population would be over

18,000 adult and sub-adult leopards in India. In fact, only about one-third of the leopard population occurs in the protected areas in the countries and the rest in other forests and non-forests areas. It has been reported that a substantial number of the leopards breed in tea gardens, sugarcane fields, and prosopis thickets across the country. The present occupancy area of the Indian leopard may be over 310,000 sq. km., higher than the previous estimates.

One and a half dozen Tiger Reserves and five Lion Reserves in India are saturated with a number of super cats. Tigers and lions are dispersing in new areas, but getting suitable habitats to accommodate increasing numbers is a limitation. Another dark side of wildlife conservation is that the best forests in North East India and Dandakarany in four states - Chhatisghadh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Telangana have poor populations of tiger, leopard and other wildlife.

The Naxalite movement in these four states has depleted wildlife. If these areas are restored to their previous glory, it may not be difficult to manage a good number of tigers and leopards in India. If the present trend of recovery of the three big cats continues, securing and managing 1,000 Asiatic lions, 5,000 tigers and 25,000 Indian leopards in the Indian jungle is possible under intensive conservation and protection activities, although man-wildlife conflicts would turn into a serious management challenge.

To address emerging management challenges of man-wildlife conflict, a strong conflict response system needs to be placed in the areas.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

PEOPLE HAVE TEARS IN THEIR EYES. WHY ARE THEY SAYING THINGS LIKE THIS ABOUT PROPHET MUHAMMAD? OUR DEMAND IS THAT THE BJP SHOULD STOP DOING ALL THIS. PEOPLE CAN SEE HOW MUCH YOU HATE THE PROPHET.

—AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWASI



WHY THE INSULT OF RAM AND SITA COULD PASS OFF AS COMEDY BUT NOT OF OTHER FIGURES REVERED BY OTHER COMMUNITIES. I AM DOING IT FOR DHARMA. I AM READY TO DIE FOR DHARMA.

—BJP MLA T RAJA SINGH



Democracy needs Govt, Opposition to be strong

The Opposition will need a leader with a pan-national appeal to challenge Modi. The sooner it gets united, the better

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened himself in the last eight years to such an extent in his party and outside that the gap in popularity between him and other probable prime ministerial aspirants has become huge. He is all set for a third term in 2024.

About 53 per cent of respondents in the Mood of the Nation poll conducted by India Today and C Voter last week favoured Modi as the next prime minister.

The Opposition failed miserably in challenging Modi in 2014 and 2019. The recent presidential and vice-presidential elections also showed the Opposition's disarray, while the BJP has geared up its poll machinery. The focus has shifted from "Modi vs



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist.)

Who" to "only Modi for 2024." So Modi had the field to himself.

Interestingly, after Modi entered the national scene eight years ago, the campaign-style became that of an American presidential poll. That is why there is so much talk about the 2024 polls when it is two years away.

Political forces could realign before the next Lok Sabha polls. Reaching a consensus on the prime ministerial candidate has been difficult, with the regional satraps pulling in different directions. Modi was a political leader who gave hope in 2014; he projected himself as a national-level leader in 2019; and in 2024 would be launched as the most famous leader of India.

Home Minister Amit

Shah declared at the recent BJP National Executive meeting that Modi would be the NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who has won a second term, has asked his state to bag at least 75 of the 80 seats in the state for 2024 polls.

However, two recent developments have injected fresh vigour into Indian politics. The first was the Shiv Sena split in Maharashtra and the rebel Shinde faction heading the government with the BJP support last month.

Secondly, after weeks of simmering tension between the JD(U) and BJP over a host of issues, including caste census, population control, and the 'Agnipath' defence recruitment scheme, JDU—the last

important ally of the BJP—left the NDA.

Maharashtra and Bihar send a little more than a sixth of the total 543 in Lok Sabha (88) and are critical for both the BJP and the Opposition.

There are at least four Prime Ministerial aspirants apart from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Trinamool Congress's Mamata Banerjee has been nursing prime ministerial ambitions since she decimated the Left and the Congress in 2011. TMC leaders argue that Mamata is most suited for the post. She has won all the Assembly elections in West Bengal since 2011 with a massive majority.

Telangana's chief minister, K. Chandrababbar Rao, has of late been critical of Prime Minister Modi. He has been preparing to come on the national stage since 2018. Like TMC, TRS has also won massive mandates in assembly elections since 2014.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the third. He has been Delhi's chief minister since 2015.

The AAP is the only regional party with governments in Delhi and Punjab. Also, the party has won with super mandates. After winning Punjab in 2022, party spokesperson Raghav Chadha said Kejriwal could be the country's next prime minister.

Of late, a fourth name is on the list after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar quit the NDA last week and became Chief Minister. He left the Grand Alliance and joined hands with the BJP later. He is perceived as an oppor-

Bihar has been the centre of national political movements in colonial and post-colonial India and has 40 seats.

JD(U) became the fourth major NDA constituent after the Sena, the Akali Dal, and the Telugu Desam snapped ties with the BJP.

After his oath-taking, the ambitious Nitish took a jibe at Modi. He said, "Those who came to power in 2014, (read Modi) will they be victorious in 2024? I want all (Opposition) to be united for 2024."

The chances for Nitish were much brighter in 2015 when the Opposition defeated BJP in Bihar, and Nitish became Chief Minister. He left the Grand Alliance and joined hands with the BJP later. He is perceived as an oppor-

tunist, but still he is senior enough from the Hindi belt that you cannot dismiss him lightly.

The upbeat BJP high command has constituted a team to capitalise on Modi's popularity during the election rallies. He addressed more than 100 rallies and traveled about one lakh kilometers across the country during the 2019 election campaign.

It's too early to predict how the situation will pan out in the next two years. In politics, one week is said to be long. However, the Opposition will need a leader with a pan-national appeal to challenge Modi. The sooner it gets united, the better, as democracy needs both a strong centre and a strong Opposition.

UKRAINE GIRDS FOR HEAVY ATTACKS AS IT MARKS INDEPENDENCE DAY

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine nervously braced for what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned could be especially brutal Russian attacks Wednesday as the country observed its Independence Day - and marked the war's six-month point - under conditions considered too dangerous to allow any major public celebrations in the capital.

Residents of Kyiv woke up to air raid sirens, but there were no immediate attacks.

Kyiv authorities banned large gatherings in the capital through Thursday, fearing the national holiday might bring particularly heavy Russian missile strikes.

Independence Day commemorates Ukraine's 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

"Russian provocations and brutal strikes are a possibility," Zelenskyy said in a statement. "Please strictly follow the safety rules. Please observe the curfew. Pay attention to the air sirens. Pay attention to official announcements. And remember: We must all achieve victory together."

Last year, crowds turned out in Kyiv to watch a military parade marking 30 years of Ukrainian independence. This year, just a small number of residents gathered in the central square, where destroyed Russian tanks and artillery were put on display over the weekend, and the national anthem is played every day at 7 a.m.

"I can't sleep at night because of what I see and hear about what is being done in Ukraine," said a retiree who gave only her first name, Tetyana, her voice shaking with emotion. "This is not a war. It is the destruction of the Ukrainian people." In a holiday message to the coun-



try, Zelenskyy said: "Six months ago, Russia declared war on us. On Feb. 24, all of Ukraine heard explosions and gunshots. ... On Feb. 24, we were told: You have no chance. On Aug. 24, we say: Happy Independence Day, Ukraine!"

U.S. President Joe Biden announced he is sending nearly \$3 billion in new military aid to Ukraine that will enable its forces to fight for years to come. Biden said it will allow the country to acquire air defense and artillery systems and other weapons.

"I know this Independence Day is bittersweet for many Ukrainians as thousands have been killed or wounded, millions have been displaced from their homes, and so many others have fallen victim to Russian atrocities and attacks,"

Biden said. "But six months of relentless attacks have only strengthened Ukrainians' pride in themselves, in their country, and in their 31 years of independence." European leaders likewise marked the holiday by pledging unwavering support for Ukraine and paying tribute to the sacrifices of its people.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz rebuked the Kremlin for its "backward imperialism" and declared that Ukraine "will drive away the dark shadow of war because it is strong and brave, because it has friends in Europe and all over the world."

A car bombing outside Moscow that killed the 29-year-old daughter of right-wing Russian political theorist Alexander Dugin on Saturday also heightened fears

that Russia might intensify attacks on Ukraine this week. Russian officials have blamed Ukraine for the death of Darya Dugina, a pro-Kremlin TV commentator. Ukraine has denied any involvement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces have encountered unexpectedly stiff Ukrainian resistance in their invasion, and the fighting has turned into a grinding war of attrition that has sent shock waves through the world economy.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, speaking Wednesday at a meeting of his counterparts from a security organization dominated by Russia and China, claimed the slow pace of Moscow's military action was due to what he said was an effort to spare civilians.

Western leaders salute Ukraine on its Independence Day

AP ■ KYIV

European leaders pledged unwavering support for Ukraine as the war-torn country marked its Independence Day on Wednesday, coinciding with the six-month milestone of Russia's invasion.

Leaders paid tribute to the sacrifices and courage of the Ukrainian people, voiced their resolve to keep supplying Ukraine with weapons and reviled Moscow for its attack on the neighboring Eastern European nation.

In Britain, floral and musical tributes punctuated a show of solidarity as Ukraine commemorated its 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. The U.K. Ministry of Defense tweeted a video of the Scots Guards Band, which usually provides musical accompaniment for the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, performing Ukraine's winning Eurovision Song Contest entry, "Stefania."

An arch of sunflowers — Ukraine's national flower — decorated the entrance to British prime minister's Downing Street office.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is soon to leave office, urged allies to keep giving Ukraine all the military, humanitarian, economic and diplomatic support it needs.

"We will never recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea or any other Ukrainian territory," Johnson said in a Tuesday video address to an international summit on Russia's seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in a video posted on Twitter that "our hearts go out to those who pay for the Russian war terror with their lives day after day, who are maimed and wounded."

India greets Ukraine on its I-Day; wishes peace, prosperity and bright future to its people

AP ■ KYIV

India on Wednesday greeted Ukraine on its Independence Day and wished peace, prosperity and bright future to the people of the war-torn eastern European nation.

Ukraine celebrated its Independence Day on Wednesday, which also marked exactly six months since the start of Russia's military offensive against the country on February 24.

"On the occasion of the 31st anniversary of Ukraine's Independence, the Embassy of India in Ukraine wishes peace, prosperity and bright future to the people of Ukraine. @MFA_Ukraine," the Embassy of India in Ukraine tweeted.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is currently in Latin America on a six-day official visit to Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, greeted his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba and said India was committed to its broad based relationship with Ukraine.

"Greetings to FM @DmytroKuleba and the people of Ukraine on the occasion of their Independence Day. Committed to our broad based relationship that encompasses so many domains," Jaishankar tweeted.

Western nations, including the US, have imposed major economic and other sanctions on Russia following the aggression.

Where Ukraine war stands after 6 months

AP ■ KYIV

When Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in an unprovoked act of aggression, many expected a quick victory.

Six months later, the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II has turned into a grinding war of attrition. The Russian offensive has largely bogged down as Ukrainian forces increasingly target key facilities far behind the front lines, including in Russia-occupied Crimea.

A look at where things stand: A BOTCHED BLITZ
When Putin declared the start of the "special military operation," he urged Ukraine's military to turn against the government in Kyiv, reflecting the Kremlin's belief that the population would broadly welcome the invaders. Some of the Russian troops coming in from Moscow's ally of Belarus, just 200 kilometers (about 125 miles) north of the capital, reportedly brought their parade uniforms with them in preparation for a quick triumph.

Those hopes were quickly shattered by fierce Ukrainian resistance, backed by Western-supplied weapons systems to the government of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Airborne troops sent to seize airfields around Kyiv suf-



fered heavy losses and armored convoys stretching along the main highway leading to the capital were pummeled by Ukrainian artillery and scouts.

Despite numerous attacks on Ukrainian air bases and air defense assets, the Russian air force has failed to win full control of the skies and suffered heavy losses, limiting its ability to support ground forces.

One month into the war, Moscow pulled its troops back from areas near Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv and other major cities in a tacit acknowledgment of the blitz's failure.

SHIFTING BATTLE-GROUNDS

The Kremlin then shifted its focus to the Donbas, Ukraine's

eastern industrial heartland, where Moscow-backed separatists had been fighting government troops since 2014 following Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

Relying on their massive edge in artillery, Russian forces inched forward in ferocious battles that devastated the region. The strategic port of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov that became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance fell in May after a nearly three-month siege that reduced the city to ruins. More than 2,400 Mariupol defenders who holed up at the giant Azovstal steel mill later surrendered and were taken prisoner. At least 53 of them died last month in an explosion at a prison in eastern Ukraine that Moscow and Kyiv blamed on each other.

The Russians have taken control of the entire Luhansk region, one of two provinces that make up the Donbas, and also seized just over half of the second, Donetsk.

Russia currently occupies about 20% of Ukraine's territory. "Putin will try to bite one piece of Ukrainian territory after another to strengthen his negotiating stand," said Mykola Sunhurovskyi, a military analyst with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think-tank. "His message to Ukraine is: If you don't sit down for talks now, things will get worse and we will take even more of your territory and kill even more of your people. He's trying to raise not only external but also internal pressure on the Ukrainian government."

The Donbas offensive has slowed as Moscow was forced to relocate some of its troops to Russia-occupied areas in the south to fend off a potential Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Russian troops seized the Kherson region, north of

Crimea, and part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region early in the conflict. It has installed pro-Moscow administrations there, introduced its currency, handed out Russian passports and launched preparations for referendums to pave the way for their annexation.

But Ukrainian forces recently reclaimed some ground, striking bridges and targeting munitions depots. Meanwhile, both sides have traded accusations of shelling the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, raising fears of an atomic disaster.

"Ukraine has forced Russia to conduct a massive redeployment of forces and spread them all along the front line, from Kharkiv to Kherson," said Ukrainian military expert Oleh Zhdanov. "It's very hard to stretch them along such a big distance."

Although Kyiv doesn't have enough weapons to launch a big counteroffensive, "time plays in Ukraine's favor," he said. "The longer the pause lasts, the more weapons Ukraine will receive from its allies."

Biden announces nearly \$3B in new military aid for Ukraine



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Six months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he is sending \$2.98 billion in new military aid to Ukraine that will enable forces there to fight for years to come.

In a statement, Biden said the aid will allow Ukraine to acquire air defense systems, artillery systems and munitions, drones and other equipment "to ensure it can continue to defend itself over the long term."

The announcement comes as Ukraine is celebrating its

1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

"I know this independence day is bittersweet for many Ukrainians as thousands have been killed or wounded, millions have been displaced from their homes, and so many others have fallen victim to Russian atrocities and attacks," Biden said. "But six months of relentless attacks have only strengthened Ukrainians' pride in themselves, in their country, and in their thirty-one years of independence."

The aid package is being provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. Officials said it will include money for the small, hand-launched Puma drones, the longer-endurance Scan Eagle surveillance drones, which are launched by catapult, and, for the first time, the British Vampire drone system, which can be launched off ships. Several officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the aid before its public release.

Form No. 3
See Regulation-15 (1)(a)) / 16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
JAIPUR

First Floor, Sudharma- II,
Lal Kothis Shopping Center, Tonk
Road, Jaipur- 302015
Case No.: OA/506/2021
Summons under sub-section (4)
of section 19 of the Act, read with
sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the
Debt Recovery Tribunal
(Procedure) Rules, 1993.
Exh. No.: 6131
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS
SANJEEV KUMAR JAIN.

To,
D1/SANJEEV KUMAR JAIN,
D1/W/S/O-DHARAM CHAND JAIN
PLOT NO. 52/145 FIRST FLOOR
SHIPRA PATH MANSAROVAR
JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN-302020
Also At,
FLATE NO. 1702, 16TH FLOOR,
TOWER B, UNIVERSAL AURA
SECTOR 82 GURGAON,
HARYANA-122002
(2) POONAM JAIN
D/O, RAJENDRA KUMAR JAIN
PLOT NO. 52/145, 1ST FLOOR,
SHIPRA PATH MANSAROVAR
JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN-302020
Also At,
FLAT NO. 1702, 16TH FLOOR,
TOWER B UNIVERSAL AURA
SECTOR 82 GURGAON,
HARYANA

WHEREAS, OA/506/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 17/08/2022. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 71,02,838/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:- (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons, as to why relief prayed for should not be granted

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 26/09/2022 at 10:30 AM. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 17/08/2022.

Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons
Assitant Registrar
Debt Recovery, Tribunal, Jaipur

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client named Mr. Dharam Pal S/o Sh. Sri Chand R/o House no. A-217, Adarsh Mohalla, Patgar Ganj Village, Delhi 110081 is owner of the property bearing Bulpur Property Bearing No. 217, now Municipal No. A-217 land area measuring 27 Sq. Yds. (i.e. 22.58 Sq. Meters, out of Khasra No. 495 & 108 in Lal Dora abadi of Ghazinda Neem K/B Banger, alias Patgar Ganj Village, Hapur, Haryana, Delhi-110081 and enjoying the peaceful possession since 01.07.2022 vide G.R. Dated dated: 01.07.2022 regd. at doc. No. 5914 and the same is to be transferred & mortgaged with UGR Capital Ltd. Who so ever believes and finds any claim or an interest, directly or indirectly over the aforesaid property than he/she may raise the objection within 7 days from the date of this publication at the below mentioned address, failing which, it shall be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Pallata House Courts, New Delhi - 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Jeetender Kumar Raju S/o Late Shri Jagjit Chand, Cont. 8447227703, Email: jtetendergaj@rediffmail.com, R/o, Flat No. 340/1, Pkt D-6, Sector-6, Rohini-110085, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like original Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip and NOC for Water & Electricity, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 19/08/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director (LAB Housing) D - block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Satwant Kaur W/o Late Shri Jaskaran Singh, Cont. 9310805850, Email: balwinderdharma26@gmail.com, R/o, JG-1/80A, First Floor, LIG Flats Vikaspuri, New Delhi, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like original Demand cum Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and NOC for Water & Electricity, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 22/08/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director (LAB Housing) D - block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

Mahindra

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Corporate Office:- Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B. Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India,Tel: +91 22 66523500 Fax: +91 22 24972741

Branch Office: 3rd Floor 139-141 Mangal Pandey Nagar Opposite CCS University Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250002,

SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION-CUM-SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

In exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (4) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein after referred to as "SARFAESI Act") and Rule 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "Rules")for the purpose of recovering the secured debts, the authorized officer of the secured creditor M/s Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHFL") has decided to sell the secured asset (immovable property), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor under S. 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act, described herein below on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IT IS BASIS" and the public and all concerned including the concerned borrowers/ mortgagors, their representatives, as the case may be are hereby informed that the secured asset listed below will be sold, particulars of which are given below:

S.N.	Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Property Inspection Date & Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	LAN: 714435 Branch: MEERUT Borrower: MOHD ISRAR Co-Borrower: IMRAT JAHAN	13-08-2021 & Rs. 9,99,195/- (Rupees Nine Lac Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Five Only)	09-07-2022 Physical Possession	Khasra No. 2630 - Khushal Nagar, Meerut City, Uttar Pradesh 250002, East: Plot No 32 And 33 Sahzad, West: Rasta 30 Feet, South: Plot Of Azahar, North : Plot Of Dilshad	Rs.12,15,000/- Rs.1,21,500/- Rs.10,000/-	26-Sep-22 Time 10 Am TO-06 Pm	29-Sep-22 Time 10. Am. TO - 03 Pm

1. MRHFL acting through its Authorized Officer has now received offers to buy the same (offer amount is tabulated in the table above), and we intend to accept it, interalia considering the fact that the previous public auction held was unsuccessful.

2. To Participate in Auction intended bidder has to deposit 10 % of the Reserve Price.

3. The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available on www.mahindraruralhousingfinance.com as well as above branch office. The sale will be subject to terms and conditions mentioned in Tender Form.

4. For further details, contact the Authorised Officers, Deep Joshi on Mobile 8853265434. Last date of submission of sealed offers in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD is 28-Sep.22 Time 10. Am. -06 Pm at the branch office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up properly or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

5. Date of opening of the offers for Property is 29-Sep.22 Time 10. Am. - 03 Pm at the above mentioned branch office address at the tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.

6. Date of inspection of the immovable property is 26-Sep.22 between 10.00 AM to 6.00 PM.

7. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the offer received will be accepted and the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.

8. The immovable property will be sold to the highest tendered. However, the undersigned reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary.

Place :- DELHI, NCR Date:-25.08.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

Ex-mayor arrested on charges of discrediting Russian army



AP ■ MOSCOW

The former mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city was arrested on Wednesday on charges of discrediting the country's military, part of a crackdown on critics of Moscow's military action in Ukraine.

Police arrested Yevgeny Roizman, 59 who served as the mayor of Yekaterinburg in 2013-2018, following searches at his apartment and office.

Roizman told reporters he was charged under a new law adopted after Russia sent troops into Ukraine on February 24. He faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

Russian courts fined Roizman three times earlier this year on similar charges, paving the way for a criminal case the law authorizes for repeat offences.

Roizman, a sharp critic of the Kremlin, is one of the most visible and charismatic opposition figures in Russia. During his tenure as mayor, he enjoyed broad popularity in Yekaterinburg, a city of 1.5 million in the Ural Mountains.

Shortly after his arrest, a few local residents picketed in his support.

Cautious words of support also came from Roizman's longtime political rival, the governor of Russia's Sverdlovsk region.

"We used to be and continue to be political opponents. The law is the law. But, like any person, he deserves fairness and respect, and I hope he gets them," Gov. Yevgeny Kuyvashev said in a video statement posted on Telegram.



UK shows Ukraine solidarity with sunflower display

AP ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has decided to show Britain's solidarity with Ukraine by saying it with flowers on Tuesday.

The outgoing UK leader created an arch of sunflowers — Ukraine's national flower — outside his Downing Street office to commemorate the eastern European nation's independence day on Wednesday. The gesture also comes as Ukraine prepares to mark six months since the Russian invasion began on February 24.

"We will never recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea or any other Ukrainian territory," Johnson said in a video address to an international summit on the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized in 2014. "In the face of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's assault we must continue to give our Ukrainian friends all the military, humanitarian, economic and diplomatic support that they need," Johnson said.

Johnson has been steadfast in his support for Ukraine since the invasion began. The prime minister, who will step down early next month, sought to deflect from scandals and criticism at home by positioning himself as the leader of the international effort to help Ukraine.

Russians pay tribute to nationalist killed by car bombing



AP ■ MOSCOW

Hundreds of people lined up Tuesday to pay tribute to the daughter of a leading right-wing Russian political thinker killed in a car bombing that Moscow blamed on Ukrainian intelligence.

Speaking during a farewell ceremony at a Moscow broadcast production centre, Alexander Dugin said with his voice breaking that his 29-year-old daughter, a commentator with a nationalist Russian television channel, "died for the people, died for Russia."

"The huge price we have to pay can only be justified by the highest achievement, our victory," he said, standing next to his daughter's casket, her black-and-white portrait placed behind it. "She lived for the sake of victory, and she died for the sake of victory. Our Russian victory, our truth, our Orthodox faith, our state."

Darya Dugina was killed when a remotely-controlled explosive device planted in her SUV blew up on Saturday night as she was driving on the outskirts of Moscow, ripping the vehicle apart and killing her on the spot, authorities said.

2 New York Democrats ousted from US House in primary losses

AP ■ NEW YORK

In a cluster of contentious Democratic primaries Tuesday, two New York incumbents were ousted from the U.S. House after redistricting shuffled congressional districts in one of the nation's largest liberal states.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a 15-term incumbent who chairs a powerful House committee, and Rep. Mondaire Jones, a first-term progressive who was one of the first openly gay Black members of Congress, lost their seats.

Maloney lost to her longtime colleague, Rep. Jerry Nadler, who became her rival as their longtime Manhattan congressional districts were merged.

Jones lost a packed primary in Manhattan and Brooklyn to Daniel Goldman, a former federal prosecutor who served as counsel to House

Democrats in the first impeachment inquiry against Trump.

In other races in the state, the chair of the House Democrats' campaign arm, Sean Patrick Maloney, survived a primary challenge of his own from a progressive. Democrats kept a swing districts in a special election — at least for a few more months.

In Florida races, an incumbent Republican narrowly defeated a far-right provocateur. Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, a conservative firebrand, won his primary with the specter of a federal investigation looming over him.

Some of the top elections: END OF AN ERA

Nadler and Carolyn Maloney each chair powerful committees and had spent 30 years representing Manhattan's Upper West Side and Upper East Side, respectively. But they ended up in the same race after new



redistricting maps merged much of their longtime congressional districts.

The race for New York's 12th District, between Maloney, 76, and Nadler, 75, became contentious. The two stopped speaking after deciding to run against each other, Nadler said, and the campaign became barbed,

with Maloney questioning his mental acuity. Nadler, who was endorsed by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, has talked up his role overseeing Donald Trump's impeachments while serving as chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Maloney has touted her own check on the for-

mer president while serving as chair of the powerful House Oversight Committee and positioned herself as a feminist champion.

Challenging them both was 38-year-old lawyer Suraj Patel, who argued it was time for a new face in Congress.

A CROWDED FIELD FOR AN OPEN SEAT

With Nadler and Maloney running in the district immediately north, a congressional seat covering southern Manhattan, including Wall Street, and Brooklyn, was a rare open contest in one of the most liberal and influential areas of the country.

Daniel Goldman, a former federal prosecutor who served as counsel to House Democrats in the first impeachment inquiry against Trump, won a crowded primary for New York's 10th District, which attracted a bevy of progressive candidates.



Big student loan forgiveness plan announced by Biden

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced his long-awaited plan to deliver on a campaign promise to provide \$10,000 in student debt cancellation for millions of Americans — and up to \$10,000 more for those with the greatest financial need — along with new measures to lower the burden of repayment for their remaining federal student debt.

Borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 a year, or families earning less than \$250,000, would be eligible for the \$10,000 loan forgiveness, Biden announced in a tweet.

For recipients of Pell Grants, which are reserved for undergraduates with the most significant financial need, the federal government would cancel up to an additional \$10,000 in federal loan debt.

Biden is also extending a pause on federal student loan payments for what he called the "final time" through the end of 2022.

He was set to deliver remarks Wednesday afternoon at the White House to unveil his proposal to the public.

If his plan survives legal challenges that are almost certain to come, it could offer a windfall to a swath of the nation in the run-up to this fall's midterm elections.

More than 43 million people have federal student debt, with an average balance of \$37,667, according to federal data.

Nearly a third of borrowers owe less than \$10,000, and about half owe less than \$20,000.

The White House estimates that Biden's announcement would erase the federal student debt of about 20 million people.

Proponents say cancellation will narrow the racial wealth gap — Black students are more likely to borrow federal student loans and at higher amounts than others.

Four years after earning bachelor's degrees, Black borrowers owe an average of nearly \$25,000 more than their white peers, according to a Brookings Institution study.

Still, the action is unlikely to thrill any of the factions that have been jostling for influence as Biden weighs how much to cancel and for whom.

US airstrikes target militia controlled areas in east Syria

AP ■ BEIRUT

The U.S. Military said early Wednesday it carried out airstrikes in eastern Syria that targeted areas used by militias backed by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

There was no immediate acknowledgment by Syria's state-run media of the strikes hitting Deir Ez-Zor. Iran as well did not acknowledge the attack.

Opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and activist collective Deir Ezzor 24 said the airstrikes targeted the Ayash Camp run by the Fatiyouun group made up of Shiite fighters from Afghanistan.

The war monitor reported that at least six Syrian and for-



eign militants were killed in the airstrikes.

The U.S. Military's Central Command said the strikes "took proportionate, deliberate action intended to limit the risk of escalation and minimize the risk of casualties."

It did not identify the targets, nor offer any casualty figures from the strikes, which the military said came at the orders of President Joe Biden.

US prison warden charged with sexually abusing 2 more women

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The former warden of a California women's prison, who is already facing federal charges alleging he sexually abused inmates and forced them to pose nude for him, was charged Tuesday with sexually abusing two other female prisoners, the Justice Department said.

Ray Garcia, 55, was the warden at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California. An Associated Press investigation revealed a culture of abuse and cover-ups that had persisted for years at the prison, a women-only facility called the "rape club" by many who know it.

The Justice Department



announced a superseding indictment against Garcia on Tuesday charging him with a total of seven counts of sexually abusive conduct involving three female victims who were serving prison sentences at the federal prison in Dublin, California, and one count of making false statements to government agents.

Japan considers developing new nuclear reactors

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida on Wednesday instructed his government to consider developing safer, smaller nuclear reactors, signalling a renewed emphasis on nuclear energy years after many of the country's plants were shut down. Kishida made the comment at a "green transformation" conference on bolstering the country's efforts to curb emissions of greenhouse gases.

Japan has pledged to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Anti-nuclear sentiment and safety concerns rose sharply in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant disaster, but the Govt has been pushing for a return to nuclear energy amid

worries of power shortages following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a global push to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Govt, however, previously insisted it was not considering building new plants or replacing aged reactors, apparently to avoid stoking criticisms from a wary public. Kishida's comment on Wednesday represents a sharp change from that stance.

Kishida said the panel presented proposals for the development and construction of "new innovative reactors designed with new safety mechanisms." He called on his Government to speed up its examination of "every possible measure" and reach a decision by the end of the year.

H-1B visa: US reaches cap for 2023

The US has received sufficient number of applications needed to reach the Congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa cap for the fiscal year 2023, the country's federal agency for immigration services said on Tuesday.

The H-1B visa is a non-

immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire thousands of employees each year from

countries like India and China.

The H-1B visa programme is the most sought-after work visa among foreign professionals, including Indians.

"We have received a sufficient number of petitions needed to reach the

Congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa US advanced degree exemption, known as the master's cap, for fiscal year 2023," the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said in a

statement. USCIS has completed sending non-selection notifications to registrants' online accounts. The status for registrations properly submitted for the FY 2023 H-1B numerical allocations, but that were not selected, will now show, "Not Selected: Not selected — not eligible to file an H-1B cap petition based on

Thai PM suspended while court mulls if he defied term limits

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended the prime minister from his duties on Wednesday while it decides whether the man who led a military coup in 2014 has violated the country's term limits. It's considered unlikely that the court will permanently force Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha out since it has generally ruled in the government's favor in a slew of political cases.

But any decision to allow Prayuth to stay on would risk invigorating a protest movement that has long sought to oust him and reopening deep fissures in Thai politics that have sometimes led to violence.

While Prayuth initially came to power in a coup, he won the job legally after a general election in 2019.

Deputy Prime Minister Prawit



Wongsuwan, a close political ally of Prayuth and part of the same military clique that that staged the coup, will take over as acting prime minister, according to Anucha Burapachaisri, a spokesman for the prime minister's office. Anucha added that Prayuth would respect the court's decision and called on others to do the same.

The choice of Prawit, who is closely associated with Prayuth, is

not likely to mollify critics.

Prayuth's detractors contend he has violated a law that limits prime ministers to eight years in power — a threshold they say he hit Tuesday since he officially became prime minister on Aug. 24, 2014.

But his supporters contend his term should be counted from when the current constitution, which contains the term-limit provision, came into effect in 2017. Another interpretation would start the clock in 2019, following the election. A group that is among the leaders of the main protest movement seeking to unseat Prayuth again demanded that he step down on Wednesday. "No Prayuth. No Prawit. No military coup government," the group known as Ratsadon, or The People, said while issuing a new call for protest. But only a small number of protesters came in Wednesday in response.

Past S Korean Govts blamed for abuses, deaths at facility

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has found the country's past military governments responsible for atrocities committed at Brothers Home, a state-funded "vagrants' facility" where thousands were enslaved and abused from the 1960s to 1980s.

The landmark report on Wednesday came 35 years after a prosecutor first exposed the horrors at the facility in the southern port city of Busan and details an attempted cover-up of incriminating evidence that would have confirmed a state-sponsored crime.

The commission's chairperson, Jung Geun-sik, urged South Korea's current government to issue a formal apology to survivors and explore ways to ease their suffering as he announced the initial results of its investigation into Brothers, including extreme cases of forced labor, violence and deaths.

The commission also called for the government to review the conditions at current welfare facilities around the country and swiftly ratify the United Nations convention



against enforced disappearances. The commission "confirmed that the direct and indirect exercise of government authority resulted in the forced confinement of people deemed as vagrants at Brothers Home and caused serious violations of human rights, including forced labor, physical assault, cruel treatment, deaths and disappearances," Jeung said in a news conference at the commission's office in Seoul.

"The state has ignored pleas (by inmates) to correct the human rights violations at Brothers Home, had knowledge of the problems but did not act to resolve them, and attempted to distort and minimize the scale of the abuses after the Brothers Home incident became known in 1987.

Israel's premier urges West to reject Iran nuclear deal

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's prime minister called on President Joe Biden and Western powers to call off an emerging nuclear deal with Iran, saying that negotiators are letting Tehran manipulate the talks and that an agreement would reward Israel's enemies.

Yair Lapid called the emerging agreement a "bad deal" and suggested that Biden has failed to honour red lines he had previously promised to set.

"The countries of the West draw a red line, the Iranians ignore it, and the red line moves," Lapid told reporters at a press conference in Jerusalem.

An emerging deal, Lapid said, "does not meet the standards set by President Biden himself: preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear state."

Biden has been eager to revive the 2015 deal, which offered sanctions relief to Iran in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear programme.

The original deal unravelled after then-President Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, with strong encouragement from Israel.

It remains unclear whether the United States and Iran will be able to reach a new agreement.

कार्यालय : उत्तराखण्ड चाय विकास बोर्ड, अल्मोड़ा
जिला पंचायत परिसर, धारानौला, अल्मोड़ा-263601

फ़ॉन : 435/4-नंस्टर/निविदा सूचना/2022-23 दिनांक : 24 अगस्त, 2022

निविदा समयावृद्धि सूचना

उत्तराखण्ड चाय विकास बोर्ड द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-23 में चाय पैकिंग सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु निविदा प्रकाशित की गई थी, जो दिनांक 16-08-2022 को खोली जानी थी. लेकिन अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त तिथि को निविदायें नहीं खोली जा सकी, जिस कारण निविदा आमंत्रित करने का समय विस्तार दिनांक 09-09-2022 को अपराह्न 1 बजे तक किया जाता है, जोकि उसी दिन अपराह्न 2 बजे उपस्थिति/अनुपस्थित निविदादाताओं के सम्मुख खोली जायेगी। निविदा फार्म (निविदा से सम्बन्धित शर्तें सहित) अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में रु० 1180.00 प्रति फार्म प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा फार्म, धरोहर राशि से सम्बन्धित जानकारी व निविदा से सम्बन्धित शर्तें बोर्ड की वेबसाईट www.utdb.uk.gov.in पर भी देखी व डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

निदेशक
उत्तराखण्ड चाय विकास बोर्ड,
जिला पंचायत परिसर, धारानौला, अल्मोड़ा (उत्तराखण्ड)

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049
CIN-L24302DL1973PLC189662
Email:-info@sunilhealthcare.com/ Website: www.sunilhealthcare.com,
Tel;+91-11-49435555/00, Fax; +91-11-43850087

NOTICE
(KIND ATTENTION: EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF SUNIL HEALTHCARE LTD.)

In order to send Annual reports, Notices and other communications to the shareholders in electronic mode for ensuing 48th Annual General Meeting which will be held through Video conferencing/other Audio Visual Mode, we request the Shareholders of Sunil Healthcare Limited, who have not yet registered their email address or bank account details, to register the same in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through their Depository Participant(s) and in respect of shares held in physical form, a request letter in writing duly signed by the shareholder, requesting to the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, M/s Alankit Assignment Limited at "4E/2, Alankit House, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi 110055", Contact no. 91-11-42541234 email id: lalitap@alankit.com, rta@alankit.com, or to the Company Secretary/Compliance officer of the Company at cs@sunilhealthcare.com; by quoting the Folio no. and self-attested copy of PAN Card.

Pursuant to General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April, 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May, 05, 2020, 02/2021 dated January, 13, 2021 and 2/2022 dated May 5, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and circular no. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May, 13, 2022 issued by SEBI, the Company has enabled a process for limited purpose for receiving the Annual Report and Notice of the 48th Annual General Meeting (including remote e-voting/e-voting instructions) electronically and the member may temporarily update their email id by dropping a email alongwith signed request letter to our E-voting and Video conferencing Agency, Link Intime India at delhi@linkintime.co.in or to the Company at cs@sunilhealthcare.com.

For Sunil Healthcare Limited
Sd/-
Anil kumar Khaitan
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN:00759951

Place: New Delhi
Date: 23.08.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known that all general public that my client Sh. Anil Kumar Manchanda S/o Late Sh. Des Raj Manchanda aged 85 years approx. R/o CO-65, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 have debarred & disowned his son Sh. Sunny Manchanda aged 38 years approx and daughter-in-law Smt. Komal Manchanda aged 33 years approx and their Children Jivika Manchanda (daughter) aged 9 years approx and Aayansh Manchanda (son) aged 6 years approx and their future children from all their moveable and immovable properties due to their hostile behavior if anybody dealing with them will do so at his own risk, cost & consequences. My client or their property will not be liable in any manner for the same.

Sd/- Advocate Amarendra Kr. Dubey
(Enrl. No. D-28020137) A-1, 5th Floor, Usha Krani Building, Comm. Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110033

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Akshita Mittal and Mr. Gaurav Mittal are owners of Plot measuring 744 sq. yards, out of Khata No.26, Khadra No.25/3/1 (1-4), Khata No.163, Khadra No.25/4/2/1 (3-8), Khata No.181, Khadra No.25/8/1 (2-8), 7/1 (6-9), Khata No.181, Khadra No.25/8/1 (2-8), situated in Majra Hasnagar, Wala M.L.E., under Nagar Parishad, Bahadurgarh, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, Distt.-Jhajjar vide a Sale Deed dated 07.08.2018, registration no. 36/6, it has been informed that Owners have lost/ misplaced two Original Sale Deeds each dated 03.08.2008 & 03.08.2012. All are Wild dated 03.08.2008 & other related documents w.r.t. said property. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said 'missing' document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Shri Nagar, 2nd Floor, Moh. Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4112297-58, 4112297-59, kumaassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform to all concern that Smt. Madhu Bai W/o Late Sh. Devki Nandan Bai & Smt. Chander Kanta W/o Sh. Gulshan Kumar Sharma R/o L-131, Sector-11, Noida & Kiran Mehta W/o C.P. Mehta R/o V-261, Sector-12, Noida U.P. who is legal heir current owner of S-46, Sector-12, Noida, Transfer Mutation the said property from Late Shanti Nandan Bai, who is the and brother's wife of deceased and she is the legal heir of deceased Late Shanti Nandan Bai S/o Late Harbansh Bai, and Expect two other legal heir are Sister Smt. Chander Kanta W/o Sh. Gulshan Kumar Sharma R/o L-131, Sector-11, Noida & Kiran Mehta W/o C.P. Mehta R/o V-261, Sector-12, Noida it is informed to all concern that the said Property No. S-46, Sector-12, Noida U.P. is going to be Transfer/Mutation in favour of Smt. Madhu Bai W/o Late Sh. Devki Nandan Bai. If same one has have any objection, kindly inform to, (Housing I Division) Noida Authority with all evidence within 15 days of publication of this notice.

UJVN Limited
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Tel: 0512-2733809, Fax: 0512-2733508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC028566, Website: www.ujvn.com

R.O. No. 557 e-Tenders Time Extension Notice-1 Dt. 24.08.2022
Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of following e-tender invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (Gen.), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) is hereby extended as follows :
Tender No. : 08/E/E(Gen.)/MB-II/22-23
Name of Work/Supply/Services: Procurement of Electrical Items for MB-II, Dharasu Power House.
Last date of submission of bids on website: 29.08.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.
Last date of submitting hard copy of document in the office of Executive Engineer (Gen.), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi): 31.08.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.
Date of opening of bids on website: 01.09.2022 upto 11:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer (Generation)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

BEFORE THE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, ERODE, TAMILNADU
M.A.No. 24/2022 in C.C. No. 48 / 2018
1. M/s. Apollo Munich Health Insurance Co. Ltd., Rep. by its General Manager, Registered Head Office, Central Processing Centre, 2nd and 3rd Floor, ILABS Centre, Plot No.404-405, Udyog Vihar, Phase-II, Gurgaon, Haryana – 122 016. and anotherRespondents/-Opposite Parties

PUBLICATION NOTICE ISSUED TO THE FIRST OPPOSITE PARTY
The Consumer Complaint in CC No.48/2018 has been filed by the Complainant (D. Sudha) against opposite parties (1) M/s. Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company Ltd., Haryana and 2nd opposite parties Branch Office, Erode on file of the Hon'ble Erode District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Tamil Nadu and during pendency of above said Consumer Complaint, the Complainant has been filed a amendment application for change of ownership of opposite parties and same is numbered MA No.24/2022 dated 24.06.2022. On 27.07.2022 dated Hon'ble Commission ordered to issue notice of publication to first opposite party. Therefore I am issuing publication notice to first opposite party on side of Complainant in the above said CC No.48/2018 on file of this Hon'ble Commission. Therefore that above said Consumer Complaint is posted on 30.08.2022 for your appearance in person or through your counsel before this Hon'ble District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Erode District, Erode, Tamilnadu at 10.00 A.M., otherwise orders will be passed against you.

Advocate for Petitioner/complainant : C. VISUNIVARDHONAN, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Enrl. No. 264/2000, No.104,First Floor, Prabhat Towers, No.76/1,Perundurai Main Road,Erode, T.N. – 638 011. Cell No. 9894013132.

Govt pick, ind experts for social media appellate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The grievance appellate committee for social media users being proposed through amendment to IT rules may have one government nominee as well as some independent experts, according to a source.

The IT Ministry is giving the final touch to the proposed amendment in IT rules that entail setting up of a grievance appellate committee to look into appeals filed by individuals against decisions of grievance officers of social media platforms.

The IT Ministry hopes to notify the changes "very soon", possibly in less than a month.

A government official privy to the matter said the proposed mechanism will be citizen-centric, and the composi-

tion of grievance redressal committee will notified as part of the rule.

It is likely to have one government nominee as well as some independent experts, the official said but did not comment on the specifics of the panel or its other constituents.

The government is in the process of amending the social media rules that propose to give users a grievance appeal mechanism against arbitrary content moderation, inaction, or takedown decisions of big tech companies.

The government had, in June, circulated the draft rules around this. At present, "there is no appellate mechanism provided by intermediaries nor is there any credible self-regulatory mechanism in place," the IT ministry had then said.

"It is proposed to create an appellate body called 'Grievance Appellate Committee' under rule 3(3) of the IT Rules 2021 by invoking section 79 of the IT Act having regard to additional guidelines as may be prescribed by the Central Government. Users will have the option to appeal against the grievance redressal process of the intermediaries through this new appellate body," the note accompanying the draft amendment had said.

The committee will endeavor to address the user's appeal within a period of 30 days, the note had further said.

Even after providing for the redressal mechanism through the IT Rules, 2021, user grievances remained unresolved, prompting the government to step in.

Markets settle with modest gains in highly volatile trade amid global sell-off



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks eked out marginal gains to settle in the positive zone after swinging between gains and losses during the session on Wednesday amid weakness in global bourses.

In a trade marked with highs and lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 54.13 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 59,085.43. During the day, it hit a high of 59,170.87 and a low of 58,760.09.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty went up by 27.45 points or 0.16 per cent to 17,604.95.

IndusInd Bank topped the Sensex gainers chart with a jump of 2.86 per cent, followed by NTPC, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Power Grid, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Asian Paints.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, Sun Pharma and State Bank of India were among the major laggards, slipping up to 0.93 per cent.

"Caution prevailed in the market ahead of monthly

expiry on Thursday, while key benchmark indices eked out modest gains and shrugged off weak sentiment across most Asian and European markets.

"Gains were muted as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole symposium this Friday," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.80 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.73 per cent.

"Bulls and bears continued to battle it out in the domestic market as weak global cues persisted, keeping the market under pressure.

"The US economy contracted amid muted demand conditions with the service sector witnessing a sharp decline. Markets in Europe experienced a protracted sell-off as a result of investor's concern over the oil crisis and the uncertain growth outlook," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

ONGC relaunched tender to sell KG gas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has relaunched a tender to sell gas from its KG fields at a higher price of USD 15 per mmBtu as it looks to capitalise on a global surge in energy prices.

The firm sought bids for the sale of 0.75 million standard cubic meters per day of gas for one year from the KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) fields in the Bay of Bengal, according to the tender document.

The firm asked users to quote a premium they are willing to pay over and above the reserve gas price of 14 per cent of Brent crude oil price plus USD 1 per million British thermal unit. The reserve price at the current ruling Brent oil price of USD 101 per barrel comes to more than USD 15 per mmBtu.

The applicable sale price shall be lower than the gas price bid or the government-dictated ceiling rate for gas produced from deepsea fields, it said.

The government fixes the price of domestically produced natural gas twice a year - the rate for gas from deepsea fields for six months beginning April 1 is USD 9.92 per mmBtu.

This rate is expected to be revised upwards in October, reflecting a surge in international energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

ONGC had in April last year sought bids for the sale of 2 mmscmd of gas from the KG-D5 block but had to abort the sale after the move was challenged in the court.

That tender was for the sale of 2 mmscmd of gas for a duration of 3 to 5 years at Odalarevu in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, which is connected to state gas utility GAIL's KG basin pipeline network as well as PIL's East-West Pipeline which is connected to KG basin network and further to Gujarat gas grid. In that tender, bidders were required to quote a premium over 10.5 per cent of Brent.

Last year, Reliance Industries and its partner BP PLC of UK sold 5.5 mmscmd of additional natural gas from KG-D6, which sits next to ONGC's KG-D5, at a rate linked to Platts JKM (Japan Korea marker) - the liquefied natural gas (LNG) benchmark price assessment for spot physical cargoes.

This is the same benchmark RIL-BP had used in February to sell out 7.5 mmscmd of gas from the block.

ONGC's KG-D5 block is expected to have a peak production rate of 15.25 mmscmd of natural gas and 80,000 barrels per day of oil.



Corporate bond outstanding soars 4-fold to ₹40 lakh cr in a decade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Illiquidity in secondary corporate debt market is a global issue and so focus should be on further deepening primary market that has grown nearly four-fold in a decade to Rs 40 lakh crore, an RBI official said.

Addressing a Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry event on Wednesday, Reserve Bank deputy governor Rabi Sankar said the concerted efforts by regulators and government have seen corporate bond outstanding has crossed Rs 40 lakh crore as of March 2022 from Rs 10.4 lakh crore in March 2012, while annual issuances rose to Rs 6 lakh crore from

under Rs 4 lakh crore during this period. During the same period, the secondary market volume spiked from Rs 4.4 lakh crore to Rs 14 lakh crore.

Only the US has a very liquid secondary corporate bond market and India has the second best, which is very low, though the turnover ratio is 69 here.

The US market is very deep because it is led by corporates and municipalities, which is a very small in the country. But corporate bond market as percentage of GDP is also the highest at 120 in the US, while in India, it is only 18 per cent as against 80 per cent in Korea and 36 per cent in China, Sankar said.

Rupee slips 2 paise to close at 79.85 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and depreciated 2 paise to close at 79.81 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened at 79.84 per dollar. It hovered in a range of 79.68 to 79.87 during the session.

The domestic unit finally settled at 79.85, down 2 paise over its previous close of 79.83.

Surge in crude oil prices and mixed to negative domestic equity markets restricted the rupee's movement. The greenback declined on disappointing economic data from the US, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary further



added that safe-haven appeal on weak global markets and surge in US Treasury yields supported the dollar. However, FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels.

"Market participants may also remain cautious ahead of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium later this week," Choudhary said, adding that the USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 79.20 to Rs 80.50 in the next couple of sessions.

NDTV's loan agreement 2009: Lender, borrower to scout for 'stable-reliable' buyer for holding firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Ltd, a little-known entity through which Adani Group has launched a hostile bid for NDTV Ltd, had an annual turnover of just ₹60,000 few years back but it gave ₹400 crore of interest-free loans to the broadcaster in 2009, as per Sebi orders.

Besides, the 'loan agreement' signed at that time with promoters of NDTV had a unique provision that "over the next 3 to 5 years, the borrower and the lender will look for a 'stable' and 'reliable' buyer of RRPR, who will maintain the brand and the credibility of NDTV".

RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd was set up by Radhika Roy and Prannoy Roy as a private limited company, whose erstwhile 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV had apparently got transferred to VCPL, which has now been sold to Adani Enterprises Limited and AMG Media



Networks Limited.

On Tuesday, VCPL exercised the right to acquire 99.5 per cent of the equity shares of RRPR and this has triggered an open offer to acquire up to 26 per cent stake in NDTV.

Subsequently, 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 crore fully paid-up equity shares of NDTV, taking the size to ₹493 crore.

However, NDTV said the

debt was converted into equity without any input from the founders or the company.

The rights exercised were part of the loan agreements signed by VCPL with the promoters of NDTV.

NDTV took a loan of ₹350 crore from VCPL in 2009 to pay the loan earlier availed by news channel from ICICI Bank and a year later the broadcaster availed a loan of ₹53.85 crore from VCPL. The ICICI Bank loan was taken to repay an earlier loan from Indiabulls.

Gold prices zoom ₹274 amid firm global cues



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital on Wednesday rose Rs 274 to Rs 51,909 per 10 grams amid firm global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 51,635 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also jumped Rs 448 to Rs 55,682 per kg from Rs 55,234 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,749 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 19.11 per ounce.

"Gold prices recovered on weaker dollar and ease in US bond yields," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. PTI

3 Govt entities join hands for multi-modal logistics parks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Three public sector entities under different ministries of the central government have joined hands for the development of multi-modal logistics parks under the Bhartmala project, an official statement said on Wednesday.

A tripartite agreement was signed between the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for swift development of the modern Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) under Bhartmala Pariyojna.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and Sarbananda Sonowal, the statement said.

According to the statement, MMLPs will act as world-class stations having access to roadways, railways and inland waterways across the country so as to ensure the transportation of goods using multiple modes such as roadways, waterways and railway.

Speaking on the occasion, Gadkari said MMLPs will ensure that cargoes are shifted from and to waterways, dedicated freight corridors and road transportation hubs.

Uber created economic value of ₹44,600 crore for Indian economy in 2021: Report

New Delhi : Ride hailing app Uber created an economic value of ₹44,600 crore for the Indian economy in 2021, a report commissioned by the company said on Wednesday.

The report, compiled by research firm Public First, measured economic impact in terms of Uber's driver-partner payouts, indirect and direct impact of driver-partner spending on vehicles and induced impact of additional driver-partner income. "Uber created an estimated ₹44,600 crore in economic value for the Indian economy.

Uber produced ₹1.5 trillion in consumer surplus in 2021, which is equivalent to 0.8 per cent of GDP," Uber's 2021 India Economic Impact Report said.

According to the report, 96 per cent of riders find convenience as an important reason for using Uber.

"In a normal year, we estimate that Uber saves riders over 16.8 crore hours a year. In fact, as per Indian riders, ridesharing is the most significant transport innovation they have experienced in the last decade," the report said. The report estimates that driver-partners earn an additional ₹1,700 crore a year in higher income through Uber, or an average of 49 per cent more than their next best alternative type of work. PTI

TVS to acquire 48% stake in Narain Karthikeyan's two-wheeler startup DriveX

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company on Wednesday said it will acquire 48 per cent stake in Narain Karthikeyan's pre-owned two-wheeler startup 'DriveX' for a consideration of ₹85 crore. The company said it will acquire 48.27 per cent stake in NKars Mobility Millennial Solutions Pvt Ltd (NMMMSPL), which operates under the brand 'DriveX', through primary and secondary investments. PTI

Omaxe bags sports complex cum retail project from DDA at Dwarka in Delhi, to invest ₹2,100 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Omaxe has bagged a project from DDA to develop a sports complex and retail project at Dwarka in the national capital at a cost of ₹2,100 crore.

The company has secured this 50-acre project from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) under the "Design Build Finance and Operate" model. It will build both outdoor and indoor sports facilities. A large cricket-cum-foot-

ball stadium is also being planned, besides a retail area.

The total investment is estimated at about ₹2,100 crore, of which ₹1,300 -1,400 crore will be on sports complex and the rest on retail area.

Omaxe Ltd Chairman Rohtas Goel said: "We have bagged a project from DDA, located in Dwarka, New Delhi."

It will be the first sports facility to be developed by the DDA in PPP (Public Private Partnership) model.

"We will develop a world-class cricket stadium and sports complex in this project.

It will be a marquee project facilitating the sports infrastructure at par with global standards," Goel said.

The retail portion would offer spaces for shopping, dining, and sports-related activities. "This project will be a big boost to the infrastructure upgradation in the National Capital and is likely to create a huge economic multiplier effect," Goel said.



major stated.

Customers of suspected vehicles are advised not to drive/use the vehicle till the Airbag Control Unit is replaced, it noted.

Affected vehicle owners will be receiving communications from the company authorised workshops for replacement of defective component, Maruti Suzuki said.

Top management of PNB to get mobile handset allowance of ₹2 lakh per year

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has decided to give its top management an annual allowance of Rs 2 lakh to buy mobile handsets.

As per the revised Staff Welfare Benefits norms, top management of the bank -- Managing Director (MD) and executive directors -- would be entitled for Rs 2 lakh for buying mobile handset, sources said.

Cost of mobile does not include Goods and Services Tax (GST). At present, the GST rate on mobile phones is 18 per cent.

The revised norms are applicable from April 1, 2022 as per the decision of the board of the bank, sources said.



A mail sent to PNB for comments did not elicit any response.

The second biggest lender has four executive directors to assist MD and CEO.

Sources, however, said the entitlement for mobile phones up to the Chief General Manager (CGM) has been retained at the previous level. As per the board approved revised guidelines, the entitlement for a CGM has been retained at Rs 50,000 while for a GM Rs 40,000.

Mercedes-Benz expects 25% of sales in India from electric vehicles in next 5 years: Martin Schwenk

Mumbai: German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz expects 25 per cent of its sales in India to come from electric vehicles in the next five years, a senior company official said on Wednesday.

The company's Indian arm, Mercedes-Benz India will be launching three electric vehicles in the next four months as part of the strategy to accelerate its electric mobility journey in the country.

Under the plan, the company launched its all-electric performance luxury sedan,



Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC, with price starting at ₹2.45 crore (all India ex-showroom prices) on Wednesday. It will launch the locally assembled all-electric sedan EQS 580 next month followed by seven-seater electric SUV, EQB

RBI imposes restrictions on Thodupuzha Urban Co-operative Bank



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Wednesday barred customers of Thodupuzha Urban Co-operative Bank, Kerala, from withdrawing funds as part of several restrictions imposed on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition.

The Reserve Bank, in a statement said the restrictions on the bank came into force from the close of business on Tuesday.

"Considering the bank's present liquidity position, no amount from the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor, may be allowed to be withdrawn, but are allowed to set off loans against deposits..." it said.

The restrictions will remain in force for six months from the close of business on August 23, 2022.

The bank, without prior approval of RBI, cannot grant or renew any loans, make any investment, and accept fresh deposits.

The Reserve Bank also said the directions to the co-operative bank should not per se be construed as cancellation of banking licence by RBI.

BUSINESS BRIEF

MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA FADA NEW PRESIDENT
New Delhi: Automobile dealers' body the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations on Wednesday named Manish Raj Singhania as its new President for a two-year term till 2024. Singhania is the Managing Partner of Raipur-based Ralas Motors and has a dealership of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. He been the President of Raipur Automobile Dealers Associations (RADA) for the last nine years.

IMAC LAB LAUNCHED AT SRM KATTANKULATHUR CAMPUS
Kattankulathur: Founder Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) TR Paarivendhar inaugurated the IMac Lab at the School of Computing in the Kattankulathur campus. Speaking at the inauguration TR Paarivendhar said, "I am glad that we are able to give good, well-furnished labs for students. The demand for studying Computer Science has increased and such facilities will add to this need."

VIT-AP SETS UP ASHRAE AMERICAN SOCIETY BRANCH
Amravati: VIT-AP University based in Amaravati inaugurated the student branch of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) on 19th August 2022

DELHI GOVT, RMI FOUNDATION HOLD EV FORUM
New Delhi: Delhi Government in association with the RMI Foundation India organised a day-long Delhi EV Forum to mark the two years of Delhi EV Policy. Eminent experts spoke on various aspects, including accelerating the penetrating of EVs in Delhi. On the occasion, 2022 Switch Delhi Awards were also announced, where BSES discoms won the top honours.

PRANNOY STUNS MOMOTA AT BWF WORLD's

PTI ■ TOKYO

HS Prannoy stunned second seed Kento Momota in straight games to record a sensational win while reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen also sailed into the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the World Championships here on Wednesday.

Unseeded Prannoy rose above expectations to shut the door on crowd favourite and two-time former world champion Momota 21-17, 21-16 in a second round tie.

Incidentally, it was Prannoy's first win over Momota in eight matches. In their previous clashes, the Indian won only one game against his higher-rated Japanese rival.

Earlier in the day, reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen sailed into the pre-quarterfinals with a straight game win over Spain's Luis Penalver.

The young Indian badminton ace Sen won his second round contest 21-17, 21-10, taking 72 minutes to complete the formality.

Prannoy and Sen will face

each other in an all-Indian last 16 clash on Thursday.

However, last edition's runner-up Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of after a straight game defeat to world number 32 Zhao Jun Peng.

Srikanth went down against his Chinese counterpart 18-21, 17-21 in a match lasting only 34 minutes.

The 29-year-old was out of sorts in the opening game as it took only 12 minutes for Zhao to take a 1-0 lead in the match.

The Indian, already on the back foot, tried to up the ante in the second game and led 16-14 but too many unforced errors helped Zhao secure the victory.

The young Indian badminton ace Sen won his second round contest 21-17 21-10, taking 72 minutes to complete the formality.

After trailing 3-4, the ninth seeded Sen grabbed a six-point lead to be 13-7. The Indian continued to stay ahead before comfortably wrapping up the first game.

Sen, a world championship Bronze medalist, then maintained his stranglehold over the Spanish shuttler and won the second game by a big-



ger margin.

In the second game, the first six points were shared between the two players, but

the 21-year-old Indian pulled ahead riding on his superior play.

Enjoying a massive nine-

point lead at one stage of the second game, it was only a matter of time before Sen completed the job.

Earlier, the Indian men's doubles pair of M R Arjun and Dhruv Kapila moved to the pre-quarterfinals but Ashwini



Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy made a second round exit from the prestigious tournament.

The unseeded Arjun and Kapila upstaged eighth seeds and last edition's bronze medallists Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark 21-17, 21-16 in their second round match.

They will face Hee Yong Kai Terry and Loh Kean Hean of Singapore next.

Ponnappa and Sikki, on the other hand, were handed a 15-21, 10-21 loss by top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia

Yi Fan of China in 42 minutes.

The other women's doubles pairing of Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh's also crashed out of the tournament, going down to third seeds Lee So Hee and Shin Seung Chan of Korea 15-21, 7-21.

The eighth seeded men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy thrashed Guatemala's Solis Jonathan and Anibal Marroquin 21-8, 21-10 to storm into Round of 16, where the duo will be up against Denmark's Jeppe Bay and Lasse Molhede.

Jeremy will fight Achinta Sheuli for Olympic qualification

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games Gold medalist lifters Jeremy Lalrinnunga and Achinta Sheuli will clash for the lone 73kg spot in the Paris Olympics as the former's 67kg doesn't feature in the 2024 Games.

With the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) scrapping 67kg from the Paris Games, Jeremy, who won the Gold in the category at the CWG, will bulk up to compete in the 73kg weight class.

However, India already has representation in the weight division in Sheuli, who is the national record holder and reigning CWG champion in the



73kg division.

The two will now go head to head in a bid to seal qualification for the 2024 Olympics as only one lifter per country is allowed in a weight class.

"I will increase my weight to 73kg," Jeremy, who is in the US for a three-and-half week strength and conditioning training camp in St. Louis, said.

"My natural weight is 65kg. So, going up will be difficult to increase my body weight," he added.

This will not be the first time Jeremy will have to bulk up. The 19-year-old lifter had won the 2018 Youth Olympics Gold medal in Buenos Aires in the 62kg category. He had then

moved to 67kg to comply with the new Olympic weight categories the IWF had introduced then.

Weighing in on the situation, head coach Vijay Sharma said the two lifters will motivate each other to do better.

"It is good that Jeremy and Achinta will be in the same weight category. There should be healthy competition between lifters as otherwise they might take things easy," Sharma said.

"They both have to work really hard and improve to qualify. Now qualification will be tough as there are only five categories and everyone will be trying to get into these five classes," he added.

Thiem wins in Winston-Salem

AP ■ WINSTON-SALEM

Dominic Thiem, playing in his first tournament on American soil since winning the 2020 US Open, defeated top-seeded Grigor Dimitrov in the second round of the Winston-Salem Open after Dimitrov retired because of dizziness. Dimitrov was leading the match 6-0, 2-4 at the time.

"That's not the way I want to win a match, especially against Grigor," Thiem said.

Thiem reached a career-high No. 3 in the world rankings in March of 2020 and remained in the top five until injuring his right wrist 14 months ago.

Maxime Cressy of the United States, the No. 4 seed, moved into the third round with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Australia's James Duckworth, and fellow American Steve Johnson defeated No. 12 seed Pedro Martinez of Mexico 7-6 (2), 6-2.



Fifth-seeded Lorenzo Musetti from Italy was upset in the second round by France's Richard Gasquet 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-1, and No. 6 seed Nikoloz Basilashvili from Georgia fell to Brazil's Thiago Monteiro 6-4, 6-1.

Gasquet's countrymen Adrian Mannarino and Benjamin Bonzi also advanced with second-round wins, capping a big day for France. Mannarino defeated ninth-seeded Emil Ruusuvuori of Finland 6-4, 6-1, while the 10th-seeded Bonzi eliminated Germany's Peter Gojowczyk 6-4, 6-2.

Australia's Jack Draper and Jason Kubler also won, along with Serbia's Laslo Djere, who beat 16th-seeded Joao Sousa of Portugal 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

In doubles action, the No. 1 seeded team of Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic from Croatia advanced with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Ukrainian-Kazakhstani's Aleksandr Nedovyesov and Pakistan's Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi. However, second-seeded Ivan Dodig of Croatia and Austin Krajicek of the United States were ousted by Simone Bolelli of Italy and Marcelo Melo of Brazil 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Kenin, the 2020 Australian Open champion, had lost eight straight matches prior to receiving a wild-card entry into the US Open tuneup in downtown Cleveland. She beat qualifier Dalayna Hewitt in the first round.

The 23-year-old American converted all four break points against the fifth-seeded Begu, continuing her comeback from a series of injuries that have plagued her since claiming the title in Melbourne.

Seventh-seeded Aliaksandra Sasnovich rallied past Sara Sorribes Tormo 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, and eighth-seeded Alizé Cornet defeated Clara Tauson 6-3, 7-6 (1) in other round-of-16 matches.

Real & rivals await CL draw in Istanbul



AP ■ ISTANBUL

Title holders Real Madrid and the rest of Europe's elite clubs will be able to start plotting their route to Champions League glory when the draw for this season's group stage is made in Istanbul on Thursday from 1600 GMT.

All going to plan, the journey will end back in the Turkish city on June 10 next year for the final at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium, the same venue where Liverpool defeated AC Milan on penalties in 2005.

Istanbul was supposed to host the final in 2020 and again in 2021, but on each occasion UEFA moved the game to Portugal due to pandemic-related restrictions.

Another late change was required last season, with Saint-Petersburg being stripped of the final after Russia invaded Ukraine, and Paris instead stepping in to host Madrid's 1-0 victory over Liverpool.

The Spanish giants have now been crowned kings of Europe 14 times, twice as many times as the competition's next most successful club, AC Milan, and they started this season by defeating Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt in Helsinki to lift the UEFA Super Cup.

"The joy and satisfaction you get after such wins tends to stick around, making you feel like no one should ever take your place. And that's a pretty strong motivation to keep winning," coach Carlo Ancelotti told UEFA.com in a recent interview when asked about the chances of a repeat triumph for his side.

Their success is likely to be recognised elsewhere on Thursday, with goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and Karim Benzema nominated alongside Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne for the UEFA Men's Player of the Year prize for last season.

Ancelotti is nominated alongside City's Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp for the coaching gong.

As for the draw itself, Real are in Pot One along with the champions of Europe's other leading leagues in the shape of City, Bayern Munich, Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Porto and Ajax, as well as Europa League winners Frankfurt.

Liverpool will be in Pot Two, meaning there is a possibility that they could get a rematch with Real, Chelsea, winners in 2021, and Tottenham Hotspur are the other English representatives.

Meanwhile, Celtic will be in Pot Four as they return to the Champions League proper for the first time since 2017.

Russian clubs are banned because of the ongoing war, but Ukraine — where a new domestic season kicked off this week — will be represented by Shakhtar Donetsk.

The final places will be decided in this midweek's play-off round ties, with Bodo/Glimt aiming to become the first Norwegian team to feature in the group stage in 15 years.

The draw for the Europa League — featuring the likes of Manchester United, Arsenal and Roma — takes place on Friday, with the Europa Conference League draw just after.

Jacobs & Warholm denied Diamond League finals place

AP ■ ZURICH

Olympic champions Marcel Jacobs and Karsten Warholm have had the door closed on their hopes of a wild card entry for next month's Diamond League finals in Zurich.

Jacobs, the 27-year-old Italian who won the 100m in Tokyo, has been kept out of the Diamond League this season by illness and injury but said after winning the European title last week that he wanted a chance to have a go at the best American sprinters.

His hopes of beating them and winning the world title disappeared when he withdrew before the semi-finals of last month's world championships in Oregon.

Zurich's co-meeting director Andreas Hediger said there was no way round the rules to allow either Jacobs or Norwegian 400m hurdles world record holder Karsten Warholm to compete in the climax to the season on September 7/8.

Hediger added Jacobs's entourage had been told this.

"The Diamond League qualification rules state that there is only one qualification for the finals via collecting points at the 13 series meetings," he said in an email.

Benfica's Neres ends Dynamo Kyiv's hopes



AP ■ LISBON

Benfica cruised into the group stage of the Champions League after over-running Dynamo Kyiv 3-0 in the second leg of their playoff on Tuesday thanks to David Neres' assist and goal.

The two-time European champions from Portugal will be in the draw on Thursday while Dynamo will be in the Europa League.

Domestic top-flight football, which had been suspended since Russia's invasion in February and during the ongoing war, returned to Ukraine earlier on Tuesday.

The Dynamo players, who begin their league campaign on Sunday, took to the pitch at the Estadio da Luz draped in the Ukrainian flag in a message of support to their compatriots back home.

Dynamo were already trailing 2-0 from the first leg and they were always on the back foot against last season's quarter-finalists.

Former Manchester City defender Nicolas Otamendi's emphatic header put Benfica ahead on the night in the 27th minute in front of a crowd of more than 58,000 from a Neres cross.

Rafa Silva netted next for the Portuguese side and Brazilian forward Neres swept the ball into the net after a flowing move before half-time.

Elsewhere, Milan Pavkov's 90th minute own goal secured Maccabi Haifa's spot as they beat Red Star Belgrade 5-4 over two legs.

Jan Kliment's 73rd minute effort booked Viktoria Plzen's place in the draw as they beat Azeris Qarabag 2-1 on aggregate.

On Wednesday, former two-time champions PSV Eindhoven host Rangers with the tie at 2-2. Copenhagen head to Trabzonspor with a 2-1 lead and Bodo/Glimt go to Dinamo Zagreb with a 1-0 advantage.

Emerson joins West Ham from Chelsea

AP ■ LONDON

West Ham signed Italy defender Emerson Palmieri from Chelsea in a deal worth a reported £15 million (\$17 million) on Tuesday.

Emerson has agreed a four-year contract with the Hammers, with the option of a further one-year extension.

The 28-year-old left-back was born in Brazil, but moved to Italy in 2014 and was eventually grant-



ed citizenship.

He struggled to break into the Chelsea team in five years at Stamford Bridge and spent last season on loan at Lyon.

Emerson has won 27 caps for Italy and played in their win over England in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley.

"I'm very happy to be here and to arrive here. It's a big challenge for me, it's a big team, so I'm very happy to be here and I'm ready," Emerson told West Ham's website.

Fulham suffer shock League Cup exit against 4th-tier Crawley

AP ■ LONDON

Fulham suffered an embarrassing League Cup exit as the Premier League side were beaten 2-0 by Crawley in a second round shock on Tuesday.

Marco Silva's side are 83 places above League Two Crawley and beat Brentford 3-2 in the Premier League on Saturday.

But the Fulham manager's decision to make 10 changes backfired badly at the Broadfield Stadium as struggling Crawley upset the form book.

Former Fulham striker Kevin Betsy, who has taken only a single point from his first five matches as Crawley manager, masterminded a memo-

rable victory thanks to goals from Tom Nichols and Liverpool loanee James Balagizi.

The Cottagers joined Norwich and Leeds on the list of top-flight clubs who have suffered cup embarrassment at Crawley in recent years.

The Premier League clubs involved in this season's European competitions have a bye into the third round, leaving the spotlight on Aston Villa, Everton and Leicester in the other second round ties.

Villa came from behind to spare Steven Gerrard's blushes in a 4-1 win at Bolton.

After a frustrating start to the season and just three wins from 14 games stretching back



to March, questions were being asked of Villa's direction under Gerrard.

The Premier League side were stunned as Dion Charles gave third tier Bolton a 24th-minute lead, but Douglas Luiz levelled directly from a corner.

Danny Ings put Villa ahead with a 62nd-minute penalty and further goals from Lucas Digne and Leon Bailey eased Villa into the third round.

Everton are also off to a slow start in the Premier League and they only scraped into the third round with a 1-0 victory at League One side Fleetwood.

Leicester needed a 3-1 penalty shoot-out victory to avoid a shock defeat at fourth

tier Stockport, who held Brendan Rodgers' troubled side to a 0-0 draw.

Bournemouth edged past Norwich as Todd Cantwell missed the decisive penalty in the Cherries' 5-3 shoot-out victory after a 2-2 draw at Carrow Road.

Wolves striker Raul Jimenez celebrated his opener by wearing an eye patch and pirate hook as his team beat Preston 2-1 at Molineux.

Southampton cruised to a 3-0 victory at Cambridge and Nottingham Forest beat Grimsby by the same score.

Crystal Palace won 2-0 at Oxford and Brentford eased to a 2-0 victory at Colchester.



Wouldn't have come this far without ability to counter situations: Virat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He doesn't find any particular pattern to his prolonged slump in form unlike 2014, but then to succeed in international cricket for as long as Virat Kohli has, it couldn't have happened without his ability to counter adversities.

The former India skipper has gone without an international hundred across formats for nearly three years now but he feels that there isn't much scope for course correction.

The reason being that he isn't having any particular technical problem like one he had during England tour of 2014 when he was poking at deliveries on off-stump channel.

"I know where my game stands and you cannot run this far in your international career without having the ability to counter situations and counter conditions and counter different kinds of bowling. So, this for me, is an easier phase to process, but I don't want to put this phase behind me," Kohli said on Star Sports show 'Game Plan'.

He then spoke how a pattern of dismissals was detected on that tour and then after technical adjustments scored nearly 600 runs during the tour of 2018.

"What happened in England was a pattern, so something that I could work on and something that I had to kind of overcome. Right now, as you rightly mentioned, there is nothing that you can point out saying that the problem is happening here," Kohli noted.

However of late, Kohli has got out in every possible manner, to rising deliveries, to fuller balls, to swinging deliveries, to cutters, off-spin, leg-spin and left-arm spin.

He feels that when there aren't any patterns, that's the best thing to have happened.

"So, that for me, is actually an easier thing to process because I know

Kohli will be mentally & physically fresh ahead of Asia Cup: Watson

PTI ■ DUBAI

Former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson feels Virat Kohli will be mentally and physically rejuvenated after a month-long break from cricket ahead of the Asia Cup, starting later this week.

Kohli is enduring his worst phase of career and has not scored a century in international cricket since November 2019.

The star batter will return to cricket after missing out the series against the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

"Having time off for him certainly, would (help him) just be able to regenerate mentally, physically, just be able to get away from the game of cricket," Watson said on the ICC Review Show.

"You could just see that his energy was a bit sapped, even during the IPL. You could tell, no matter how much he tried - he was always up and about, but you could see the light was just out a tiny bit," he added.

Kohli's last assignment was the

England tour where he could manage just 76 runs from six innings across formats, which included the rescheduled fifth Test, two ODIs and as many T20s in July.

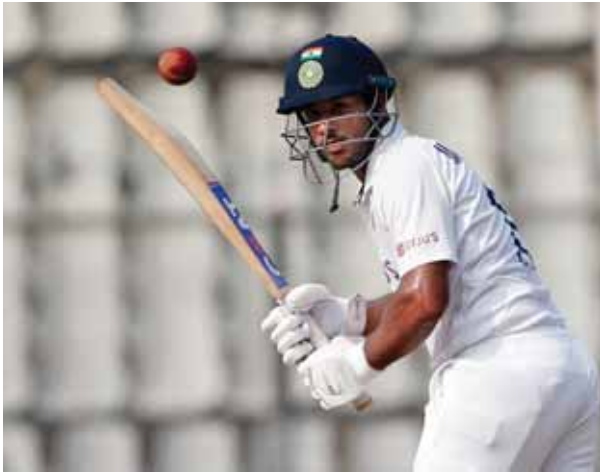
"This month that he's had off cricket will make sure that that light's shining very bright going into this Asia Cup, knowing there's a T20 World Cup in Australia coming up very soon as well.

"So when you're able to have a break, and because the Indian cricketers in particular play so much cricket, for Virat to be able to have some time off, especially a month, that's just going to regenerate everything he needs to be able to take stock of what happened, freshen up mentally and physically."

Watson said Kohli is a quality player who will eventually return to form.

"He's too good not to be able to find his groove. It'll only take him a couple of balls, get into the battle again, and away he goes."

India will open its Asia Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on Sunday.



Mayank employs sweep shots to revive white-ball career

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India opener Mayank Agarwal has included the sweep and reverse sweep shots in his game, which he uses even against the pacers, to get his white-ball career back on track.

Agarwal, who started his international career with Test cricket, was originally not included in the Indian team for the fifth rescheduled game in England in July. He later flew to Birmingham as cover for injured K L Rahul.

On the white ball front too, he has had endured a tough run. Leading Punjab Kings in the IPL, he could only score 196 runs in 12 innings at a strike rate of 122.50.

While Punjab have parted ways with head coach Anil Kumble after three seasons, Agarwal might get to keep his job for the 2023 season.

"In the last four months, I've really worked hard on my batting. As you can see, I've started sweeping and reverse-sweeping the ball, that too

against the fast bowlers. I've opened up four-five areas in my game which are paying rich dividends. I am very happy that the hard work I put in is paying off now," Agarwal told ESPNcricinfo.

"Getting two hundreds in a T20 tournament like the Maharaja Trophy feels amazing. It feels really nice when the players respond to you the way you want. Obviously runs behind my back really makes me feel good and then I can lead from the front," said Agarwal.

After 21 Tests and five ODIs, Agarwal faces uncertainty in his international career.

"I am somebody who isn't going to give up," Agarwal said about his international future. "I am going to keep chasing it and improve my game with each passing day."

"I will be very happy with whatever comes my way, but the aspirations and dreams never die. It's about going out there, improving and ticking all those boxes," Agarwal added.

Gill jumps 45 places to 38th in ODI rankings



PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian opener Shubhman Gill has jumped a whopping 45 places to be ranked 38th in the ICC ODI rankings released on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old youngster had a memorable outing in the recently concluded three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe that also saw him scoring his maiden ton (130 off 97 balls) in the last game in Harare.

Meanwhile, former Indian skipper Virat Kohli, who did not feature in the ODI series against Zimbabwe, held on to his fifth position with a rating points of 744.

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, who was also rested in

the series against Zimbabwe, was static in the sixth spot.

However, veteran batter Shikhar Dhawan who also had a decent outing against the Southern African nation (154 runs in three matches) that saw him scoring two half centuries in the first and third games respectively, lost a spot to be ranked 12th in the latest rankings.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has continued his lead as the top-ranked ODI batter in the world (891) and is distantly followed by South African Rassie van der Dussen (789).

In the bowling chart, New Zealand star pacer Trent Boult remains on top while the all-rounder's list is led by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan.

Laxman named interim head coach for Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman will perform the duties of interim head coach for the upcoming Asia Cup after Rahul Dravid tested positive for COVID-19.

Dravid is currently in isolation and will link up with the squad once he tests negative.

"VVS Laxman, Head Cricket, NCA will be the interim Head Coach for Team India (Senior Men) for the upcoming ACC Asia Cup 2022, to be played in the UAE," BCCI secretary Jay Shah stated in a release.

"Laxman, who travelled with the Indian team that played the ODI series in Zimbabwe will oversee the team's preparation in the absence of Rahul Dravid, who tested positive for COVID-19 before the team's departure to the UAE. Dravid will join the team once he tests negative and is cleared by the BCCI Medical Team," he said.

Laxman has linked up with the squad in Dubai along with vice-captain KL Rahul, Deepak Hooda and Avesh Khan, who travelled from Harare after competing in the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe.

GILL TO PLAY FOR GLAMORGAN

Swansea: Talented Shubman Gill will be representing Glamorgan for the remainder of the English county season joining a host of Indian players led by Cheteshwar Pujara, who has been playing his trade in the United Kingdom.



According to *ESPNcricinfo*, Gill will be playing the remainder of the county season for Glamorgan subject to visa approval. Glamorgan plays in the Division 2 of English county.

In the current season, Pujara (Sussex), Krunal Pandya (injured, Warwickshire), Mohammed Siraj (Warwickshire), Navdeep Saini (Kent), Umesh Yadav (Middlesex), Washington Sundar (injured, Lancashire) have all played in the first-class and list A competitions.

Gill will be the third Indian to don the Glamorgan jersey after former India head coach Ravi Shastri (1987-1991) and ex-India captain Sourav Ganguly (2005).

Duleep Trophy: Rahane to lead West Zone

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A fit-again former India captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead a powerful West Zone side in the Duleep Trophy scheduled in Tamil Nadu from September 8-25.

The members of Ranji finalist Mumbai team, including internationals like Prithvi Shaw and Shardul Thakur and rising stars like Yashashvi Jaiswal, Shams Mulani, Hardik Tamore and Tanush Kotian have all been picked.

From Saurashtra, veteran Jaydev Unadkat has been picked while Rahul Tripathi, who

recently made it to national team, is also in the West Zone squad.

The Central Zone also announced its squad and most of the stars of Madhya Pradesh's Ranji Trophy winning squad are there in the team including Yash Dubey, Shubham Sharma, Kumar Kartikeya along with all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer.

SQUADS

West Zone: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Prithvi Shaw (Mumbai), Yashasvi Jaiswal (Mumbai), Shreyas Iyer (Mumbai), Hardik Tamore (wk, Mumbai), Shams Mulani (Mumbai), Tanush

Kotian (Mumbai), Shardul Thakur (Mumbai), Rahul Tripathi (Maharashtra), Satyajet Bachhav (Maharashtra), Het Patel (Gujarat), Chintan Gaja (Gujarat), Jaydev Unadkat (Saurashtra), Chirag Jani (Saurashtra), Atit Sheth (Baroda)

Central Zone: Karan Sharma (c), Shubham Sharma (vc), Himanshu Mantri (wk), Yash Dubey, Priyam Garg, Rinku Singh, Ashok Menaria, Akshay Wadkar (wk), Gaurav Yadav, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Dhopola, Aniket Chaudhary, Kumar Kartikey, Aditya Sarvatey, Ankit Rajput.



Priyank Panchal named India A captain vs NZ A

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat opener Priyank Panchal was named captain of the 16-member India 'A' squad for the three four-day games against New Zealand 'A', starting later this month.

Apart from Panchal, the squad also includes the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Kuldeep Yadav, and Prasidh Krishna.

Pace sensation Umran Malik, 22, has also been named in the squad.

The selectors also took into consideration performances of those players who fared well in the domestic season and named the likes of Bengal's star batter Abhimanyu Easwaran, Madhya Pradesh's Ranji Trophy winning hero Rajat Patidar, and Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan.

The team also includes a number of uncapped players, such as young batter Tilak Varma, medium pacer Mukesh Kumar and Yash Dayal.

Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy stadium will host the first and the third red-ball games, while the second match will take place at Hubli's Rajnagar stadium.

India A Squad: Priyank Panchal (Captain), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Tilak Varma, KS Bharat (wk), Upendra Yadav (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Saurabh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, Prasadh Krishna, Umran Malik, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal, Arzan Nagwaswalla.

England vow to stick with 'Bazball'

AP ■ MANCHESTER

England captain Ben Stokes has insisted there will be no let-up in the team's attacking approach as they look to bounce back in the second Test against South Africa starting Thursday.

The hosts have arrived at Manchester's Old Trafford 1-0 down in a three-match series following a chastening innings and 12-run defeat inside three days by the Proteas at Lord's last week.

That was their first defeat under the new leadership duo of Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum following a run of four successive wins with an aggressive approach dubbed 'Bazball'.

England had no answer to a formidable South Africa pace attack led by Kagiso Rabada at Lord's, where they were dismissed for just 165 and 149 in



their two innings, although a lack of domestic red-ball cricket since last month's win over India, was arguably more responsible than 'Bazball' for a

clatter of wickets.

And a rare double failure by Joe Root meant England have not won a Test when the star batsman has not made a

Robinson recalled by Poms

AP ■ MANCHESTER

England fast bowler Ollie Robinson will make his first Test appearance since January after being called up Wednesday for the second match of the series against South Africa, having proved his fitness following a string of niggling injuries. Robinson will replace

fifty for more than two years. All-rounder Stokes, who took over as captain after close friend Root had presided over just one win in 17 Tests, was in no mood to change tack after just one loss.

"Absolutely not," he said. "We know well that when we perform to the capabilities that we're capable of, then we can go out and put on an incredible

performance, like everybody's seen in the four games before."

Former New Zealand captain McCullum said England's problem at Lord's had been a lack of attack rather than too much cavalier cricket.

"I think they were perhaps a touch timid," he said. "We approach the game with a clear mentality about the way we want to play."

"It's not always going to work. As we said at the time, you've got to buckle up for the ride. It's not nice at times like this but we'll come back strong."

There are, however, legitimate questions over the form of opening batsman Zak Crawley who, after another two low scores at Lord's, is now averaging a mere 16.4 across 10 Test innings this season.

No Proteas batsman managed a century in the match but a collective effort led by opener Sarel Erwee got them to a competitive total of 326.

Undeniably gifted batsman Aiden Markram came out of the match, however, with an average of under 10 from his last 10 Test innings.

The uncapped Ryan Rickelton, in form for English county side Northamptonshire, could be given a Test debut if Markram is dropped.

Pregnant Angelique Kerber withdraws from US Open

AP ■ NEW YORK

Former women's world number one Angelique Kerber announced on Wednesday that she is pregnant and has withdrawn from next week's US Open joking "two against one just isn't a fair competition."

The 34-year-old German added that Flushing Meadows holds great memories for her. She won the title there in 2016 and, as a result, became world number one.

"I really wanted to play the @usopen but eventually I decided that two against one just isn't a fair competition," tweeted Kerber, who is ranked 52.

"For the next months, I will take a break from traveling the globe as a tennis player but then again, I believe it's for the best possible reason!"

"New York has often been a turning point in my career and

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it feels like this year will be no different in some way!

"From restarting my career in 2011 (ranked 92 she reached the semi-finals) to winning the title in 2016 and becoming #1 in the world."

Kerber — who won the 2016 Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2018 — said she was excited about her new chapter.

"Being a professional athlete means everything to me but I'm grateful for the new path I'm heading to," she said.

"To be honest, I'm nervous and excited at the same time."