

OPINION 6
SUPPING WITH THE
TALIBAN LEADERSHIP**WORLD 8**
PUTIN RESHUFFLES
TOP OFFICIALS**MONEY 10**
SENSEX, NIFTY REBOUND ON
GAINS IN FMCG, AUTO SHARES

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Ranil is interim Prez; MPs to vote for new one on July 20

19th Amendment to Lankan Constitution to be revived; SC bars foreign travel of Rajapaksas till Jul 28

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday pledged to maintain law and order and revive the 19th Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering the Parliament over the executive President as he was sworn in as Sri Lanka's interim President until the House elects a successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Rajapaksa, currently in Singapore, emailed his resignation to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, who said on Friday that he accepted his resignation, which he received late on Thursday. Rajapaksa's resignation came two days after the embattled leader fled to the



Army soldiers stand guard as protesters sleep by the entrance to the President's office in Colombo, on Friday.

AP/PTI

Maldives and then flew to Singapore in the face of massive protests against his Government for mishandling the economy that bankrupted the country.

Earlier in the day, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court barred former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former Finance

Minister Basil Rajapaksa from leaving the country till July 28. The order was passed by the apex court during the hearing of a petition filed by global civil society organisation Transparency International on the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.

Wickremesinghe, 73, was

sworn in as the acting President of Sri Lanka before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya. Addressing Parliament after he was sworn in as interim President, Wickremesinghe, who is also the Prime Minister, pledged to strictly maintain law and order in the country which has wit-

nessed massive anti-Government protests and occupation of key Government buildings. He said that the armed forces have been given the powers and the freedom to deal with any acts of violence and sabotage. "I am one hundred per cent supportive of peaceful demonstrations. There is a difference between rioters and protesters," he said. Wickremesinghe said the true protesters would not resort to unleashing violence.

Meanwhile, the parliamentarians who are expected to vote in the process of electing the next President would be given full protection to attend Parliament. This is for the first time since 1978, Sri Lanka will elect the crisis-hit country's next President through a secret vote by the MPs and not through a popular mandate.

The 225-member Parliament will elect the new President by a secret vote on July 20, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said on Friday. Abeywardena told the party leaders that Parliament will meet on July 20 to elect a new President.

After gag order, it's d(h)arna mana hai in Parl complex

Opp parties to meet in Delhi today to frame their stand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the Opposition outrage over the "gag order" on using certain words in Parliament, a new circular issued by the Rajya Sabha on Friday to prohibit demonstrations, dharnas, fast or religious ceremonies in the Parliament House premises sparked another round of controversy two days before the Monsoon Session begins. A miffed Opposition said it would hold a meeting on Saturday to frame its strategy.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla however said such circulars to members are a process going on since 2009. The authorities also termed the issuance of such notices as "routine" affairs ahead of Parliament sessions.

The new bulletin, which has been issued by Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, said, "Members



In this file photo Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with other Opposition parties' MPs protest over suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs, during the Winter Session of Parliament. Demonstrations and dharnas will not be allowed in the precincts of Parliament House, as per a new circular by the RS Secretariat on Friday. PTI

cannot use the precincts of the Parliament House for any demonstration, dharna, strike, fast, or for the purpose of performing any religious ceremony." Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged political parties to refrain from making allegations without getting into facts. He also stressed that such circulars are being issued for many years.

"It (such circulars to members) is a process. This process has been going on since 2009," he said while talking to reporters

on the sidelines of an event in Parliament House complex. Congress general secretary and chief whip of the party in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter to attack the Government. "Vishguru's latest salvo — D(h)arna Mana Hai!" he said, sharing a copy of the circular issued on July 14. Opposition members have in the past demonstrated inside Parliament complex and have staged protests.

Continued on Page 2

Must resolve India-China border disputes with talks: Dalai Lama

Use of military is an outdated option, says Tibetan spiritual leader on Ladakh visit

PTI ■ LEH/JAMMU/NEW DELHI

The Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Friday began his month-long visit to Ladakh and said India-China border disputes should be resolved through "talks and peaceful means" as use of military is an outdated option.

The spiritual leader's visit to Ladakh is expected to rile China as it comes amid the military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at several friction points in eastern Ladakh.

A top Government functionary said the visit of the Dalai Lama to Ladakh was a "completely religious" one, and no one should have any objections to the tour.

"India and China are most populated countries and neighbours. Sooner or later, you have to solve this problem (border disputes along the Line of Actual Control) through talks and



peaceful means," the Dalai Lama told reporters in Jammu before leaving for Ladakh. "Use of military force is outdated now," he said.

The Government functionary said it is not for the first time that the Dalai Lama is visiting a border region. He said the spiritual leader has been to Ladakh as well as Arunachal Pradesh several times in the past.

"The Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader and his visit to Ladakh is completely religious. Why should anyone have objections to the tour," the Government functionary said.

Earlier this month, China crit-

icised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for greeting the Dalai Lama on his 87th birthday, saying India should stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs. However, India rejected the criticism and asserted it is a consistent policy to treat the Dalai Lama as an honoured guest of the country.

This is the Dalai Lama's first visit outside Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh in the last two years as he was mostly confined to the hill station due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Dalai Lama had visited Ladakh in the past. He had visited Tawang (Arunachal

Pradesh) too but he could not undertake any visit in the last two years due to the pandemic," the functionary said.

The 14th Dalai Lama was given rousing reception in Leh as hundreds of people stood up on the two sides of road to welcome his cavalcade from Leh airport to Jivetsal Photang.

In Jammu, he avoided a question on Kashmir issue and said, "It is complicated issue. I do not know about it".

Replying to another question about objections raised by China to his visit in Ladakh, he said this is usual but Chinese people have not objected to it.

"Some Chinese hardliners consider me separatist and reactionary. They always criticise me," he said. The Tibetan spiritual leader said the Chinese people have now realised that the Dalai Lama is not a separatist.

As far as meaningful autonomy and Tibetan Buddhist culture preservation is concerned, he said, more Chinese people are showing respect for Tibetan Buddhism.

In a message to the world, the Dalai Lama said there is no point to fight each other. "The fight happens due to 'my nation, my country, my ideology' (thinking). That is too narrow-minded an approach."

Centre to bring Bill to regulate digital media

News sites could face action for violations; Bill will make registration of digital media must

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is expected to bring new legislation to regulate digital media in the country. The Bill will make registration of digital media mandatory with the Press Registrar General on the lines of newspapers and include strict citizenship provisions for those working in digital media.

The proposed Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill will have provision for action for "violations" by digital media. The Bill will replace the 155-year-old registration of Books (PRB) Act to include digital media.

The RPP Bill 2019 was placed for suggestions from the public and stakeholders three years ago.

In early 2021, the Government came out with guidelines for digital media



engaged in publishing news and directed the portals to appoint grievance redressal officers.

These guidelines have been challenged in several High Courts. The Centre has approached the Supreme Court to transfer all cases to the apex court.

The draft Bill, which was circulated in 2019, proposed to decriminalise many provisions in the PRB Act of 1867 with a simplified registration process. As per the proposed RPP Bill of 2019, the Editor and Publisher should be "ordinarily residing Indian citizen" and

the media companies should be registered in India.

The new Bill has deleted the provisions of arresting publishers, except in heinous and serious crimes.

All the registration powers of District Magistrates in the PRB Act of 1867 are centralised with a new post — Press Registrar and an Appellate Board, the draft suggested.

The draft Bill defined news on digital media as news in digitised format that can be transmitted over the internet, computer or mobile networks and includes text, audio, video and graphics.

CAPSULE

NIRF: JNU REMAINS 2ND BEST UNIVERSITY

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University retained its position as the country's second best university while Jamia Millia Islamia rose to the third spot from its sixth position last year, according to the Education Ministry's National Institutional Ranking Framework.

DONALD TRUMP'S EX-WIFE IVANA DEAD

New York: Ivana Trump, a skier-turned-businesswoman who formed half of a publicity power couple in the 1980s as the first wife of former US President Donald Trump and mother of his oldest children, has died in New York City, her family announced. She was 73.

COURT GRANTS BAIL TO ALT NEWS' ZUBAIR

New Delhi: Observing that "the voice of dissent is necessary for healthy democracy" and that political parties are open for criticism, a Delhi court granted bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair, who was arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments in a tweet.

PRACHANDA ON 3-DAY VISIT TO INDIA

Kathmandu: Nepal's former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda embarked on a three-day India visit on Friday during which he is scheduled to meet top Government functionaries

US House OK's sanctions waiver to India over Russia missile deal

'New Delhi's S-400 purchase is to deter aggressor China, US must stand with it'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US House of Representatives has passed by voice vote a legislative amendment that approves waiver to India against the punitive CAATSA sanctions for its purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia to help deter aggressors like China. The legislative amendment was passed on Thursday as part of an en bloc (all together as a single unit) amendment during floor consideration of the National

Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA). Authored and introduced by Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna, the amendment urges the Biden administration to use its authority to provide India with a Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) waiver to help deter aggressors like China.

CAATSA is a tough US law that authorises the US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections.

"The United States must stand with India in the face of escalating aggression from China. As Vice Chair of the India Caucus, I have been working to strengthen the partnership between our countries and ensure that India can defend itself along the Indian Chinese border," said Khanna, the US

representative from California's 17th congressional district." This amendment is of the utmost importance, and I am proud to see it pass the House on a bipartisan basis," he said. The law was brought in 2017 and provides for punitive actions by the US Government against any country engaged in transactions with the Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

In October 2018, India signed a \$5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, despite a warning from the then-Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system. The US has already imposed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a batch of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia.

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Minor gangraped in Delhi, 3 accused held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Class 10 student was allegedly gangraped in a car in Mahipalpur after being kidnapped from a market in a Vasant Vihar in south Delhi. Police said that the incident took place on July 6 inside a parked car in southwest Delhi's Mahipalpur and all the three accused, including the rape survivor's male friend, have been arrested. The survivor and the accused had no external injury, the police said. According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call was received around 4 AM on July 8 at Vasant Vihar police station regarding the incident.

"The caller told that on July 6 at around 8:30 PM, his daughter who is 16-year-old went from Vasant Vihar with three persons in a Maruti Wagon R car. All four of them went for a ride and came back on July 7 morning around 7 AM. The girl revealed about the incident to her parents late in the evening after which they took their daughter to a hospital," said the senior police official.

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32 yrs on, Rubaiya Sayeed identifies Yasin Malik, 3 others as her abductors

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Thirty two years after her abduction in 1989, Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Home Minister Mufti Mohd Sayeed, on Friday identified JKLF chief Yasin Malik and three others as her abductors.

Sayeed travelled all the way from Chennai to record her statement in the special CBI court. Referring to proceedings in the special CBI court a senior lawyer said, "Rubaiya Sayeed identified all the four accused on the basis of their photographs shared with her in the courtroom."

Sayeed was listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over investigations into the case in early 1990's.

Senior lawyer Anil Sethi who appeared in the court on behalf of Rubaiya Sayeed told

reporters, "Yes, she has been able to identify everyone on the basis of photographs that were made available to her during the CBI investigation".

Advocate Monika Kohli, who appeared on behalf of CBI, also told reporters that Rubaiya Sayeed identified Yasin Malik and others. August is the next date of hearing in the case, she added.

Charges against Yasin Malik and nine others were framed last year.

Rubaiya Sayeed was abducted by armed terrorists on December 8, 1989 when she was returning home from Lal Ded Memorial Hospital where she worked as an intern. The abduction took place a week after her father assumed the charge as Home Minister of India in New Delhi.

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5 die, 8 hurt in outer Delhi wall collapse

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Five labourers were killed while eight others sustained injuries after the wall of an illegal under-construction godown collapsed in outer Delhi's Alipur area on Friday afternoon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressed grief over the tragic incident.

"Anguished by the mishap in Alipur, Delhi. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that those who are injured recover at the earliest," the Prime Minister said.

"A very tragic incident happened in Alipur. The district administration is involved in relief and rescue work. I am monitoring the relief work. I pray for the souls of the deceased," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

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India, EU for safeguarding freedom of civil society

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After a fresh round of human rights dialogue, India and the European Union on Friday concurred on the importance of safeguarding freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors, including human rights defenders and journalists.

A joint press statement said the 10th India-EU human rights dialogue allowed for discussions on a wide range of human rights issues, but it did not elaborate on them.

The talks took place over a week after Germany, a key member of the EU, criticised Indian authorities over fact-checker Mohammed Zubair's arrest saying "Journalists should not be persecuted and imprisoned for what they say and write."

India had trashed the comments made by a German foreign ministry spokesperson.

"India and the EU reiterated their commitment to protecting and promoting all human rights. In this context, as open and democratic societies, they emphasised the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights," the statement said.

It said the two sides exchanged views and concerns on civil and political rights, rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and opinion both online and offline. They also deliberated on women empowerment, children's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights, the rights of migrants and the use of technology in the area of democracy and human rights.

"They both concurred on the importance of safeguarding the freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors, including human rights

defenders and journalists, and respecting freedom of association and peaceful assembly," the statement said.

"The EU reiterated its opposition to capital punishment in all cases and without exception. India reiterated its stand on recognition of the right to development as a distinct, universal, inalienable and fundamental human right that is applicable to all people in all countries," it added.

The dialogue was held in New Delhi.

The statement said both sides expressed the need to foster greater engagement on human rights issues, based on internationally recognised laws and standards.

"Both sides recognised the importance of strengthening national and international human rights mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights and the important role of national human

rights institutions, civil society actors and journalists," it said.

The statement said India and the EU updated each other on their implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

"The EU informed the Indian side of its recent initiatives on corporate sustainability due diligence," it said.

India updated the EU on the status of its first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

"India and the EU reiterated their commitment to the shared principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for human rights," the statement said.

The human rights dialogue was co-chaired by joint secretary for Europe West in the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Sandeep Chakravorty, and the Ambassador of India Ugo Astuto.

India, China to hold 16th round of talks on LAC standoff tomorrow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 16th round of military talks between India and China on the continuing border standoff in eastern Ladakh will be held on July 17 on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the region. In continuation with the talks on disengagement along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, the 16th round of talks will be held on the Indian side at Chushul-Moldo meeting point on July 17," said a source.

The last round of talks between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was held on March 11.

India has been pressing for quick disengagement of troops from all the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, insisting that peace and tranquillity along the border are prerequisites for progress in overall bilateral ties.

At the fresh round of talks,



The Indian side is expected to press for disengagement of troops as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points besides seeking resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

The situation in eastern Ladakh figured prominently in last week's talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali.

At the one-hour meeting on the sidelines of a conclave of foreign ministers of the G20 nations, Jaishankar had conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all the outstanding issues in eastern Ladakh.

Businessman kills wife, 2 minor daughters, self after loss in business

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old businessman allegedly gunned down his wife and two minor daughters and then shot himself over huge losses in his business. The incident took place on Friday at a house in northeast Delhi's Jafraabad area.

The deceased, identified as Israr, was into the business of jeans and faced huge loss in it. According to a senior police official, during the preliminary enquiry, it has been revealed that Israr first intoxicated his wife and two minor daughters aged eight and nine years and then shot them dead before gunning down himself inside his house.



"The bodies were found on the fourth floor of the building. Parents and other members of the family are living in the same building," the senior police official said.

The couple has left behind two minor sons aged four and 13 years old respectively, he said.

The pistol used to shot his family and himself has been recovered from the spot, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

Minor gangraped in...

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"On examination through the women councillor, the victim told that two boys who were known to her had met her near Vasant Vihar market at about 8.30 PM on July 6.

They offered for joy ride, with one other boy who came with his Wagon R car," said police official privy to investigation.

"After this, all four rode the car and went to Mahipalpur where they bought liquor and all four, including the girl consumed it. In her statement, the girl stated that after consuming the liquor all four of them went

to a lonely place where one of the person, who was known to the girl, kissed her first and later the other two men committed rape," said the police official adding that from there, they all went to Gurugram before returning home.

"The girl has been medically examined and a case under relevant sections of protection of children from of sexual offences (POSCO) act and Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered in Vasant Vihar police station," said Manoj C, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district.

32 yrs on Rubaiya Sayeed identifies...

From Page 1

After her abduction, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) commanders had demanded the release of five terrorists — Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Sher Khan, Noor Mohammad, Sher Khan, Altaf Ahmed and Javed Ahmed Jargar.

Despite strong opposition by the then Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah all five terrorists were released to secure safe release of Rubaiya Sayeed. Initially, the CBI took over the case in 1990, but it remained in cold storage until it was revived in 2019 when Yasin Malik was arrested.

Besides Malik, who has been sentenced to life in a separate terror funding case others charged in the case are: Ali Mohammed Mir, Mohammed Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.

During the investigation, Ali Mohammad Mir, Zaman Mir and Iqbal Gandroo confessed before a magistrate about his role in the abduction. Four others also made confessional statements before CBI's Superintendent of Police

In the court of Sh. Mridul Gupta
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC(Central)
Room No. 28, Ground Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
SC No. 48/2020
Amreen Jahan
Versus
The State
Amreen Jahan
D/o Late Abdul Karim
R/o H.No. 4414, Ghata Masjid,
Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002
To All Concerned

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NIRF ranking: Miranda retains 1st spot for 6th yr in row



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University's Miranda House continued to retain first rank for the sixth year in a row in the college wise of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings 2022 released on Friday, fol-

lowed by Hindu College. Of the 10 best colleges in India, five are from Delhi University (DU). Interestingly, the varsity slipped by a spot to the 13th position and it is ranked behind city-based Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia, which bagged the second and third

positions, respectively in the NIRF under the university category. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) improved its ranking by two points bagging the 77th position. As per the NIRF ranking 2022, Presidency College in Chennai is at the third spot. Lady Shri Ram



College of Delhi ranked at the fifth spot while Atma Ram Sanatan Dharm College ranked at the seventh spot. Kiroori Mal College in Delhi University bagged at the 10th spot. Interestingly, in 2021, St Stephen's College of DU and Shri Ram College of Commerce, SRCC both lost their NIRF 2020 top spots, slipped, and are not in top 10 colleges anymore. St Stephen's and Shri Ram College of Commerce which had bagged the eighth and 10th ranks respectively last year dropped to the 11th and

12th spot this year. The Delhi University is ranked behind city-based Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia, which bagged the second and third positions, respectively in the NIRF under the university category. In its overall ranking, the DU slipped to 23rd rank from 19th last year. In 2020, it was ranked 18th and 20th in 2019. In 2018, it had bagged the 14th rank. Last year, the university was ranked 12th, while it was ranked 11th in 2020, at the 13th spot in 2019 and ranked seventh in the uni-

versity category in 2018. The Delhi Technological University improved its rank from 42 to 38 this year. In the pharmacy category, in Delhi, the top institute was Jamia Hamdard. The National Law University, Delhi, bagged the second rank among law institutes while the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, was adjudged the best medical institute in the country. Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has declared the seventh edition of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking 2022. There are a total of 11 categories under which the Indian universities will be ranked. The announcement was made for overall, university, colleges, engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture, dental and research category. The NIRF ranking is given on the basis of five parameters – teaching, learning and resources (TLR), research and professional practices (RPC), graduation outcomes (GO), outreach and inclusivity (OI), and perception.

Jamia improves position from 6th in 2021 to 3rd this year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar on Friday said the university's faculty members did a lot of research work during the Covid-19 pandemic which helped it improve its position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework. In the seventh edition of NIRF rankings announced earlier in the day by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Jamia significantly improved its position from the 6th spot last year to the 3rd this year. "The university has been making consistent efforts to improve the quality of teaching, learning and research. In NIRF rankings, we have progressed from 83rd rank in 2016 to 6th rank in 2021 and now figure among the three top universities of the nation. "This remarkable achievement

was possible because of the relevant and focused research of highest quality and teaching by the dedicated and devoted faculty members of the university," Akhtar said. She said the university lost many of its faculty members to Covid-19 and this pushed the others to work harder. "Covid-19 wreaked havoc but there was also a positive thing that came out of it. Our faculty members were awakened and they did a lot of research work, which is reflecting in the rankings," she added. Akhtar said the improved perception of the university in terms of teaching, placements and research, etc. was also a contributing factor. JMI has become one of the sought-after universities and the increased number of applications for admissions is a testimony to it, she said. "We hope to do better in the coming years," she said.

Jilted lover who threw acid on girl held after gunfight Zubair gets bail in 2018 tweet case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

A 38-year-old woman was hospitalised with burn injuries after an attack by her jilted lover in Noida. Gautam Buddh Nagar police said they arrested the accused on Friday after a gunfight. According to police, the gunfight in which the accused got bullet injury took place within 16 hours of the acid attack. The accused has been identified as Vikas (36), a native of Badaun district in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and currently he was residing at Mamura. Police said the accused Vikas had thrown the acidic substance (battery water) at the woman on Thursday night near a hotel in the Mamura area and then fled the spot. "The woman with burn injuries was taken to a local hospital but soon referred to the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi where she is

undergoing treatment. She has sustained 30-32 per cent burns on her face, neck and feet," said the senior police official. "Following the incident, a police team was formed and the team of Phase 3 police station on Friday morning was in the Sector 68 area when they noticed a suspicious-looking man on a bike," said Harish Chander, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central Noida. "Seeing the police team, he tried to escape and even opened fire on the police team. He got hit on his leg during retaliatory firing by the police and was taken to a hospital for treatment," said the DCP. Later during inquiry when he was found linked with Thursday night's acid attack case, the accused claimed that he was married to the woman and they stayed together in Mumbai for three years but she had now got into a relationship

with another person. "On interrogation, the accused Vikas told police that he was frustrated with this and that is why he had planned the attack on the woman. His claim of marriage to the woman is being verified and his criminal history also being checked," said the DCP. "The accused also followed her and rented a flat in the same locality where she was staying. For the past few months, he was pressurising her to reconcile and live with him. He was also miffed with the fact that the woman had got into a relationship with another man," said a police official privy to investigation. An First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged against Vikas under section 326A (acid attack) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and further legal proceedings are being carried out, the police said.

JNU lab attendant molests 8-year-old girl, arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An eight-year-old girl was allegedly molested by a 52-year-old Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) lab attendant on the campus when she had gone for her tuition. Police said the accused person's son gives tuition to students and the girl had gone for the tuition classes on July 11 when the incident occurred. According to Manoj C, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, police received a call Monday about the alleged molestation at Paschimabad, JNU. "The caller, who works on the campus, told the police that his daughter had gone for

tuition when her tutor's father allegedly touched her inappropriately and kissed her. After returning to home, the child told her father about the incident who called the police," the DCP said. The accused person was arrested on the same day. "He is a lab attendant at JNU. The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) counsellor was informed," he said. "The accused has been booked under sections 354 (assaulting or using criminal force on a woman) 354B (disrobing or compelling a woman to be naked) of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act," said the DCP.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Friday granted bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in a case related to an "objectionable tweet" he had posted in 2018 on a Hindu deity and said the Hindu religion and its followers are tolerant. Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala granted the relief to Zubair on a bail bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of the like amount, and directed him not to leave the country without its prior permission. In his order granting bail to Zubair the court also prima facie found compliance with the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by Zubair as far as monetary contribution to the fact checking website was concerned. In its 11 pages order, the court asked Zubair to surrender his passport to the



Investigating Agency within three days of his release from jail and "shall not tamper with evidence nor otherwise indulge in any act or omission that is unlawful or that would prejudice the proceedings in the pending matter." "The applicant/accused will join the investigation as and when called by the SHO/IO to do so," it said. Despite securing bail, Zubair will remain in jail as he is in judicial custody in other cases against him by the Uttar

Pradesh Police Observing that "the voice of dissent is necessary for a healthy democracy," the court said that Indian democracy and the political parties are open for their criticism and merely criticism of any political parties it is not justified to invoke section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 295A (outraging religious feelings) of IPC. The court said "undoubtedly free speech is the proper foundation of a democratic society." While granting bail, the court said the accused is not required for any custodial interrogation and the alleged act would come into the category of offence only when it is done with a guilty intention. "The website of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India reveals that the number of companies is incorporated, in the name of Holy Hindu God or Goddess.

LG recommends suspension of senior official on graft charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor DVK Saxena has recommended suspension of a senior official, who was the additional district magistrate, north Delhi, under the Revenue department in 2021, over an alleged "scam" involving transfer of forest land to private individuals. Five officers, including an ADM, two SDMs, a sub registrar and a deputy secretary of Delhi Government, were suspended last month on LG's instructions over land-related "scams" in north and south Delhi. "The LG has approved initiation of major penalty proceedings and recommended to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the suspension of Nitin Jindal (DANICS), then

ADM (North) under the revenue department of the Delhi government following the illegal sale and transfer of government land worth crores of rupees in North Delhi," said sources aware of the development. According to the sources, it may be recalled that Saxena has been laying stress on complete probity in public dealings and "Zero Tolerance" to corruption. Jindal has been charged with illegally transferring the forest department land located in village Zindpur under North District to private individuals in March 2021. The Directorate of Vigilance, prima facie, found "grave misconduct" by the concerned officer, who willfully ignored established ownership of the land with the forest department, upheld time and again by different orders of the Financial Commissioner as

well as the High Court and transferred the land illegally on the basis of a much inferior Administration of Justice court (ADJ) for extraneous considerations, informed sources. Jindal faces the charges of "receiving huge pecuniary benefits" by "abusing his official powers" in illegally and blatantly transferring the land, which is valued worth crores of rupees, it said. "The matter pertains to the admission of an appeal under Delhi Land reforms (DLR) Act 1954, after 31 years. The appeal was initially being heard by the DM or Collector of the North district, being the appellate authority, but for some reasons, Jindal, the then ADM of the district started hearing matter with effect from February 2021, without any jurisdiction in the matter and thus violating the DLR Act," it said.

Kingdom of Dreams sealed over non-payment of ₹107 crore dues

GURUGRAM: Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) has sealed the Kingdom of Dreams (KOD) located in Sector-29 due to non-payment of the monthly lease payment to the tune of Rs 107 crores over the last several years. Officials of the HSVP said that notices had been issued to the KOD management regarding the pending dues but the management failed to act against the notices. According to information a lease contract was done between Gagan Sharma, the operator of Kingdom Dreams, and HSVP in 1998 and the KOD was completed in 2008, the management was to pay Rs 34 lakh every month as rent to HSVP from 2008 onwards. However, despite being given repeated notices by the HSVP, the due amount was not paid

by the KOD management. HSVP officials said, the Great Indian Nautanki Company was running the KOD and was given several notices by HSVP to clear the dues but the management did not take the notice seriously. Subsequently, on July 6 this month, HSVP administrator Jaspreet Kaur cancelled the lease deed. Even before cancelling the lease deed, 15-20 days show cause notice was given. The authority has also imposed a penalty of 100 crores on the outstanding amount of 108 crores. Apart from this, a penalty of about ₹114 crore has also been imposed for the land encroached near KOD. This land was cleared only last week. "The lease deed was cancelled for non-payment of amount.



City Govt has hiked charges of water, sewer connection: LoP Bidhuri; DJB denies

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition of Delhi Assembly and BJP MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Friday alleged that Delhi Government has increased development charges on water and sewer connection without any intimation after increasing the power purchase adjustment cost (PPAC). Meanwhile, Delhi Jal Board has denied the allegations saying the levy on water and sewer development charges has already been abolished by the DJB providing significant relief to the consumers. In a statement, Bidhuri said sewage rates have also been increased in a similar pattern of PPAC on electricity. "Development fee of Rs 2.5 lakhs is now levied for domestic sewage connection for 200 square metre plots and it would increase to Rs. 4.5 lakhs for

commercial connection," Bidhuri alleged. Bidhuri has demanded immediate withdrawal of the hiked electricity rates and the increase in water-sewer development charges so that the public can get relief. He added that the DJB gave excuse of infrastructure charges to increase the development charges. Previously, the development fee for domestic water connection was Rs. 100 per square meter which has now increased to Rs. 220.50. Similarly, development fee is increased to three lakhs eighty thousand from 20 thousand for 200 square metres plot.

CUET: 'It was easy, but many got stressed out in vain'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Nancy Verma (18) barely slept last night. She was to write an exam in the morning, the first-ever Common University Entrance Test (CUET) — that would decide the college she gets for the undergraduate courses. Her anxiety, she says, was less about the exam itself, and more about how she would reach the centre. "I got to know about the centre very late yesterday," Verma said. "If I had known about the examination centre earlier, I would have made some other arrangements." Many students in the national Capital said the stress of writing the first-ever CUET paper, with no previous years' question bank to prepare with and nothing really to deduce a pattern, was compounded by the last-minute change of cen-



Students come out after appearing for the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET UG 2022), in the first slot, in New Delhi on Friday. The first phase of the CUET, a common gateway for undergraduate admissions in all Central Universities, began Friday across 500 centres in India and 10 abroad

tres and the sultry weather. "I don't check my e-mail usually but I am thankful that I checked it yesterday because there was a mail from the NTA (National Testing Agency) informing about the change of centre from Dwarka to North Campus Delhi University," said Kanishka (17), who wants to pursue BA (political science) from Delhi University's Miranda House. The CUET exam is being conducted in two phases — Phase 1 in July, Phase 2 in August. Candidates who have opted for Physics, Chemistry or Biology have been assigned to Phase 2 of the CUET exam, given that NEET (UG) - 2022 will be held on July 17. The UGC chief had in March announced that CUET scores, and not Class 12 marks, would be mandatory for admission to 45 Central universities which can fix their minimum eligibility criteria.

The first set of CUET-UG papers, the gateway for undergraduate admissions in all Central universities, began at 9 am Friday at centres across more than 510 cities in India and abroad. Nancy Verma said reaching the examination centre in Janakpuri from her home in Badarpur felt more arduous a task than writing the paper itself. "I slept very late at night because of the fear of missing the examination and I was also nervous about the examination. I had to wake up at 5:30. I left home by 6:30 am," she said. She then had to hop-on-hop-off different modes of transport to reach the centre. "I first took an auto to the metro station and boarded a metro from Sarai for Janakpuri. The metro journey itself was 1.5 hrs. Then I took an e-rickshaw for the examination centre. I reached the centre in

time by 8:15 am. Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology in Janakpuri," she added. Nancy said if she had known about her examination centre earlier she would have planned it better. "I was more fearful about the journey than the actual exam. I was already exhausted when I reached the centre." Several students said the authorities should have made the admit card available earlier, and ensure centre allotment was done properly. "I feel the arrangement could have been better. The admit card could have been made available a few days ahead of the exam and the centre should have been allocated near to the students' homes. The weather is very hot. There is no metro connectivity to the place where I live. So, we took an auto till the bus stand and then boarded a bus. By the time I reached the

examination. I was drenched in the sweat," said Rakesh Kumar (42), heaving a sigh of relief on seeing his daughter Akanksha (17) coming out of the centre at the Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology. Akanksha, who wants to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Delhi University, said, "I was getting stressed out in vain. It was easy. Everything was what we have studied so far." Most other students say exams were not that difficult and nothing was "out of syllabus". There were no big technical glitches as well, barring a few small ones.

Rajnath launches stealth frigate

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to indigenisation in warship building, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched a stealth frigate Y-3023 Dunagiri, Project 17-A frigate built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.

Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and other senior officers attended the ceremony. The P17-A frigates are a follow-on class of the P17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.

Seven P17-A frigates are under various stages of construction at the Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai and the GRSE. Speaking on the occasion, Rajnath said 'Dunagiri' would be a world class stealth frigate with multidimensional capabilities to



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches P17A stealth frigate 'Dunagiri' in the presence of Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, GRSE chairman PR Hari and president Navy Wives Welfare Association (NWWA) Kala Hari Kumar, in Kolkata, on Friday

destroy enemies from sea, sky, and underwater. Dunagiri is the fourth frigate.

He also said security challenges in the Indian Ocean region and Indo-Pacific are constantly increasing. In order to achieve the Prime Minister's

Vision of 'SAGAR', i.e. 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' and to protect, preserve and promote India's national maritime interests, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and other organisations have to increase the infrastructure and

assets so that the country stay ahead of the curve in dealing with these challenges, the defence minister said.

The Navy chief said in all future shipbuilding contracts of the Navy, 88 per cent of them on cost basis, amounting to investments of nearly Rs 1,75,000 Crore, are being progressed through Indian enterprises.

This means that for every Rs 10 Crore spent on capital procurement, Rs nine Crore is invested back into our economy, the Navy chief said.

In addition, 29 Indian original equipment manufacturers along with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) across the country are contributing to this project, he added. Kala Hari Kumar, wife of Admiral Kumar and President, Navy Wives Welfare Association performed the traditional honours and named

the ship Dunagiri after which it was launched into the Hooghly river. It is christened after a mountain range in the state of Uttarakhand, 'Dunagiri' and is the reincarnation of the erstwhile 'Dunagiri', the Leander Class Anti-Submarine Warfare frigate, which was in service from May 05, 1977 to October 20, 2010.

Seven ships are under construction under P-17A, four at Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three at GRSE. While the first two P-17A ships were launched in 2019 and 2020 at MDL and GRSE respectively, the third ship, Udaygiri, was launched at MDL in May this year.

Last month, the keel for the seventh P-17A frigate was laid at MDL. Keel Laying is a major milestone symbolising formal commencement of the erection process of warships on the building berth.

MHA constitutes panel to conduct performance, efficiency audit

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to improve the working of the Defence Ministry, the Government has set up an apex committee with the Defence Secretary as its chairman to conduct a performance and efficiency audit into various aspects of its activities.

This kind of audit is expected to provide valuable inputs to the top management of the ministry of specific shortcomings, if any, in planning and execution of projects, and suggest systemic improvements in internal controls, soundness of financial procedures, identification of risk factors, officials

said here on Friday. They said it is a major shift from the existing transaction-based compliance audit to carry out an outcome-based Performance or Efficiency Audit aimed at enhancing overall efficiency.

The members of the committee include Vice Chiefs of the three Services, Secretary Defence (Finance), Chief of Integrated Staff Committee (CISC), Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Director General (Acquisition) and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The broad areas identified for conduct of

Performance and Efficiency Audit include Defence Capital Procurements, provisioning, logistics, inventory levels, Maintenance of platforms/assets, role and performance of Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP).

The committee will identify specific areas for the conduct of performance and audit by the CGDA and monitor performance audit reports and action taken thereon. It also shall advise Defence Minister on remedial measures to be adopted as well as measures for overall improvement in strengthening of internal oversight and Risk Management Framework.

Health Ministry issues guidelines for management of Monkeypox



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the detection of the first case of Monkeypox in India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Friday issued guidelines for the management of the disease.

As per the Ministry's guidelines, international passengers should avoid close contact with sick people, contact with dead or living wild animals and others.

The guidelines also advise the international travellers from eating or preparing meat from wild game (bushmeat) or using products (creams, lotions, powders) derived from wild animals from Africa.

"International passengers should also avoid contact with contaminated materials used by sick people such as clothing, bedding or materials used in healthcare settings, or that came into contact with infected animals," said the Ministry's guidelines.

People who develop symptoms suggestive of Monkeypox like fever and skin rash and were in an area where the disease has been reported or had come in contact with a person who might have Monkeypox have been advised to immediately consult the nearest health facility.

ately consult the nearest health facility.

The guidelines came a day after India reported first laboratory-confirmed case of Monkeypox in Kerala from Kollam district after which the Centre rushed a multi-disciplinary team of experts to collaborate with the State health authorities in instituting public health measures.

India's first Monkeypox case is also South East Asia's first. The 35-year-old patient is a traveller from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who arrived in Trivandrum on July 12 and tested positive for the viral disease.

The central team to Kerala comprised experts drawn from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr RML Hospital, New Delhi and senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with experts from the Regional Office of Health and Family Welfare, Kerala.

The Centre also wrote to all the states and union territories, reiterating some of the key actions that are required to contain the spread of the disease. In his letter, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asked all the states and union

territories to take key actions like orientation and regular re-orientation of all key stakeholders including health screening teams at points of entries (PoEs), disease surveillance teams, doctors working in hospitals about common signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, case definitions for suspect/probable/confirmed cases and contacts, contact tracing and other surveillance activities that need to be undertaken following the detection of a case, testing, IPC protocols, clinical management etc.

"Patient isolation (until all lesions have resolved and scabs have completely fallen off), protection of ulcers, symptomatic and supportive therapies, continued monitoring and timely treatment of complications remain the key measures to prevent mortality," the Health Secretary said.

WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

According to World Health Organization (WHO), Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. Monkeypox is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal, or with material contaminated with the virus. It is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting from two to four weeks, WHO said.

'Legal experts to be consulted on amending anti-defection law'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Consensus eludes presiding Officers on the contentious issue of amending the anti-defection law, which continues to hog limelight in States like Maharashtra. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who chaired meeting of presiding officers on Friday, said constitution experts, legal scholars and other stakeholders will be consulted on the matter.

Two divergent views emerged among the members of a committee constituted to examine law, with the majority in favour of giving more power to the Chair, while the minority view suggested that power

should be with president of the political party. Birla had constituted three-member committee under Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C P Joshi in 2019 after a lot of deliberation to review and amend anti-defection law.

The recent political developments in Maharashtra and Goa have brought focus back on law. The Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government in Maharashtra collapsed on June 29 following a rebellion by Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde and most of party MLAs. Sources said that at meeting, the minority view was that since party president distributes poll tickets, he can decide on fate of the defecting

lawmakers. But later, it was felt that any decision in matter requires more inputs from legal luminaries and there was a need to consult law experts. Addressing press conference, Birla said issues like strengthening anti-defection law, awards to outstanding lawmakers and minimum number of sittings of House were discussed at meeting.

"Presiding officers, constitution experts, legal scholars and other stakeholders will be consulted to amend and strengthen the law," Birla said. The 10th Schedule, which deals with anti-defection, was added to the Constitution in 1985 to tackle frequent defections.

SC to hear BCCI plea seeking to amend its constitution next week

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it will hear next week the plea of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) seeking to amend its constitution with regard to the tenure of its office bearers including president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Krishna Murari was told by senior advocate PS Patwalia, appearing for the BCCI, that their application was filed two years ago and direction was given by the court to list the matter after two weeks. "But then Covid happened and matter could not be listed. Please list this matter for urgent hearing because

amendments to the constitution are in pipeline for two years now", he said. Patwalia said the earlier order of the court says that amendment to the constitution can only be done with prior permission of the court. The bench said it will see that the matter is listed for next week.

Earlier, the Justice RM Lodha-led committee had recommended reforms in the BCCI which have been accepted by the top court. According to the recommendations, there should be a three-year cooling off period for the office bearers of the BCCI after a tenure of six years once a post comes to an end at the state cricket association or at BCCI level.

Pak scribe row: BJP releases photo

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a counter to the former Vice-President, who described BJP's allegations of him "leaking information" to a Pakistani journalist whom he invited to India as "litany of falsehood", the BJP on Friday said it stood by its charges and cited a photograph of both purportedly sharing stage during a conference in India in 2009 on terrorism.

The former-Vice-President too, in his rebuttal, said he stood by his first statement. In a fresh attack on Ansari, the BJP said he has put the "entire blame" on the then Congress-led-UPA Government by contending that he had not invited Pakistani scribe Nusrat Mirza as foreign guests are invited by the Government of India only on the advice of the



Foreign Ministry." The BJP said, "It would not be wrong to say Congress has links with anti-national forces and its current flows from Pakistan. Ansari and Congress president Sonia Gandhi will have to answer on this issue."

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters, the party's national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia showed a picture of Ansari purportedly sharing a stage with Mirza at a

conference on terrorism here in 2009. People holding constitutional posts should act responsibly and should have not shared the stage with Mirza, Bhatia said. Subsequent to BJP's new attack, Ansari, in his second rejoinder, said he stands by his previous statement that he never knew or invited Pakistani journalist Nusrat Mirza to any conference.

Mirza has claimed that he had visited India five times during the UPA rule and passed on sensitive information collected here to his country's spy agency ISI. Mirza purportedly commented that he had visited India on Ansari's invitations and also met him. "The former Vice President of India stands by his earlier statement that he never knew or invited Pakistan journalist Nusrat Mirza to any

conference, including the 2010 conference mentioned by Nusrat Mirza or 2009 conference on terrorism or on any other occasion," a statement from Ansari's office said.

Rebutting the BJP's claim of inviting Mirza, Ansari had earlier said it is a known fact that invitations to foreign dignitaries by the Vice-President of India are on the advice of the government, generally through the Ministry of External Affairs. Hitting out at the Congress, Bhatia said intelligence clearance is required for holding such programmes and inviting dignitaries from abroad.

For a programme of someone holding a constitutional post, protocol dictates that his office gathers information about those involved in the event.

IN SHORTS

SC TO HEAR CBI'S PLEA AGAINST KERALA HC
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it would hear on July 27 the CBI's plea against the Kerala High Court order that had lifted the 60-day time limit on the anticipatory bail granted to former DGP Siby Mathews in a case relating to the alleged framing of scientist Nambi Narayanan in the 1994 ISRO espionage case.

THERE HAS TO BE SYNERGY AMONG STAKEHOLDERS: IAF
New Delhi: There has to be synergy amongst all the stakeholders in guarding the air space of the country and any gaps may see creation of an Air Defence Command counter-productive, IAF chief V R Chaudhari said here on Friday. His remarks came in the backdrop of ongoing work to have theatre commands.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICI Bank Branch Office: ICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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 ICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Raj Kumar/ Amita Devi/ LBGUR00002077645	Flat No- 531- GF, Ground Floor, Akme Homes, Akme Polis, Nh-95, Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Village Jandiali Ludhiana/ July 13, 2022	August 31, 2020 Rs. 59,51,802/-	Delhi/ Ludhiana

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 : July 16, 2022
Place: Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICI Bank Branch Office: ICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020. CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icibank.com

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	i) Mukut Raychoudhury/ Sobha Raychoudhury/ Roopak Roychoudhury/ Indrani Bhattacharjee/ ii) SCR 3 Unit 3 Kharavela Namar Bhubaneswar Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001 ii) Scr 3 Unit 5 Kharavela Namar Bhubaneswar Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001 iii) Scr 3 Unit 5 Kharavela Namar Bhubaneswar Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001 iv) Scr 3 Unit 6 Kharavela Namar Bhubaneswar Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001 v) Scr 3 Unit 7 Kharavela Namar Bhubaneswar Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001 vi) Scr 3 Unit 8 Kharavela Namar Bhubaneswar Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001 vii) Scr 3 Unit 4 Kharavel Nagra Orissa Bhubaneswar-751001/ LBBBS00003869776/ LBBBS0000442646	Plot No- 3(SCR), 116, Unit - 3, Khata No- 367 Mouza Kharvela Nagar- I Orissa Bhubaneswar. (Admeasuring An Area of 2700 Sq.ft. and 0.060 Dec.	June 08, 2022 Rs. 2,47,64,248.64/-	05.04. 2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : July 16, 2022
Place : Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICI Bank Limited

ED seizes ₹11.88 crore from J'khand CM's aide, others

NEWDELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized cash amounting to Rs 11.88 crore lying in 37 bank accounts belonging to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's close aide Pankaj Mishra, another accused Dahoo Yadav and their associates under Prevention of Money laundering Act (PMLA) in the Jharkhand illegal mining case.

Cash and bank balance of Rs 36.58 crore, illegally generated from mining has been seized so far by ED in the case and further investigation is in progress, the ED said. "A trail of further Rs 100 crore of 'proceeds of crime' generated from illegal mining has also been unearthed and is being worked upon," the agency said in its statement.

Earlier, the ED had conducted searches at 19 locations in Sahibganj, Barhet, Rajmahal, Mirza Chauki and Barharwa resulting in seizure of various incriminating documents and Rs 5.34 crore unaccounted cash on July 8 as part of PMLA probe into alleged irregularities in operation of toll plaza tenders and instances of illegal mining in State.

"During this search operation, ED has also seized five stone crushers that were being illegally operated from site and also five illegal firearm cartridges," the agency said. **PNS**

NIRF ranking 2022: IIT-M retains top spot for 4th year in a row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, retained the top spot among institutes in the country for the fourth consecutive year where as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru was the best university and research

institution, according to the Ministry of Education's (MoE) National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings.

The seventh edition of NIRF rankings was announced on Friday by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who said every higher education institution will be part of the NIRF by next year. "By next year, we will unify institutional accreditation, which is presently done by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and the programme accreditation is presently done by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA)," he announced.

Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati-- figured in the top 10 in the overall rankings. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were ranked ninth and tenth in the overall rankings.

The Delhi University slipped by a spot to the 13th position and in the overall rankings as well, the DU's position declined to 23 from 19 last year. DU is ranked behind JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia, which bagged the second and third positions, respectively in the NIRF under the University category. **PNS**

In the universities category, IISc Bengaluru bagged the top spot followed by JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia at second and third rank. The BHU, which was ranked third last year in the category, slipped to the sixth position this year.

Jadavpur University, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Calcutta University, Vellore Institute of Technology and University of Hyderabad bagged the subsequent positions in the universities category.

Eight IITs -- Madras, Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati and Hyderabad -- figured among the top 10 ranks in the engineering institutions category. The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirappalli -- which was ranked ninth last year -- has bagged the eighth spot this year while NIT Surathkal has retained its 10th position.

Among colleges, Miranda House retained its spot as the best college in the country followed by Hindu College which has improved its rank to make it to the second spot from the ninth position last year.

Lady Sri Ram College for Women slipped to fifth rank from the second spot last year while Presidency College, Chennai climbed to the third spot from the seventh position.

Will not permit unmarried woman to terminate pregnancy at 23 weeks: HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday said it will not permit an unmarried woman to undergo medical termination of pregnancy at 23 weeks, observing it virtually amounts to killing the foetus.

The High Court also said the law granted time to unmarried women to undergo the procedure of medical termination of pregnancy and the legislature has "purposefully excluded consensual relationship" from the category of cases where termination is permissible after 20 weeks and up to 24 weeks.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma suggested that the petitioner be kept "somewhere safe" until she delivers the child who can subsequently be given up for adoption. "We will ensure that the girl is kept somewhere safe and she can deliver and go. There is a big queue for adoption," observed the bench, also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad.

"We will not permit you to kill that child. (We are) very sorry. This virtually amounts to killing (the foetus)," said the court orally as it noted that almost 24 out of 36 weeks of gestation were over.

KCR steps up efforts for ‘third’ alternative sans Cong, BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

In line with his efforts to galvanise a non-Congress and non-BJP political front in the country, TRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Friday dialed up his counterparts in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Delhi namely Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin and Arvind Kejriwal besides the NCP, SP and RJD chiefs Sharad Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav respectively.

During the last six months KCR had been meeting and visiting these leaders. Sources close to KCR said his telephonic calls are part of his plans to intensify his efforts to cobble up a non-BJP, non-Congress coalition at the



national level.

Sources said KCR also spoke to Shiv Sena chief and former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray.

KCR is reaching out to leaders of many non-BJP and non-Congress parties to join forces, as part of his campaign against the Centre's alleged anti-people policies.

The TRS chief will test the waters during the forthcoming Monsoon Session to see if a United Front of these political

parties could be projected in Parliament.

The TRS MPs would raise a number of issues, including the NDA Government's alleged lopsided economic policies and injustice meted out to Telangana, during the Monsoon session of Parliament commencing July 18, sources maintained.

“The TRS president would “sharpen his efforts to safeguard the federal, secular and democratic values which are in danger in the country,” the TRS sources said.

Rao is working towards exposing the NDA Government, which is leading the country into an economic crisis, they alleged.

The Telangana Chief Minister, who has been vociferous in his opposition towards

the Centre and the BJP on several issues, is gearing up to expose the Central Government's undemocratic attitude by organising nationwide protests, they claimed.

The TRS chief would hold a meeting with the party MPs on Saturday and chalk out the strategy to be followed during the upcoming session. “To reflect the people's viewpoint, the CM will advise the MPs to raise the falling value of Rupee against the US dollar and fight against the Centre in both houses,” it said.

The TRS Government has accused the BJP-led NDA Government of not delivering on the promises made to Telangana in the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act and also not helping the state with funds for development.

Fadnavis calls on MNS chief Raj, meeting sparks speculation

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

In a development that sparked speculation in the State political circles, Maharashtra's deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday called on MNS chief Raj Thackeray at the latter's residence “Shiv Tirth” at Dadar in north-central Mumbai on Friday.

Nearly three weeks after the MNS chief was discharged from Lilavati Hospital on June 25 after a hip replacement surgery, Fadnavis met Raj and made enquiries about his health and wished him speedy recovery from his surgery. Fadnavis was felicitated by Raj and his wife Sharmila, on the former becoming the deputy chief minister of the state. “I am grateful to Raj Thackeray and his wife for felicitating me on the occasion,” the senior BJP leader tweeted.

Fadnavis' visit to Raj's resi-



dence came eleven days after the MNS' lone MLA Raju Patil voted in favour of the confidence vote brought in by Maharashtra's new chief minister Eknath Shinde, who formed a government in the state with the support of the Opposition BJP.

Shinde and Fadnavis, it may be recalled, were sworn in as the Chief Minister and deputy Chief Minister respectively on June 30. Four days later, Shinde won the vote of confidence on the floor of the State Assembly.

On its part, the BJP sought to play down the import of Fadnavis' visit to Raj's residence,

saying that it was more of a courtesy call than anything else. However, the BJP leaders' “courtesy call” came in the midst of intense speculation that the Shinde group-BJP alliance government might induct MNS' lone MLA Raju Patil in the State Cabinet in lieu of the MNS' support to the new dispensation in the state.

Interestingly enough, there was also speculation that the Shinde camp-BJP combine Government had offered ministerial berth to Raj's son Amit Thackeray. However, the MNS chief himself dismissed speculation. Raj, who had a few years ago turned a staunch critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government, has been cosying up to the BJP in recent months. Even the BJP had openly come out in support of the campaign launched by the MNS chief demanding the removal of loudspeakers from mosques.

Rain continues to batter parts of south Gujarat, Saurashtra

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Heavy rains continued to lash several parts of south Gujarat and Saurashtra region on Friday with six talukas receiving over 200 mm rainfall in 24 hours ending 6 am, officials said.

There appears to be no immediate respite in sight as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted “heavy to very heavy rainfall” at some places in south Gujarat and Saurashtra in the next 24 hours.

A release by the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) said since the monsoon is still active over Gujarat, considerable rainfall was recorded between 6 am and 10 am on Friday in Valsad and Navsari districts of south Gujarat and Gir Somnath district of Saurashtra region.

2 soldiers killed in case of fratricide in Poonch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAMMU

A Territorial Army jawan Friday killed one of his colleagues and injured two others in a fit of anger before shooting himself dead inside an Army camp in Surankote area of Poonch.

An inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the circumstances under which the army jawans were killed inside an army camp in Surankote.

According to reports, the firing incident was reported early morning around 5.30 a.m when the jawans were being deployed for routine Road Opening party duties.

Official sources said, “an army jawan opened fire on his colleagues inside an army camp



and later shot himself with his service weapon. Initially one soldier succumbed to his injuries while the jawan who opened fire succumbed to his injuries late in the evening.

He was critically injured and had received three gunshot injuries. Till the time of filing the report no official statement was released by the office of Defence PRO

BJP condemns CPI(M) legislator's ‘monster remark’ against Modi

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The BJP in Kerala on Friday came down heavily on CPI(M) legislator AN Shamseer for his recent offensive remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the State Assembly and urged the Speaker to remove them from the House records at the earliest. They also warned the Thalassery MLA of massive people's protests against the “most derogatory” and “baseless” references against the PM.

Party State president K Surendran said though Shamseer made derogatory remarks personally tarnishing the PM on the floor of the House, neither Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan nor Speaker M B Rajesh had made any attempt to interrupt him or correct him.

“The remarks made by the

ruling legislator were unprecedented in the democratic history of the country. They were anti-democratic as well as against the dignity of the House,” he told reporters in Palakkad. Stating that the silence of senior legislators, ministers and the opposition MLAs over the issue were “unfortunate” and “deplorable”, he urged the Speaker to take necessary steps to remove the controversial remarks from the House records at the earliest.

BJP imposing regulated democracy in India: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hours after the BJP Government followed up its “unparliamentary language” diatribes by banning sit-ins inside Parliament premises, the Trinamool Congress launched a scathing attack on the Centre for imposing a “regulated democracy” in the country.

Wondering whether the

order was implementable in practice senior party MP Saugato Roy said, “Yesterday we heard about orders on so-called unparliamentary languages ... today comes this order banning dharna ... I don't know what they are up to ... the BJP Government is trying to impose

a regulated democracy in India ... the order simply amounts to infringement on the rights of people's representatives ... it is time that the opposition irrespective of their party colours unite against such order.” When asked whether such a directive could be implemented in prac-

tice, he said “I don't think they would be very serious about its implementation ... in any case the opposition parties still have the option of moving a no-trust motion on issues of national importance ... particularly one that pertains to the rights of the MPs.”

CBI arrests NHAI CGM for taking bribe of ₹10 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday arrested NHAI CGM and Regional Officer Digvijay Mishra from Gandhinagar while allegedly receiving Rs 10 lakh bribe from a private contractor GHV India representative for favouring the company in the Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway project.

Mishra, the Chief General Manager (CGM) and Regional Officer (RO) of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), was booked after receiving a complaint of cor-

ruption against him for favouring the company which was engaged in the 109 km Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway project, officials said.

During surveillance, it emerged that Mishra was favouring the company in the settlement of bills, award of work, completion certificates, extension of deadlines and other matters related to package 1 and 2 of the project, among others, they said.

On getting confirmation about a possible bribe exchange, CBI teams laid a

trap at the location and arrested Mishra who was allegedly receiving the bribe from TP Singh, a representative of the company. Singh was also taken into custody, officials said. Following the arrests, the CBI conducted searches at 14 locations in Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Pune, Delhi and Chandigarh and recovered the bribe money of Rs 10 lakh besides Rs 22 lakh cash.

In December, the CBI had arrested NHAI official Akil Ahmad in a bribery case of Rs 20 lakh.

PM to inaugurate Bundelkhand Expressway today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Industries Minister Nand Gopal Gupta ‘Nandi’ said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate the Bundelkhand Expressway at Kaitheri village in Orai tehsil of Jalaun district on Saturday.

He said the expressway would give a big boost to connectivity in Uttar Pradesh.

The minister said the Central government had granted environmental clearance to the Ganga Expressway project.

He said the Yogi Adityanath government was committed to enhancing connectivity across the country, a key feature of which was the improvement in road infrastructure.

“A significant endeavour towards this was the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of Bundelkhand Expressway by the prime minister on February 29, 2020. The work on the expressway has been completed within

28 months and it will now be inaugurated by the prime minister,” the minister said.

The 296-km four-lane expressway has been constructed at a cost of around Rs 14,850 crore, under the aegis of Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) and can later be expanded up to six lanes. It extends from National Highway 35 at Gonda village near Bharatkooop in Chitrakoot district to near Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it merges with the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. It passes through seven districts, including Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah.

Along with improving connectivity in the region, the Bundelkhand Expressway will also give a major boost to economic development, resulting in the creation of thousands of jobs for the local people. Work on the creation of an industrial corridor in Banda and Jalaun districts, next to the expressway, has already been started.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS AMARJEET GUR CS No. 2310/17	Vehicle No. DL2CAU4167, Make and Model- MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LTD SWIFT VDI, Manu Year- 2014
ICICI BANK LTD VS RIZOO SOOD CS (COMM) No. 798/2019	Vehicle No. UP14ET9537, Make and Model- CHEVEROLET SAIL LS, Manu Year- 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS AKASH PATIL CS. No. 983/19	Vehicle No. DL1RTB5305, Make and Model- MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R, Manu Year- 2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS JAGDISH KUMAR CS (COMM) No. 1992/ 2021	Vehicle No. UP16ET9417, Make and Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT, Manu Year- 2018. Reserve Price: Rs.1,80,000/-, EMD: Rs.18,000/- is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO of EMD amount alongwith his KYC at site of auction
ICICI BANK LTD VS VIKAS SINGH CS (COMM) No. 4577/2021	Vehicle No. UP16CD6717, Make and Model- Ford Figo, Manu Year- 2019

Auction Date: July 26, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Babar & Anr., CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No - UP14JT1939, Make & Model - ASHOK LEYLAND GURU 1010, Manu. Year- 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS Sonam Tomar & Anr. (COMM) No. 1829/2021	Vehicle No. UP14HT8563, Make and Model - ASHOK LEYLAND LTD PARTNER, Manu Year -2019

Auction Date : July 26, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard, Kharsa No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP, 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS PASHMEEN KAUR. CS(Comm) No. 338/2018	Vehicle No. DL1LX7564, Make and Model - FORCE MOTORS LTD DELIVERY VAN LONG, Manu Year - 2017

Auction Date: July 26, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD., PIO MANIYAARI ROAD, OPPOSITE KANYA GURUKUL SCHOOL, NARELA, NEW DELHI - 110040
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the said assets and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount (wherein applicable) in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi to participate in the auction.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD Amount wherein applicable) within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the payment of remaining sale amount within 5 days, EMD amount (wherein applicable) will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit **ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

(See proviso to rule 8(6))
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sonu Kumar (Borrower), Shiv Kumar (Guarantor) Lan No. LBNOD00002252451	G/UH-801, 8th Floor, Tower-G Urban Homes, Shahpur Bamheta, NH-24 Ghaziabad, 201001 Super Area: 585 Sq. fts	Rs. 19,52, 978.42/- as on July 12, 2022	Rs. 16,25,000/- Rs. 1,62,500/-	July 25, 2022, From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM	August 08,2022, From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website ([URL Link: https://disposahub.com](https://disposahub.com)) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgage/ notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **August 6, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **August 6, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **August 6, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: June 16, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्रथम तल, कॉमर्शियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, ओमेगा-1 (पी-2), ग्रेटर नोएडा
Toll Free No. 18001808296 वेबसाइट : www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

पत्रांक : वाई.ई.ए. /GM(P) / 2022 / 611 **दिनांक : 15/07/2022**

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्र सरकार/राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र शासित/अर्द्धशासित/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के कार्यों का काम से कम चार वर्ष का अनुभव रखने वाले ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सोल्यूशन द्वारा निविदाएं द्विस्तरीय पद्धति से खोली जायेंगी।

कार्यालय आदेश संख्या: वाई.ई.ए. /GM(P) / 2022 / 610 दिनांक 15.07.2022 के अनुपालन में यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की कार्यों में संविदाकार द्वारा बिल ऑफ़ क्वांटिटी (बी.ओ.क्यू.) पर डाले गये 10 प्रतिशत कम दरों तक 0.5 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत कम दर पर तथा उसके पश्चात 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक कम दरों पर 1.00 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत कम दर पर सिक्वोरिटी/परफॉर्मेंस गारन्टी प्राप्त की जायेगी तथा परफॉर्मेंस गारन्टी एक.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर./बैंक गारन्टी/एन.एस.सी. के रूप में न्यूनतम संविदाकार द्वारा अनुबन्ध गठन से पूर्व देनी होगी, जो कार्य के अन्तिम बीजक होने के बाद वापिस होगी।

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम /वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	Supply of Water Tanker and Sweeper on hire For Mobile Toilet at Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Village Abadi in Jewar (Part-G) WC-04	रु. 8.87 लाख
2.	Dewatering and Restoration of pond in village Moonjkhera YEA WC-06	रु. 4.07 लाख
3.	Providing and Fixing kerb Stone in Central verge of 30m wide road in Sec-22E, YEA WC-02	रु. 10.72 लाख
4.	Construction of Boundarywall & Interlocking Tiles in Campus of Barat Ghar in Village-Dubli, YEA WC-06	रु. 19.62 लाख
5.	Balance Work of Internal Road (close graded premix surfacing) in Pocket-B Sector-20 YEA WC-02	रु. 70.84 लाख

जिन्हें दिनांक 21.07.2022 से 01.08.2022 को 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 02.08.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम /वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
6.	C/o Boundarywall and gate for 2MLD Sewage treatment Plant in Sec-22D YEA WC-02	रु. 23.66 लाख
7.	Providing & Laying 12.00 mtr wide road Yamuna Expressway to Village-Ronija at Sector-22E, YEA WC-02	रु. 41.39 लाख
8.	Dewatering and restoration of pond in village-Sabota Mustafabad, YEA WC-06	रु. 12.08 लाख
9.	Dewasting and restoration of pond in village-Ahmedpur Choroli, YEA WC-06	रु. 3.17 लाख
10.	Dewatering and restoration of pond in village-Dyorar, YEA WC-06	रु. 5.21 लाख

जिन्हें दिनांक 22.07.2022 से 03.08.2022 को 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 04.08.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

महाप्रबंधक (परियोजना)

Prez poll: Rajbhar extends support to Murmu

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In yet another blow to the candidature of Yashwant Sinha, the Opposition candidate in the Presidential election, Samajwadi Party ally Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar has announced to support the National Democratic Alliance candidate Droupadi Murmu.

The SBSP has six MLAs in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. He said the decision to support Murmu was taken after discussions with party leaders and office-bearers.

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sachin Aggarwal/ Himanshi Gupta/ S/o Ratan Lal Agarwal 1/9888 A Gali No 3E West Gorakh Prak Shahdara North East Delhi- 110032/ LBDGR00003180405	Flat/unit No. F on The First Floor, of Tower 3, At Salarpuria, Gardenia, in H.I.G, Plot No. 2A-01, Bidhannagar Sector 2A Comprising A Portion of Land With C.s Plot No. 214/2493 (Part), Mouza- Gopinathpur, J.L No. 85, Khatian No. 147, 151, 163, Touzi No. 1, Under P.S- Faridpur, Additional District Sub-registrar Durgapur, Su-Divisiomn, Durgapur, District- Burdwan Within The Jurisdiction of Durgapur Municipal Corporation. Admeasuring an area of 1537 Sq. Ft (saleable Area) Little More or Less Together With Allotment One Utility Room and One Open Terrace Attached to The Said Flatadmeasuring 981 Sq. Ft Saleable Area and One Ground Covered Car Parking Space./ Date of Symbolic 13.07.2022	19-07-2021 Rs. 12,06,537/-	Delhi/ Durgapur

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 : July 16, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

MANAGING SELF IS KEY TO SUCCESS IN LIFE

An uncertain future can be faced only by managing self




RAJYOGI BRAHMKUMAR NIKUNJ

The key challenge of the contemporary time is to manage self. At a time when the whole society is facing uncertainty, old certainties of family, gender, work, finances, class and culture somehow don't work. Many of the guiding traditions of the past too stop working. And hence, it can be said that we are living in an age of uncertainty and also in the age of re-evaluation, as we seek to find new strategies for the future. As the external environment changes fast and becomes more complex and contradictory, the importance of self-management increases, because it is hardly possible to manage the external environment.

Hence, the emphasis has now shifted towards managing our inner environment to harness inner resources. The challenge is to redefine, reinvent and reorient for the future. Success at managing ourselves will determine how we survive and prosper in the coming days.

Worldwide, there is a vast amount of literature available on the subject of management, much of which is written or based on experience, churning and observance of human behaviour. However, there are certain formulas that have universal applicability and can be applied while managing self, business and industry as they are of general nature. One of these generally applicable formulae is that there would often or always be some events over which you do not have a personal hold but your attitudes towards them are your own creation and therefore, it lies in your own hands, to have the right type of attitude. For example, there may be a sudden natural calamity or a communal riot or a change in government's policy on trade and commerce that affects you adversely. It is neither a thing of your own creation nor of your



own choosing. Even if you had willed it otherwise, you could not have changed this event. So, take it as a fact of life and bear with it. In short, your attitude should be of acceptance of the fact that it has happened and then you should try to find the remedy instead of feeling deeply upset or shaken and losing the mood to face the challenge. In fact, one should take such a problem as an opportunity to apply one's skills, use their talents, presence of mind and resourcefulness and come out victorious and have the satisfaction of having achieved something in the face of heavy odds. Remember! Change is the name of the game and we must learn how to handle it effectively, because there is little margin for error. One must realise that the cost of not managing change is very high. Hence, those who don't manage change successfully, are very likely to become redundant, not just in terms of their work, but also in terms of their meaningful participation in society.

Many people have talked about transition in their lives and how what worked in the past just does not seem working anymore. This can happen in the form of a crisis or a series of crises. Those who pass through this phase, sometimes judge themselves harshly. Yet this is the process of transition. We have to let go of the old. Once we understand how transition takes place, we can make sense of it. 'There is benefit in everything' – this understanding is required in order to live effectively and happily in the 21st Century. We need to live with this positive approach that whatever is happening around, is actually happening to help me learn and grow. There is a significance in upheaval, as it leads to new systems, new practices and new methods, to make us more effective. These fundamental principles help us to manage self effortlessly and with great effectiveness, while being a part of transition.

(The author is a spiritual educator)

Women suffer violence silently across the world

Various studies concur that violence against women across geographies is unabated, while there's abysmal reporting of cases



My husband cut my right hand off to stop me from working, but I will work and prove him wrong," said 23-year-old Renu Khatun, a newly-appointed nurse in a government hospital in West Bengal's East Burdwan district, while practicing to write with her left hand from the hospital bed a few days back.

In another part of the world in St. Petersburg in Russia, a 28-year old Margarita Gracheva's abusive husband, in a fit of rage, chopped both her hands off, who, now, with her artificial hands, is a co-host in a first of a kind Russian TV show that helps women fight against domestic violence.

As such gory tales of male aggression continue unabated, the WHO declared that 'violence against women is a violation of human rights, and a persistent and major public health problem'. In the pre-pandemic world, it estimated that around 852 million women (15 years and above) or 1 in 3 (30 percent) have been subjected to intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual violence by a non-partner in a lifetime, with a varying prevalence rate across the WHO regions such as in the Western Pacific (20 percent), Europe (22 percent), Americas (25 percent), Africa (33 percent), the Eastern Mediterranean region (31 percent), and the South-East Asia region (33 percent). In India, it ranged between 33 and 41 percent.

In 2020, the UN Women projected the grim reality of the 'shadow pandemic', which affected not less than 243 million women and girls as the victims of gender-based violence (GBV). In 2021, its 13-country survey confirmed that about 1 in 4 women felt less safe at home, while, almost 1 in 2 women, reportedly, became victims of GBV. The same trend continued in countries across the world with the USA, witnessing a spike by 8.1 percent and six other countries like Australia, Argentina, Mexico, India, Italy and Sweden, on an average, by 7.8 percent (Council on Criminal Justice).

While, assessing the IPV's health impact, the WHO in 2013, made the world aware that it causes injuries with 42 percent of women, makes women 1.5 times more vulnerable to STDs, twice more vulnerable to an abortion, 16 percent more prone to a miscarriage, 41 percent a pre-term birth, and also twice as likely to undergo sleep and eating disorders and depression, whereas, child victims tend to become more susceptible to smoking, substance use, and risky sexual behaviours. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2020 report, also estimated that IPV was the 19th-leading Level 2 risk factor for the disability-adjusted life year (DALY) in females, 11 percent due to depressive disorders and 13.9 percent for the HIV.

But, unfortunately, mainstream public health indicators couldn't fully capture



SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENTS HAVE HARDLY SUPPRESSED THE ANIMAL INSTINCTS OF MEN TO UNLEASH VIOLENCE ON WOMEN, AS STUDIES SUGGEST A FAR LONGER DURATION OF SUFFERINGS OF WOMEN AT THE HANDS OF THEIR PARTNERS

The author is former Director-General, Doordarshan & All India Radio, and former Press Secretary to the President of India



IPV's repercussions on the victim's 'emotional career' or on the 'quality of life' (QOL). In 2021, a global research study, based on data from 151 countries, proposed a new synthetic indicator, the 'Years women are expected to Live with Intimate Partner Violence' (YLIPV) to measure the length of IPV during the prime of a woman's life and its possible impact on QOL. The findings showed that, on an average, ever-partnered women (15-49 years), are likely to live 4.1 years (Lower bound 2.3 – Upper Bound 7.1), suffering from IPV during the age range. By region, it is 6.0 years (3.7–9.2) in Africa, 4.3 years (2.4–7.8) in Asia, 3.4 years (2.1–5.6) in Oceania, 2.6 years (1.5–4.2) in the Americas and 1.7 years (0.9–3.1) in Europe. In India, it is 6.2 years (LB 3.8–UB 9.6). However, the study noted that self-disclosure related problems and underreporting in IPV remained a huge drawback.

Nevertheless, the WHO's multi-country study in 2021 divulged that 34–79 percent of women experiencing physical abuse by an intimate partner had never reported the incidents to anyone, and reports to formal sources ranged from 0.3 to 9.8 percent to police, 0 to 1.2 percent to NGOs, and 1.3 to 6 percent to medical services. In India, a longitudinal research study (2000-2018) by BMC Women's Health, observed that there were severe

WHO 2021 findings

- 34-79% women never reported violence by partners
- Reports to formal sources ranged from 0.3% to 9.8% to police
- Up to 1.2% women complained to NGOs
- 1.3 to 6% women reported cases to medical services

Years women expected to Live with Intimate Partner Violence' (YLIPV)

Ever-partnered women (15-49 years): 4.1 years	
In Africa:	6.0 years
In Asia:	4.3 years
In Oceania:	3.4 years
In Americas:	2.6 years
In 1.7 years in Europe	
In India:	6.2 years

gap and stagnancy in the administrative data, as India doesn't have any mandatory reporting mechanisms in hospitals.

As the public health policy makers express concern about the dearth of accurate IPV data, the social researchers raised the issue of social tolerance and inhibition that helps create a climate of silence. An European Commission

survey (Eurobarometer) in 2016, apprised that even though a substantial percentage of respondents knew about incidents of IPV, either in their work place, or neighbourhood, or circle of friends, but, they refrained from disclosing and that 46 percent of EU citizens accept 'provocative behaviour' as a reasonable cause, indicating a high prevalence of victim blaming attitudes. A recent review of 23 studies in 61 countries, a mix of low, middle and high-income countries, also confirmed that the trivial issues like 'burning a meal or serving it late, neglecting a child, or talking back to the husband', etc., have been treated as justifiable grounds, while, in a high-income country like the USA, grounds like 'infidelity' or women asking for it' are still considered as tenable explanations. In India, the NFHS (2019-20) findings validated that at least 30 percent of women supported husband's beatings for reasons like 'neglecting the house' or being 'argumentative', or 'going out without informing the husband', or 'not cooking good food', etc.

Notwithstanding, the panacea doesn't only lie in public health interventions or legal routes. Since gendered violence is the outcome of biased socio-cultural factors, the focus should also be on behavioural change strategies for gender role transformation and reducing the relationship power-gap.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHAT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT? IF ONE DOES CORRUPTION, THEN DO NOT SAY CORRUPT; CALL CORRUPTION A 'MASTERSTROKE'.
—CONGRESS LEADER PRIYANKA GANDHI



SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CONGRESS, ARE TRYING TO MISLEAD THE COUNTRY. THE SPEAKER HAS CLEARLY STATED THAT NO WORD HAS BEEN BANNED.
—BJP SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA

Voters must weigh candidates on health issues

Political parties pay least attention to the real issues such as health during elections, as seen in manifestoes

The Covid-19 pandemic revealed cracks in the broken health systems, making us contemplate over the role of the government in ensuring healthcare for all in the country. Surprisingly, Indian election manifestoes of all the political parties don't accord issues concerning healthcare any space. Curiously, India's voters also appear least interested in giving the subject of health enough importance while making the electoral decision.

In the Bihar Assembly elections held during October-November 2020, the post-poll survey revealed that only about 0.3 percent of the voters considered health as a priority despite the state going to the polls during the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic factors and general developmental issues weighed



more for the electorate.

This is an irony since the people in the country account for the world's highest out-of-pocket expenditure at 78 percent on healthcare, with there being no change in situations for decades. Reasons for low prioritization of health in elections seem to be complex and rooted in the psychological imprints of the people. The people seem surprisingly to have non-existent expectations from the government for healthcare. This could be for the reason that the health system had been unresponsive and unaccountable for way too long.

An expectation is the emotional anticipation or belief of an occurrence that may take place in reality in the future. Also, lack of attention on the parts of the political parties for healthcare in

their election manifestoes could also explain people's loss of expectations from the government. Political leaders, on the other hand, stay away from promising improved healthcare, either because they don't have the answers or they find the subject too complex. However, we see that where political leaders have delivered well on healthcare, such as Kerala, it has created an expectation from citizens which compels political leaders to pay attention to the issue of health.

The ruling party at the Centre is seen to garner benefits from maintaining a raft of welfare schemes since 2014, adding several such schemes and promoting them actively during elections. Various factors/reasons are under play for lack of electoral focus on the agenda of

healthcare. It's indeed a fact that reforms in the health sector are harder to execute and they are much slower to yield any tangible outcomes for voters to take cognizance. Hence, health sector investments on the parts of the political parties have been seen politically riskier than other result-oriented schemes/agendas. For instance, improvements in the distribution of food grains or gas cylinders (Ujjwala) are more visible and tangible/measurable for the general public than enabling efficient medical caregiving policy/scheme which is a far tougher and time-consuming task to undertake. Welfare schemes based on the 'delivery' of a product are much simpler and tangible than improving services like health and education, which are much more complex.

Healthcare depends on a system that includes infrastructure, human resources, medical protocols and resources, high accountability, and capacity. For this reason, perhaps, the main Electoral pledges in the health sector in recent years have been on health insurance and a few free treatment offers rather than comprehensive infrastructural reforms within which this product can be effectively utilized.

The social determinants to health that are highly prioritized in the UN sustenance goals must find a place in any discussion on health infrastructure improvement. They are important contributory factors to health status in general and get varying degrees of priority in governments. But there is a need for more focused coordi-

nation to ensure optimal allocation of resources across various sectors touching the subjects of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition. Their contribution to good health is unarguably a lot but these need to be adequately recognized, measured, and evaluated.

There is also a need to establish a coordinating body in the country's highest offices to connect the dots in health and other social determinants of health and coordinate the work of various agencies contributing to health improvement to enhance and better utilize these for the general good.

Experts would agree rebuilding India's health system requires first and foremost better financial allocation and some policy work around the clarity of roles of the national and state

governments. The other area is creating empowered institutions with evidence-based healthcare governance and administration. The motivation for these will emerge from creating (or making more visible) the demands of Indian voters for improved health. Social help groups and non-government organizations should work on voter awareness, their perception of health schemes, and even the politics behind these.

At last, the buck stops with the ruling party's leaders. It requires political will to overcome resistance from various groups to carry out such grand reforms. It is high time elections are fought on issues like health and education rather than on palliatives and placebos like loan waivers, subsidies, and freebies.

Ukrainian rescuers hunt for survivors of Vinnytsia airstrike

AP ■ KYIV

Rescue teams with sniffer dogs combed through the debris Friday in a central Ukrainian city looking for people still missing after a Russian missile strike a day earlier killed at least 23 people and wounded over 100 others.

Russian forces, meanwhile, pounded other sites in a relentless push to wrest territory from Ukraine and try to soften the unbending morale of its leaders, civilians and troops as the war nears the five-month mark.

Thursday's cruise missile strikes on the Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia launched by a Russian submarine were the latest incidents to take civilian lives and fan international outrage since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion on Feb. 24.

Even as the fighting raged, Russia noted signs of progress in talks on a possible deal to allow Ukraine to export millions of tons of grain via the Black Sea that could help feed

a world facing higher food prices.

Alluding to talks in Istanbul this week among Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Nations, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said a final document had been prepared and Russian proposals to help ease grain shipments through Ukrainian ports have been "largely supported" by other participants.

He said work on a document called "Black Sea initiative" was set to be completed "in the nearest time." The Russian proposal would allow shipments of food "while excluding the use of those logistical chains for the deliveries of weapons and military equipment" to Ukraine. He also said the plan seeks to "prevent any provocations."

About 22 million tons of grain have been stuck in Ukraine because of the war.

That was most extensive Russian comment yet on the grain talks, which mostly involved military officials. U.N.



Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Russia and Ukraine had taken "a critical step" to ensuring exports of the desperately needed grain to help ease a global food crisis — but said more technical work toward finalizing a deal was needed.

Russia's military campaign now has been focusing on

Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, but Russian forces regularly fire upon targets in many other parts of the country too. Ukraine's Interior Ministry said Friday that Russian forces had conducted more than 17,000 strikes on civilian targets during the war, killing thousands of fighters and civilians and driving millions from their

homes. The invasion has also rippled through the world economy by hiking prices and crimping exports of key Ukrainian and Russian products like grain, fuel and fertilizer.

More than 73 people — including four children — remained hospitalized and 18 people were missing after Thursday's strike, said Oleksandr Kutovyi, spokesman for the emergency service in the Vinnytsia region. Search teams were poring over two sites on Friday — an office building with a medical center, and a concert hall near an outdoor recreation area where mothers with children often stroll.

Vinnytsia Gov. Serhiy Borzov said only 10 people among the dead had been identified so far. "Russia deliberately hit civilians and all those responsible for the crime must be brought to account," he said, denouncing the "barbaric behavior by Russia that tramples on international humanitarian law."

Putin reshuffles top officials

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday reshuffled his top officials, naming a new head of the state space corporation and giving new broad powers to one of his top ministers.

Putin removed Dmitry Rogozin as the head of state-controlled Roscosmos space agency that oversees the country's space program and includes rocket factories, launch facilities and numerous other assets.

He replaced Rogozin with Yuri Borisov, a deputy prime minister who was in charge of weapons industries. Borisov's duties were handed over to Denis Manturov, the minister of industry and trade who was also given the rank of a deputy prime minister.

Manturov has held the ministerial job since 2012 and reportedly has Putin's favor, accompanying the Russian president on most foreign and domestic trips.

The reshuffle follows predictions of Borisov's removal from the job that he held for four years amid reported flaws and deficiencies in Russian weapons programs spotlighted by the military action in Ukraine.



Borisov acknowledged some of the shortcomings in recent comments, saying that the military industries should have been more active in developing and producing drones. "I think we were late with the deployment of drones," he said in an interview with state TV. Borisov's appointment to the important position of Roscosmos chief indicates that he hasn't completely fallen from grace despite the weapons procurement issues.

There was no immediate word on a new job for Rogozin, who had served as Roscosmos chief since 2018 and became

known for his blustery anti-West rhetoric.

In the early 2000s, Rogozin led a nationalist party, winning notoriety for his anti-migrant stance, and later served as Moscow's envoy to NATO. In 2011, he was named a deputy prime minister in charge of weapons industries and space, the job he held before Putin named him Roscosmos chief.

Some Russian media speculated that Rogozin still retains Putin's favour and could be given a new senior job to oversee Moscow-controlled territories in eastern and southern Ukraine.

China leader Xi visits Xinjiang amid human rights concerns

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese leader Xi Jinping visited Xinjiang in the country's northwest this week amid concerns over China's detention of a million or more members of primarily Muslim ethnic minorities in the remote border region.

Xi stressed the full and faithful implementation of his ruling Communist Party's policies in the region and highlighted social stability and lasting security as the overarching goals, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday.

He showed no signs of backing off an approach that has come under harsh criticism from the U.S. and many European governments and prompted bans on the export of cotton and other products from the region over reports of forced labor.

Under Xi, authorities have



carried out a sweeping crackdown on Xinjiang's Uyghur and Kazakh communities following an outburst of deadly separatist violence.

Critics have described the crackdown that placed thousands in prison-like indoctrination camps as cultural genocide.

The US and others have placed officials responsible under visa bans for their part

in extralegal detentions, separation of families and incarcerating people for studying abroad or having foreign contacts.

Xi, on what was described as an "inspection tour" from Tuesday to Friday, called for developing Xinjiang into a region that is united, harmonious, prosperous, and culturally advanced, Xinhua said.

He called Xinjiang a "core area and a hub" in China's program of building ports, railways and power stations connecting it to economies reaching from Central Asia to Eastern Europe.

Xi met with leaders of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a supra-governmental body that operates its own courts, schools and health system under a military system imposed on the region after the Communist Party took power in China in 1949.

G20 finance leaders in Bali to tackle Ukraine, inflation

AP ■ BANGKOK

Top financial officials from the Group of 20 leading rich and developing nations met on the Indonesian island of Bali on Friday seeking strategies to counter inflation, food insecurity and other troubles that have worsened due to the war in Ukraine.

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati opened the two-day meeting by urging fellow finance ministers, central bank chiefs and other leaders to find ways to "build bridges, not walls." The consequences of failure, especially for less wealthy nations, would be "catastrophic," she said. "Millions and millions if not billions of people are depending on us."

In their closed door meetings, the financial leaders are searching for ways to coordinate how they shepherd their economies through inflation that is running at 40-year highs, unsnarling supply chains and



bottlenecks due to the coronavirus pandemic and fortifying financial systems against future risks.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called for the G-20 to take action to fight food insecurity as millions go hungry due to soaring costs for food and other necessities. It is crucial, she said, to avoid stockpiling and export bans, to provide financial help to the needy and to ensure all orga-

nizations, such as development banks and food agencies, do their part to alleviate hunger.

"The speed and wisdom of our decisions now will make the difference on whether we get the current crisis under control," Yellen said. "The G-20 must work together to tackle these challenges and protect vulnerable families from the threat of hunger today and tomorrow."

SCO to admit Iran as a full member; Belarus applied for membership: SG Zhang Ming

PTI ■ BEIJING

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is all set for expansion with Iran joining the grouping as its ninth member while Belarus has applied for membership, its Secretary General Zhang Ming said on Friday.

The decision to admit Iran was made in last year's Dushanbe summit and Belarus has submitted its application, Zhang told a media briefing here ahead of the grouping's summit to be held in Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16.

He said Iran will become a full member after completing the formalities while Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states who follow the system of consensus in deciding admission of new members will take a call on Belarus's application.

This is the first expansion

of the SCO after India and Pakistan were admitted to the grouping in 2017. The Beijing-headquartered SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

When asked whether Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the Samarkand summit, Zhang said so far, all participating countries have confirmed the attendance of their leaders but the format of attendance is not finalised.

The SCO summits in the last two years were held in the virtual format due to COVID-19.

Xi has not travelled outside China since the outbreak of coronavirus in Wuhan towards the end of 2019. He visited Hong Kong on July 1 this year to take part in the 25th-anniversary celebrations of handing over of Hong Kong to China from British rule.

Sikh man Ripudaman Malik had many enemies and personal disputes: Report

PTI ■ TORONTO

Ripudaman Singh Malik was an "extremist warrior" with many enemies and personal disputes and played with violence in his life which likely came back to haunt him, recalled the people who knew the Sikh man who has been shot dead in Canada.

Malik, 75, who was acquitted of murder and conspiracy charges in 2005 in the tragic 1985 Air India Kanishka terrorist bombing case, was shot dead as he sat inside his car in Surrey, British Columbia on Thursday. "I just think there's so many potential motives," said retired RCMP deputy commissioner Gary Bass in response to Malik's killing. He was in charge of the terrorism investigation into the 1985 Air India bombing.

"I'm not privy to the ongoing investigations on Malik right now, but I can say that from years when I was that he was involved in a number of



activities that might bring him into conflict with other people," he was quoted as saying by the Toronto Sun newspaper.

Bass said it would be speculative to suggest who might be behind the fatal shooting of the Sikh leader. He recalled monitoring a seven-hour interview Malik gave to the Air India investigators after his October 2000 arrest.

"I watched that interview. And he was a different person than he portrays in public for sure. He was cocky. He took his turban off, and he had his feet up on the desk, and really playing games," Bass recalled. "And coming very close to confessing and then kind of

backing away ... not the pious religious guy that he'd like everyone to think for sure," he said. Homicide investigators are now trying to figure out who killed the controversial community leader, one-time terror suspect, a

wealthy businessman and founder of both the Khalsa Credit Union and Khalsa Schools, the report said. He had also courted recent controversy for his links to printing the Sikh holy book — the Guru Granth Sahib — outside of India in contravention of a religious edict. But several sources also said Malik has had a number of personal disputes with individuals over the years, the report said.

In March 2005, Malik and his Babbar Khalsa associate Ajaib Bagri, were acquitted by a British Columbia SC judge of murder and conspiracy charges in Canada's deadliest terror attack.

Hong Kong jails 7 protesters who attempted to flee to Taiwan

AP ■ HONG KONG

Seven Hong Kongers who were caught at sea while attempting to flee the city by speedboat to Taiwan were sentenced Friday to up to 10 months of jail, according to local media reports.

The seven men, aged 19-32, had pleaded guilty to charges of acting to pervert the course of public justice by evading criminal proceedings in their attempt to flee, according to local newspaper South China Morning Post.

They were part of a broader group of 12 people who were on board the speedboat. The group had departed Hong Kong in August 2020, but were caught at sea by mainland authorities.

Most of those on board were on bail and awaiting trial for protest-related offenses.

Of the 12 who were detained at the time, 10 had previously been convicted of illegally crossing the border in a December 2020 closed-door

trial in Shenzhen, a southern Chinese city that borders Hong Kong.

Eight were sentenced to seven months in prison and have since served their sentence and returned to Hong Kong, while two others, who were deemed the main organizers of the illegal crossing, were sentenced to two and three years of prison.

The two youngest detainees of the group were returned to Hong Kong authorities in 2020 and were not persecuted as they were minors at the time.

The case of the 12 detainees had sparked debate about China's opaque judiciary system after the group was held for months with relatives and family members stating that they could not get in touch with them or hire their own lawyers for the case.

They are also among the latest amid dozens of protesters who have been convicted and jailed amid Hong Kong's political crackdown.

Bulgaria will still repair Ukrainian military equipment



AP ■ SOFIA (BULGARIA)

Bulgaria's defence capabilities will not be seriously affected by Moscow's decision to suspend Russian helicopter repair certificates to local companies, the defence minister said on Friday.

Dragomir Zakov said Bulgaria would also continue to repair Ukrainian military equipment.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said in a statement a day earlier that NATO and EU member countries are supplying weapons and military equipment to Ukraine and planning their repair at plants in Eastern Europe.

In response to this, she said, Russia is suspending permission for two Bulgarian companies and one Czech company to carry out repairs and maintenance of Russian-designed helicopters.

The statement implies that Russia will also no longer provide spare parts.

Bulgaria had previously agreed to repair Ukrainian military equipment at its military factories, although it refused to send weapons directly.

Zakov said that Moscow's decision would not seriously affect Bulgaria, nor would it hinder its repair of Ukrainian military equipment.

"What happened with gas has now happened with helicopter licenses," Zakov said, referring to an earlier suspension of Russian gas deliveries to Bulgaria after it refused to pay in rubles.

Fires ravage French forests near Atlantic as Europe heats up

AP ■ PARIS

A thousand firefighters with 10 water-dumping planes struggled on Friday to contain two wildfires in the Bordeaux region of southwest France that have forced the evacuation of 10,000 people and ravaged pine forests near the Atlantic coast.

High temperatures and strong winds have complicated firefighting efforts in the region, one of several around Europe scorched by wildfires this season.

No victims have been reported so far in the French fires, though some homes and cars have been damaged.

One of the French fires is in woodlands just south of the Atlantic resort town of Arcachon, a major attraction for visitors from around France

and beyond during the summer season.

The other is in parkland not far from valleys dotted with vineyards that have struggled with hotter, drier weather than usual this year that authorities link to climate change.

More than 7,000 hectares of land have been consumed by the fires, according to the regional emergency service.

As the fires stretched into a fourth day on Friday, one of the fires was partially contained, it said, but warned that hotter temperatures and winds coming from inland over the weekend could further complicate the efforts.

Some of the firefighting planes and equipment that were supposed to be displayed in Thursday's Bastille Day parade in Paris was diverted for



use on the Bordeaux region fires. Wildfires also broke out in southeast France and north of Paris.

Portugal has been particularly hard hit by wildfires this week. More than 3,000 firefighters battled this week along-

side ordinary Portuguese citizens desperate to save their homes from several wildfires that raged across the country, fanned by extreme temperatures and drought conditions.

Portuguese state television RTP reported on Friday that the area burned this year has already exceeded the total for 2021.

More than 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) of land has been burned, it said, most in the past week.

The country's Civil Protection Agency said some 10 fires were still raging on Friday, with ones in the north of the country causing most concern.

Meanwhile, authorities said a July high for the country of 47 degrees Celsius was registered on Thursday in the northern town of Pinhao on

Wednesday, the hottest day of the year so far.

Spain, Croatia and Hungary have also fought wildfires this week. For a fifth day, firefighters in Spain were battling to try to bring under control a fire started by a lightning strike in the west-central Las Hurdes area that has consumed about 5,500 hectares.

Some 400 people from eight villages were evacuated late on Thursday as the flames approached their houses and threatened to spread into the nearby Monfrague National Park.

The government said on Friday that 17 fires across Spain kept firefighters busy.

In northeastern Catalonia, authorities introduced access restrictions to several mountain areas in a bid to avoid possible fires.

The European Union has urged member states to prepare for wildfires this summer as the continent faces another extreme weather shift that scientists say is being triggered by climate change.

In the Spanish city of Seville, one of the hottest spots in Europe this week, some unions called for workers to be sent home.

Temperatures in many parts of Spain have been topping the 40 degrees Celsius mark for several days and are expected to continue to do so through to next week.

Seville became the first city in the world to take part in a pilot project that names and categorises heatwaves in an effort to raise awareness of the health hazards caused by extreme heat and the precautions citizens should take.

"Climate-driven extreme heat is killing more people than any other of the climate-driven hazards. Heat is invisible, it is silent and it kills slowly, and people are not aware of it," said Kathy Baughman McLeod, director of the Arsh-Rockefeller Resilience Centre of the Atlantic Council.

Britain's Met Office weather agency warned on Friday that record temperatures expected next week pose a risk of "serious illness or danger to life".

The office issued its first-ever "red warning" of extreme heat for Monday and Tuesday, when temperatures in southern England are forecast to reach 37 degrees Celsius. There is a chance temperatures could breach the highest ever recorded in the UK, 38.7 degrees Celsius, set in 2019.

BATTLE ON FOR SECOND PLACE TO BEAT RISHI SUNAK IN UK PM RACE

PTI ■ LONDON

With Rishi Sunak now firmly placed as the candidate to beat, the battle lines are drawn for second place in the race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and British prime minister, with the remaining five contenders set for their first public clash on Friday.

Sunak, who was the winner of the first two rounds of voting by Tory members of Parliament, will appear for a series of televised debates over the weekend with his remaining opponents – Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, former minister Kemi Badenoch and Tory backbencher Tom Tugendhat.

Suella Braverman, the Indian-origin Attorney General who was knocked out of the race in round two, has thrown her support behind Truss – boosting the third-placed candidate's chances.

"Liz is the best person to unleash the opportunities of Brexit, and deliver much-needed tax cuts," said Braverman, in a statement after the second round of voting on Thursday.

All eyes are now on who between Truss and Mordaunt will clinch the No. 2 spot to go head-to-head with Sunak when the final two candidates have to campaign for votes among the



Conservative Party membership around the UK from later next week.

According to "The Times", caretaker Prime Minister Johnson and his camp are running an "anyone but Rishi" hidden campaign after feeling betrayed over the former Chancellor's resignation which precipitated his exit from 10 Downing Street.

While Johnson has said he would not publicly endorse any of the contenders in the race to succeed him, behind the scenes it is believed that he is in favour of either Truss or Mordaunt.

"The whole No.10 [Downing Street]

team hates Rishi. It's personal. It's vitriolic. They don't blame Saj [Sajid Javid] for bringing him down. They blame Rishi. They think he was planning this for months," the newspaper quoted a source as saying.

Pakistani-origin Javid resigned from Johnson's Cabinet as Health Secretary just minutes before Sunak's resignation as finance minister last week, in a move both have denied was coordinated in any way and was the result of a number of scandals, including partygate, that had plagued the Johnson-led administration.

An ally of Johnson rejected the claim

that he wants "anyone but Rishi" to win but admitted that the outgoing Prime Minister harboured resentment over Sunak's "betrayal".

Meanwhile, there is intense lobbying at work in an effort to bolster the chances of the top three candidates. Under the latest votes tally, Sunak has 101, Mordaunt 83, Truss 64, Badenoch 49 and Tugendhat 32. Both Badenoch and Tugendhat – the fourth and fifth placed candidates – have refused to withdraw before the next few rounds of voting starting Monday, which will whittle down the list to the final two by Thursday's deadline.

"People obviously are trying to stop me getting into the final because they don't want to run against me," said Mordaunt, who is currently the bookie's favourite in the race with her perceived support among the Tory party membership base.

Sunak's camp has, meanwhile, played down suggestions that his strong support does not extend beyond the Tory MPs.

"I think he really will start to connect and hopefully we can move away and offer a positive vision rather than this Conservative-on-Conservative attacks, which I really don't like," said Richard Holden, a Tory backbench MP backing Sunak.

In West Bank, Biden embraces 'two States for two peoples'

US Prez says US wants more on Abu Akleh's death



AP ■ BETHLEHEM (WEST BANK)

US President Joe Biden, visiting the West Bank on Friday, restated his continued support for "two states for two peoples" but acknowledged that the "ground is not ripe" for reviving stalled talks aimed at achieving an elusive peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

His comments came during a joint appearance in Bethlehem with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, where he announced USD 201 million for a United Nations agency that supports Palestinians refugees.

"The Palestinian people are hurting now," Biden said. "You can just feel it. Your grief and frustration. In the US, we can feel it."

Biden said they "deserve a state of their own that's independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous. Two states for two peoples, both of whom have deep and ancient roots in this land, living side by side in

peace and security".

Although such a goal "can seem so far away", he said he wouldn't give up on the peace process.

"Even if the ground is not ripe at this moment to restart negotiations, the US and my administration will not give up on bringing the Palestinians and the Israelis, both sides, closer together," he said.

Abbas, in his own remarks, said "the key to peace" in the region "begins with ending the Israeli occupation of our land".

He said Israel "cannot continue to act as a state above law" and said the killers of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh "need to be held accountable".

Abu Akleh was shot during an Israeli military raid in the West Bank in May, and US officials say she was likely killed unintentionally by Israeli troops.

However, they did not say how they reached that conclusion, and the outcome angered many Palestinians,

including her family, who accuse the US of trying to help Israel evade responsibility.

Biden said the US "will continue to insist on a full and transparent accounting of her death and will continue to stand up for media freedom everywhere in the world".

He called her death "an enormous loss to the essential work of sharing with the world the story of the Palestinian people".

Palestinian journalists wore black T-shirts with Abu Akleh's picture and placed a poster of her on an empty chair in the room where the leaders spoke.

Earlier on Friday, Biden appeared in east Jerusalem at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, which serves Palestinians, to discuss financial assistance for local healthcare.

He proposed USD 100 million, which requires US congressional approval, plus smaller amounts for other assorted programmes.

Israel has also committed to upgrading wireless networks in the West Bank and Gaza, part of a broader effort to improve economic conditions.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-Tender Call Notice

No.EM/OHP/GW-16/22/431 Date:04.07.2022

Name of the Work: "Revamping of electrical installations at E House-I & E House-II of IOHP".

Estimated cost: Rs.2,82,17,500.00. Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.10.08.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs.

Refer our website for details
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/gov>

EE(EI), IOHP
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/173/22-23 dtd.15.07.2022

EU takes Hungary to highest court over LGBT, media rules

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive intensified its legal standoff with Hungary on Friday by taking the country to the EU's highest court over a restrictive law on LGBT issues and media freedom.

The EU had already tried for a year to make Hungary change a law that bans content portraying or promoting homosexuality. The European Commission

said it "discriminates against people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity".

"The Commission considers that the law violates the internal market rules, the fundamental rights of individuals (in particular LGBTIQ people) as well as — with regard to those fundamental rights — the EU values," the statement said.

It was the latest episode in a long political battle in which Brussels per-



ceives Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as deliberately stepping away from the cornerstones of Western democracy while

Hungary depicts the European Commission as overly meddling in internal politics and imposing moral standards it considers far too liberal.

Hungary's right-wing governing party last year banned the depiction of homosexuality or sex reassignment in media targeting minors under 18. Information on homosexuality was also forbidden in school sex education programmes, or in films and advertisements accessible to minors.

Ivana Trump, first wife of former President, dies at 73

AP ■ NEW YORK

Ivana Trump, who formed half of a publicity power couple in the 1980s as the first wife of former President Donald Trump and mother of his oldest children, has died in New York City, her family announced Thursday. She was 73.

"I am very saddened to inform all of those that loved her, of which there are many, that Ivana Trump has passed away at her home in New York City," Trump posted on Truth Social. "She was a wonderful, beautiful, and amazing woman, who led a great and inspirational life. Her pride and joy were her three children, Donald Jr., Ivanka, and Eric. She was so proud of them, as we were all so proud of her. Rest In Peace, Ivana!"

The Trump family also released a statement. "It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Ivana Trump. Our mother was an incredible woman — a force in business, a world-class athlete, a radiant beauty, and caring mother and



friend. Ivana Trump was a survivor.

"She fled from communism and embraced this country," the statement continued. "She taught her children about grit and toughness, compassion and determination. She will be dearly missed by her mother, her three children and ten grandchildren."

The Trumps were a power couple in New York in the 1980s before their equally public, and messy, divorce after Donald Trump met his next wife, Marla Maples. But in recent years, Ivana Trump had been on good terms with her former husband. She wrote in a 2017 book that they spoke about once a week.

Ivana told the New York Post in 2016 that she was both a supporter and adviser to the former president. "I suggest a few things," she told the paper. "We speak before and after the appearances and he asks me what I thought." She said she advised him to "be more calm."

"But Donald cannot be calm," she added. "He's very outspoken. He just says it as it is."

She was born Ivana Zelnickova in 1949 in the Czechoslovak city of Gottwaldov, the former city of Zlin that just had been renamed by the Communists, who took over the country in 1948. She married Trump, her second husband, in 1977.

Italy enters into political uncertainty after 5-Stars balk



AP ■ ROME

Italy entered into days of political and financial uncertainty Friday as Premier Mario Draghi weighed his options and political leaders considered theirs after coalition ally the 5-Star Movement sparked a crisis by withholding support on a government-sponsored bill.

On the immediate horizon are behind-the-scenes consultations through mid-week to see if Draghi still commands enough support to govern — which the Italian president and key parties clearly want — or preparations for snap elections as early as September.

Milan's FTSE Mib was trading 1.08% higher Friday though the spread on Italian debt verses the benchmark German bund widened to 220 points, up 1.12% from Thursday's close.

Draghi immediately offered to resign Thursday after 5-Star senators boycotted the vote, arguing that the conditions that creat-

ed his government of national unity, which grouped parties on the right, left and the populist 5-Stars, no longer exist.

But President Sergio Mattarella rejected his offer and told Draghi to go back to Parliament on Wednesday to see if he still had the support to govern.

The turmoil couldn't have come at a worse time for the eurozone's third-largest economy. Italy is facing soaring inflation and energy costs as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine, a prolonged drought that is threatening crops in the country's most productive regions and the ongoing implementation of its EU-financed program to recover economically from the coronavirus pandemic.

While Draghi might still have the numbers and the support of key allies to continue leading the government, some on the right are already gunning for an early election since they would stand to do well based on recent local election results and polls.

Biden, Saudi crown prince begin big meeting with fist bump



AP ■ JEDDAH

A crucial meeting to repair one of the world's most important diplomatic relationships began with a fist bump Friday as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcomed U.S. President Joe Biden at a royal palace.

The first encounter, captured by Saudi television, occurred as Biden stepped out of his presidential limousine in Jeddah for a visit that is intended to reset their countries' longstanding partnership. There was little evidence of any warmth between the leaders, and none of the backslapping or smiles that Biden or the crown prince usually display when greeting other leaders.

Until now, Biden had refused to speak to Prince Mohammed,

the presumed heir to the throne currently held by his father, King Salman. Biden has harshly criticized the oil-rich kingdom for its human rights abuses, particularly the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S.-based journalist.

But those concerns have since been eclipsed by other challenges, including rising gas prices and Iranian aggression in the Middle East. At the same time, Saudi Arabia is looking to bolster its security relationship with the United States and seeking investments to transform its economy into one that's less reliant on pumping oil.

The Saudis held a subdued welcome for Biden at the airport in Jeddah, with none of the ceremony that accompanied his stop this week in Israel.

25 million kids missed routine vax due to Covid



AP ■ GENEVA

About 25 million children worldwide have missed out on routine immunizations against common diseases like diphtheria, largely because the coronavirus pandemic disrupted regular health services or triggered misinformation about vaccines, according to the U.N.

In a new report published Friday, the World Health Organization and UNICEF said their figures show 25 million children last year failed to get vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and

pertussis, a marker for childhood immunization coverage, continuing a downward trend that began in 2019.

"This is a red alert for child health," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF's Executive Director.

"We are witnessing the largest sustained drop in childhood immunization in a generation," she said, adding that the consequences would be measured in lives lost.

Data showed the vast majority of the children who failed to get immunized were living in developing countries, namely Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and the

Philippines. While vaccine coverage fell in every world region, the worst effects were seen in East Asia and the Pacific.

Experts said this "historic backsliding" in vaccination coverage was especially disturbing since it was occurring as rates of severe malnutrition were rising.

Malnourished children typically have weaker immune systems and infections like measles can often prove fatal to them.

"The convergence of a hunger crisis with a growing immunization gap threatens to create the conditions for a child survival crisis," the UN said.

Scientists said low vaccine coverage rates had already resulted in preventable outbreaks of diseases like measles and polio.

In March 2020, WHO and partners asked countries to suspend their polio eradication efforts amid the accelerating COVID-19 pandemic. There have since been dozens of polio epidemics in more than 30 countries.

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

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

Possession Notice

(For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHFL"), Having its registered office at **LUCKNOW** and Branch office at **MURADABAD**, **MEERUT**, **AGRA** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein above and to the public in general that undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **7** day

The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No: 813746 MURADABAD Branch) RAJU (Borrower) MINAKSHI (Guarantor)	Hasra No-729/2 Wake Mohalla Surya Nagar, Moradabad,uttar Pradesh - 244001, East: Plot Kretagan, West:Makaan Rajkumar, South: Rasta 14~14-0", North: Plot Digar Shaks	23/02/2022 Rs. 7,16,871/-	14-07-2022 Symbolic Possession
2.	(LC No: 689271 MEERUT Branch) MAMTA DEVI (Borrower) NIGAM SINGH (Co Borrower) SHAKIL AHAMAD (Guarantor)	Khasra No-690/1 Kulesra Pargana Dadri, Tehsil Sadar Gautambudh Nagar,uttar Pradesh - 245301, East: Plot Of Bijendar, West: Pot Of Rosan Malik, South : Road 15 Fit, North : Sealar Plot	23/02/2022 Rs. 8,88,291/-	13-07-2022 Symbolic Possession
3.	(LC No: 966460 AGRA Branch) SUNIL KUMAR (Borrower) MAMTA (Co Borrower) MUNNEE (Co Borrower)	Plot No-52 Gata No-2026, Nagla Laldas, mauja Raibha,teh Kirawali,agra Uttar Pradesh -283101, East: Land Of Om Prakash , West: 15~0" Wide Rasta , South : Seller Open Field, North : House Of Mahendra	13/08/2021 Rs. 9,76,994/-	12-07-2022 Symbolic Possession

Place :- DELHI, AGRA, MEERUT Date:-16.07.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

Rupee at life-time low to hit imports, overseas edu, travel



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee nearing 80 to a US dollar will make imports of items from crude oil to electronic goods, overseas education and foreign travel costlier while raising fears that the inflation situation could worsen.

The primary and immediate impact of a depreciating rupee is on the importers who will have to shell out more for the same quantity and price. However, it is a boon for the exporters as they receive more rupees in exchange for dollars.

The rupee depreciation has wiped away some of the gains that would have accrued to India from international oil and fuel prices dropping to pre-Ukraine war levels.

India is 85 per cent dependent on foreign oil to meet its needs for fuels, such as petrol, diesel and jet fuel.

The rupee, which on Thursday closed at an all-time low of Rs 79.99 to a US dollar, appreciated 7 paise to 79.92 in early trade on Friday.

The basket of Indian imports includes crude oil, coal, plastic material, chemi-

cals, electronic goods, vegetable oil, fertiliser, machinery, gold, pearls, precious and semiprecious stones, and iron and steel.

Here is how a depreciating rupee is likely to impact spending:

Imports: Importers need to buy US dollars to pay for imported items. With the dip in the rupee, importing items will get more expensive. Not just oil but electronic items, such as mobile phones, some cars and appliances, are likely to get expensive.

Foreign education: The rupee losing value against the US dollar would mean foreign education just became more expensive. Not just having to shell out more rupees for every dollar that the foreign institutions charge as fees, education loans too have become costlier following the interest rate hikes by the RBI.

Foreign travel: With the COVID-19 cases declining, there has been revenge travel for work and leisure. But, these have now just become more expensive.

Remittances: However, non-resident Indians (NRIs)

who send money back home will end up sending more in the rupee value.

As per the latest data, the country's imports expanded by 57.55 per cent to USD 66.31 billion in June compared to the year-ago month.

The merchandise trade deficit in June 2022 was estimated at USD 26.18 billion against USD 9.60 billion in June 2021, which is an increase of 172.72 per cent.

Crude oil imports in June almost doubled to USD 21.3 billion. Coal and coke imports more than doubled to USD 6.76 billion in the month against USD 1.88 billion in June 2021.

It is widely expected that the Reserve Bank may go in for a third consecutive hike in the key interest rate as retail inflation continues to rule above 7 per cent, higher than its comfort level of 6 per cent.

To worsen the situation, the whole-sale price-based index (WPI) too continues to remain above 15 per cent.

"The cost of all imports, including edible oil, will increase. However, since edible oil prices are falling in the

international market, the depreciation of the rupee will not have much impact," said BV Mehta, Executive Director, Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA). India had imported a record Rs 1.17 lakh crore of edible oils in the 2020-21 oil year ending October.

Imports of vegetable oils stood at USD 1.81 billion in June this year, up 26.52 per cent over the same month in 2021.

In the case of fertiliser, the government subsidy bill is estimated to rise to Rs 2.5 lakh crore in this fiscal against Rs 1.62 lakh crore in the previous year due to the high prices of key farm ingredients in the global markets coupled with the rupee depreciation.

Ajay Sahai, Director General of Fieo, an apex body of exporters, said the rupee touching 80 against the US dollar will push India's import bill and it will make containing inflation a much more difficult task.

"Prices of imported intermediate goods will go up and that will push manufacturing cost of businesses, who would pass that cost on to the consumers, which would push the price of goods.

"People who want to send their children abroad for education will face difficulty as the depreciation will make it expensive for them," Sahai added.

A report by the finance ministry cautioned that India's current account deficit is expected to deteriorate in the current fiscal on account of costlier imports and tepid merchandise exports. Primarily driven by an increase in the trade deficit, the CAD stood at 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2021-22.

"Depreciation will push inflation... Electronics goods price will get hit. Already because of supply chain shock in China, electronic components, especially controllers/IC, prices are almost triple in the past two years and because of fast rupee depreciation, the prices of all imported components will further rise," said Vishal Mehta, proprietor, Mehta Power Solutions.

Sensex, Nifty rebound on gains in FMCG, auto shares; snap 4 days of decline



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex Brebounced by 344 points while Nifty closed above the 16,000 level in choppy trade on Friday, snapping four days of decline on buying in FMCG, auto and capital goods counters.

The 30-share BSE barometer climbed 344.63 points or 0.65 per cent to settle at 53,760.78 as 18 of its scrips ended in the green. During the day, it jumped 395.22 points or 0.73 per cent to a high of 53,811.37.

The broader NSE Nifty closed above the 16,000 level by gaining 110.55 points or 0.69 per cent to 16,049.20 as 35 of its constituents closed with gains.

Benchmark stock indices remained volatile but managed to close with modest gains on value buying in FMCG, auto, capital goods and select banking counters in the last hour of the trade.

A positive opening of European markets and foreign

investors turning net buyers in capital markets boosted the sentiment.

Among Sensex constituents, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle and Bharti Airtel were the major gainers.

Tata Steel, Power Grid, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Dr Reddy's and Axis Bank were the laggards.

"Volatility has re-emerged and investors have turned their focus on upcoming Fed policy in the backdrop of heightened US inflation. Fall in crude prices and reduction in FII selling added optimism to the domestic market while gloomy IT results, depreciating rupee and fear of global recession are restricting sizeable up move," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.84 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.52 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, auto jumped 2.34 per

cent, followed by consumer durables (1.56 per cent), FMCG (1.48 per cent), capital goods (1.47 per cent), telecom (1.35 per cent) and consumer discretionary goods (1.32 per cent).

IT, utilities, metal and power were the laggards.

On weekly basis, Sensex dropped by 721 points or 1.32 per cent while Nifty declined by 171 points or 1.11 per cent.

In Asia, markets in Seoul and Tokyo ended in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled significantly after China's economy contracted by 2.6 per cent in the second quarter.

Markets in Europe were trading in the green during the mid-session deals. The US markets had ended on a mixed note on Thursday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude rose by 0.60 per cent to USD 99.72 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers in the capital market on Thursday, buying shares worth Rs 309.06 crore, as per exchange data.

Vietjet flights to connect 5 Indian cities to Vietnam this year

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Vietnamese carrier Vietjet on Friday said its flight services will connect five Indian cities to Vietnam by early November this year.

At present, Mumbai and Delhi are part of the southeast Asian airline's international network.

Vietjet has been flying into India since December 2019 when it launched services to Delhi from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

The services were discontinued after India suspended all commercial international passenger flight operations in late March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

After the Indian government lifted the ban on March 27 this year, Vietjet announced resumption of operations along with expansion of its services between the two countries.

"We launched services to Mumbai in June with an Airbus A320 within three months of resuming flights to Delhi. And within a month of that we upgraded the aircraft to 214-seater A321 from 180-seater A320. This is a very positive sign of demand growth," Jay Lingeswara, Director Commercial, Vietjet, said at an event here.

Vietjet has received a very good response from customers and that has given it the confidence to further expand its services from India, he said.

"By early November, we will have five Indian cities -- New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Hyderabad -- connected with Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Phu Quoc and Da Nang in Vietnam," Lingeswara said.

Vietjet also said it plans to introduce services on the Mumbai-Da Nang route from September.

Earlier, the airline has already announced services from Mumbai and New Delhi to Phu Quoc islands from September 9.

The airline's services from Bengaluru are scheduled to commence from early November.

India's long-term growth prospects embedded in public capital expenditure programmes: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India's long-term growth prospects are embedded in public capital expenditure programmes.

Sitharaman, while attending the third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting hosted by Indonesia in Bali, also said evidence-based policy making is vital for resilient economic systems.

The government has laid emphasis on capital expenditure to push economic growth hit by the pandemic. It is expected that the increase in public spending would crowd in private investment.

Sitharaman raised capital expenditure (capex) by 35.4 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 to Rs 7.5 lakh crore to continue the public investment-led recovery of the pandemic-battered economy. The capex last year was Rs 5.5 lakh crore.

"Reflecting on India's



#growthstory, FM shared that India's long-term growth prospects are embedded in public #CapitalExpenditure programmes, & #EvidenceBased #PolicyMaking is vital for resilient economic systems," the finance ministry said in a tweet.

The finance minister also highlighted that sustainable global recovery should be pivoted on climate actions and the focus needs to be on scaling up climate finance and propelling green transitions.

Participating in the second

session of the ongoing G20 FMCBG, Sitharaman shared views on G20's Health Agenda, including pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms.

She also highlighted the need for immediate mobilisation and deployment of resources for health emergencies. "FM Smt. @nsitharaman called for a global coordination mechanism with @WHO at its centre. FM also said that India is committed to supporting all efforts to #protect and #prepare against any future #pandemic," another tweet said.

States' capex seen soaring 36% in FY23, fiscal deficit at ₹8.4 L crore: Icra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

States have budgeted 36 per cent higher capital expenditure during this financial year, which may lead to a sharp rise in their fiscal deficit to ₹8.4 lakh crore, a report said on Friday.

Registering an increase of 34.1 per cent from the pre-pandemic (FY20) levels, 26 large states, excluding Assam, have spent ₹5 lakh crore in capital expenditure, or ₹1.3 lakh crore more than they had spent in FY20, shows an Icra analysis of these states' budgets.

According to the agency, these 26 states are on course to spend ₹6.8 lakh crore or 35.8 per cent more this fiscal in capital expenditure (capex) over FY22 when it stood at ₹5 lakh crore. As much as 72 per cent of the incremental ₹1.8 lakh crore capital push is led by UP, Maharashtra, Bengal, Odisha, Andhra and Haryana.

In the previous fiscal, the capex push was led by Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The combined capex of these 26 states is budgeted to expand by an impressive 35.8 per cent to ₹6.8 lakh crore in FY23, on top of the 34.1 per cent or ₹5 lakh crore they spent in FY22. In FY20, they spent ₹3.7 lakh crore in capex, while FY21 was a washout due to the pandemic, the agency said.

The report also notes that with this aggressive capex push, these states will also see their fiscal deficits widening sharply to ₹8.4 lakh crore in FY23, from ₹6.3 lakh crore in FY22, and much higher than Rs 4.8 lakh crore in FY20. However, deficit was higher in FY21 at ₹7.9 lakh crore due to the higher pandemic expenses and lower revenue.

In FY22 these states had much narrower revenue and fiscal deficits. While revenue deficit was similar to the pre-Covid level, fiscal deficit exceeded the FY20 level on account of higher capex.

Federal Bank Q1 profit jumps 64% on lower provision for bad loans



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Federal Bank on Friday reported a 63.5 per cent jump in net profit at ₹601 crore in the June quarter on a steep decline in money set aside for bad loans.

The South-based lender had reported a net profit of Rs 367 crore in the year-ago period.

Its core net interest income grew 13.1 per cent to ₹1,605 crore during the reporting quarter on a 16 per cent advances growth and a 0.07 per cent expansion in the net interest margin to 3.22 per cent.

Overall, other income dipped 30.2 per cent to ₹453 crore, while the operating profit was also down by 14.1 per cent to ₹973 crore.

Its managing director and chief executive Shyam Srinivasan attributed the same to reverses on the treasury operations side as the yields are going up, and added that the bank has tried to improve on other business parameters while trying to restrict impact of the overall markets and rates movements on its investment book.

The profit on sale of securities came at ₹12 crore for the quarter under review as against ₹394 crore a year ago, while the bank management said that the overall fee income came at Rs 441 crore as compared to Rs 255 crore in the preceding year.

The bank's total provisions more than halved to ₹373 crore

during the June quarter, majority on the back of a reduction in the loan loss provisions which narrowed down to ₹150 crore for the reporting quarter.

From an asset quality perspective, the stock of gross non-performing assets came at 2.69 per cent at the end of June. The same stood at 3.50 per cent in the previous year and 2.80 per cent three months ago.

The fresh slippages came at ₹444 crore, with retail contributing a bulk ₹204 crore.

Srinivasan said the spurt in retail slippages is due to advances restructured earlier slipping into NPAs, and the bank is not concerned about it as it expected a fifth of such advances to slip.

He said that slippages from the retail and also agriculture, which did not have any regulatory forbearance in the past, will be higher going forward.

The bank expects the overall credit costs to come at between 0.40-0.50 per cent for FY23, Srinivasan said.

He further said that it is aiming to maintain credit growth at the current level of about 16 per cent, and will aim to get the NIM at 3.25 per cent levels.

The bank holds a 7 per cent market share in the overall deposits mobilised by the Indian banking system and will aim to hold its share or increase it in the present set of deposit mobilisation push launched by the RBI as the rupee comes under pressure.

'Calibration of ILS for runway 28 of upcoming New Goa International Airport completed'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL) has announced that it has successfully completed calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) for the newly built Runway 28 of the upcoming New Goa International Airport.

ILS is an essential navigation aid to help pilots land their aircraft in low visibility conditions during IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) flights. ILS is used to provide accurate azimuth (compass bearing) and descent guidance signals to aircraft for landing on the runway under normal or adverse weather conditions. This system can assist an aircraft to land at a Runway Visual Range (RVR) as low as 550 m.

This ILS calibration process is carried out by FIU Aircraft which is equipped with an Automatic Flight Inspection System (AFIS). The independent dual receiver configuration

of the system ensures very high integrity and repeatability of the testing, calibration results. This FIU aircraft which conducts ILS calibration is operated by pilots and engineers of the AAI.

According to the statement released by the GMR Airports Limited (GAL), GMR A special aircraft from Airports Authority of India (AAI), Flight Inspection Unit (FIU) equipped with the analyser and ILS equipment signal tracker completed its technical observations and fine-tuning of the equipment.

"Subsequently, the Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP) will be flown and validated by a commercial airline, which once formally approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will give a go-ahead for the commercial pilots to fly on that procedure. IFP is developed considering various factors including the terrain, obstacles in the surroundings etc. for the execution of a safe landing," it read.

SBI raises lending rates by 0.10% across tenors



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Country's largest lender on Friday said it raised the marginal cost of fund based lending rates by 0.10 per cent across various tenors.

The benchmark one-year tenor MCLR (Marginal Cost of Fund based Lending Rates), used for most of the consumer loans such as auto, home and personal, will now be 7.50 per cent, up from the 7.40 per cent previously, the bank said. The tenor-wise MCLR is effective from July 15, 2022, it added.

Among other tenor loans ranging from overnight to six-month, the MCLR has been raised in the range of 7.15-7.45 per cent, up by 0.10 per cent each.

The two-year and three-year MCLR will now be priced at 7.70 per cent and 7.80 per cent, respectively.

SRMIST Pro Chancellor gets second honorary doctorate



Kattankulathur: Pro Chancellor (Administration) of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, Dr Ravi Pachamoothoo was conferred with a second honorary doctorate by the Lincoln University College (LUC), Malaysia.

The second honorary doctoral award is rendered unto him for his extraordinary work to the service of education and also towards the betterment of the society. Dr. Ravi Pachamoothoo received his first doctoral degree from the Day Spring University Dallas Texas, USA last year.

The doctorate was presented by the president of Lincoln University College, Prof. Dr. Amiya Bhaumik. Present on the occasion were SRMIST's Vice Chancellor Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical & Health

Sciences) Lt. Col. Dr. A. Ravi Kumar, Registrar Dr. S. Ponnusamy, Deputy Registrar Dr. D. Antony Ashok Kumar, International Director Mr. Kartar Singh among others.

Appreciating the work of Dr. Ravi Pachamoothoo, Dr. Amiya Bhaumik said, "The roles and responsibilities of educational system is to manifest the divinity of each and every human soul."

He said that the role of teaches is to remove the hindrances in students life and inspire them to manifest the divinity and hidden talents.

"After our demise, the education and social impact that we impart to others will remain on earth and that will be our legacy." He then urged students who intend to take up entrepreneurship to not give up their efforts or dreams in any situation.

SINDHU IN SEMIS

World No. 7 win in 62 minutes to reach last four; heartbreak for Saina, Prannoy in Singapore Open

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Double Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu pulled off a thriller to advance into the semifinal, but her teammates Saina Nehwal and HS Prannoy suffered heartbreaking defeats in their respective events in the Singapore Open Super 500 Tournament here on Friday.

Third seed Sindhu overcame a strong challenge from Han Yue before getting the better of her Chinese rival 17-21, 21-11, 21-19 in a battle lasting more than an hour to book her first semifinal berth since the Thailand Open in May.

Sindhu will next face unseeded Saena Kawakami, the Japanese



world No. 38, who caused an upset by eliminating sixth seeded Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand 21-17, 21-19.

With Sindhu being the only Indian in fray now, it remains to be seen if the former world champion is able to make it all the way in the last event before the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The Indian star boasts of a 2-0 head-to-head record against Saena.

Sindhu now leads 3-0 against the Chinese on head-to-head.

London Olympics bronze medalist Saina Nehwal, who showed signs of her silken touch in a superb win over Chinese world No. 9 He Bing Jiao in the quarters, squandered a game lead to go down 13-21, 21-15 20-21 against left-handed Japanese Aya Otori.

The 32-year-old veteran Indian failed to convert her match points twice to hand over the tie to her Japanese opponent.

In-form Prannoy also showed promise and won the first game by nine points but Kodai Naraoka

levelled in the second game before sealing it 12-21, 21-14, 21-18.

Prannoy put up an incredible battle in the decider when he bounced back from being 7-18 down and had eight straight points to make a match out of Naraoka.

From being 15-20, Prannoy saved match points and stretched it further, only to go down in a battle lasting 63 minutes.

Earlier in the day, the world No. 7 Sindhu found the going tough early in the first game as Han was clinical with her placement and drew the first blood, but the Indian bounced back strongly to win the second and seal the issue in 62 minutes.

World No. 19 Han had it easy in the first game after racing to 11-9 in the interval as Sindhu struggled with her defence.

The Indian bounced back in the second and took a three-point lead in the mid-game interval.

Sindhu extended her lead with a perfect cross-court winner and clinched the second game with seven points on the trot.

It turned out to be a thriller in the end as Sindhu, who found herself in familiar territory trailing 8-11 and then 9-14 in the decider, produced some fine rallies.

Sindhu showed great resilience to come back and level it at 14-all with five points in a row.

It became 19-all before Sindhu sealed it in her favour.

Indian doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also stretched second seeded duo of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia but failed to finish and lost out 10-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Goal is to win Gold in CWG: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A confident Indian men's hockey team is looking to put brakes on Australia's golden run at the upcoming Commonwealth Games, vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh said on Friday.

Australia has won all the six gold medals on offer in the men's competition since the game's introduction at the multi-sport event in Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

But Harmanpreet exuded confidence that his team will be able to buck the trend in Birmingham.

"Our team has been performing well. We played well in FIH Hockey Pro League as well and therefore the confidence is high within the group. We will look to keep winning matches. We will definitely try our level best to win gold at the Commonwealth Games 2022," he said.

"Our preparations for the Commonwealth Games are going on very well. We are



working on specific aspects of our game during our training sessions and we are focusing on the learnings from the FIH Hockey Pro League."

The ace drag-flicker said finishing and defence remains a concern for India but they are constantly working to plug holes in these two areas.

"We are specifically working on our finishing and defending skills at the moment. Overall, we are hitting the right notes in the practice sessions. We'll just keep working hard on our game and try to keep getting better day by day as a team," Harmanpreet said.

"We have been playing practice matches during our training sessions. Our main team has been playing against the rest of the players in the national camp.

"The practice matches have helped us improve our on-field coordination and also provided us with an opportunity to test our strategies," he added.

Indian athletes to stay at five different 'Villages' during Birmingham CWG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Commonwealth Games bound Indian athletes and officials will be staying at five different "Villages" with women's cricket team being put up in a separate facility in the Birmingham city centre.

India is sending a 215-member athlete contingent across 16 disciplines for the Games beginning July 28. The overall contingent size including team officials stand at 325.

Usually, all athletes stay in the dedicated Games Village but the organisers of Birmingham 2022 have arranged five different accommodations for athletes. More than 5000 athletes are set to take part in the sporting extravaganza.

In an official communication to concerned national sports federations, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has informed them about the staying arrangements and the need to undergo a RT-PCR test for COVID-19 72 hours prior to their arrival in the UK.

Athletes taking part in swimming, athletics, gymnastics, squash, hockey, will be staying in Commonwealth Games Village Birmingham (CGB) while the ones in bad-



minton, boxing, table tennis, weightlifting and triathlon will be put up in Commonwealth Games Village NEC (CGN).

Participants in wrestling, judo and lawn bowls will be based out of Commonwealth Games Village Warwick (CGW) while the cricketers will be in Commonwealth Games

Village City Centre (CGC). All games will be at the famous Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

With the cycling event set to be staged in London, the track team will be staying at the Satellite Village (SVL).

The Code of Conduct (CoC) for CWG has also been shared with the athletes and officials.



Everton owner insists club isn't for sale

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Everton majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri has insisted the Premier League club is not for sale after talks with a consortium looking to take over at Goodison Park.

Former Manchester United chief executive Peter Kenyon was the frontman of a group that entered into exclusive negotiations to purchase Everton.

The consortium, bankrolled by real estate tycoon Maciek Kaminski and mining magnate John Thornton, had reportedly hoped to complete a £500-million (\$591 million) deal for Everton.

But, in a message on Everton's website on Thursday, Moshiri said that any new investment would only be a minority stake.

"There has been much talk of investment in our football club recently - even takeovers - but I want to clarify that there is no 'for sale' sign currently hanging outside Everton Football Club," Moshiri said.

"It will always be pragmatic to explore all potential investment opportunities and, as I have been transparent about, I am focused on completing the financing for our

fantastic new stadium as well as strengthening the playing squad, and that might include a minority investment. That will continue.

"But I want to reassure all of you that Everton Football Club is not for sale."

Everton have posted total losses of more than £370 million over the last three financial years following huge investment in the playing squad for little reward.

Moshiri has become the target of fierce criticism from Everton fans, with the club's narrow escape from relegation last season failing to save him from further abuse.

But Moshiri has called on Everton's disgruntled supporters to judge after boss Frank Lampard has completed his transfer dealings in the summer window.

"My commitment to the club remains strong and focused and (director of football) Kevin Thelwell and the chairman are currently working hard to bring in new players to improve Frank Lampard's squad," Moshiri said.

"There will be new signings and I would ask supporters to judge us at the end of the transfer window."

Man United begins Australian tour with 4-1 win

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Manchester United overcame an early deficit to beat the A-League's Melbourne Victory 4-1 as new manager Erik ten Hag's winning start to the pre-season continued before a crowd of 74,157 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

Three days after United beat Liverpool 4-0 to open its overseas tour in Bangkok, the Victory took advantage of some apparent jet lag by the visitors to grab a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute when Chris Ikonomidis scored.

But United led at half-time after a deflected Scott McTominay strike and a close-range Anthony Martial goal.

The Dutch manager, hired by the English Premier League team in April,



changed all 10 outfield players at halftime, just as he did against Liverpool. Marcus Rashford's finish from an Eric Bailly through ball pro-

vided the highlight of the second half that ended with an own goal from Tahith Chong's cross.

United next plays on

Tuesday against Crystal Palace, also at Melbourne, before it faces Aston Villa next Friday in Perth, Western Australia.

Parthiv Patel to play in second edition of LLC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Indian wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel will be back in action as he is set to take part in the second season of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) in September.

Three other former India players — spinner Pragyan Ojha, all-rounder Reetinder Sodhi and pacer Ashok Dinda have confirmed to be part of the player draft process for the league.

The second season of the LLC will feature four teams and 110 former international cricketers.

Meanwhile, according to a media statement, former Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson and former Sri Lankan skipper Thisara Perera have also joined the league.

France avoid upset against Belgium to reach Euro quarters

AP ■ ROTHERHAM

France survived a scare to reach the Euro 2022 quarter-finals as Group D winners after a 2-1 victory against Belgium on Thursday.

Corinne Diacre's side made the perfect start when Kadidiatou Diani headed in from Sakina Karchaoui's cross after just six minutes.

Janice Cayman grabbed a shock equaliser for underdogs Belgium with a close-range finish in the 36th minute at Rotherham's New York Stadium.

But France, who had crushed Italy 5-1 in their opening group game, recovered from that setback five minutes later.

Griedge Mbock Bathy rose highest to power a bullet header into the net from Clara



Mateo's cross, ensuring her team joined the Bastille Day celebrations.

France, who had 27 shots to Belgium's two, wasted a chance to win by a bigger

margin when Amber Tysiak's handball was given as a penalty after a VAR review.

Tysiak's offence triggered a dismissal for her second yellow card, but Wendy Renard's spot

kick was saved by Nicky Evrard.

The only concern for France was a first-half injury to Marie-Antoinette Katoto that could put her participation in

the knockout stages in doubt.

France have won their last 16 matches in all competitions, scoring 69 goals and conceding just seven times in this run.

They have only ever had one longer winning run in their history, a 17-match streak between August 2011 and July 2012.

In the quarter-finals, France will play the runner-up in Group C, with Netherlands currently in first place and Sweden sitting second.

Belgium are in third place in Group D, with one point from two games.

They must beat Italy in their final match on Monday to have a chance of overtaking second-placed Iceland, who are one point ahead of them after drawing 1-1 with Italy earlier on Thursday.

Kohli doesn't need any reassurance: Rohit

PTI ■ LONDON

India skipper Rohit Sharma has once again come out in support of Virat Kohli after the batter was out for 16 in the second ODI against England to extend his prolonged lean patch.

At the post-match press conference following the team's 100-run drubbing to England here on Thursday, Rohit looked agitated as he interrupted a scribe even before he could complete his question on Kohli's poor run of form.

"Kyun ho rahi hain, yaar. Matlab mujhe samajh mein nahi aata, bhai. (Why is there so much of discussion... I can't understand this)," Rohit said.

"He has played so many matches, over such a long period of time. He is such a great batter, so he does not need reassurance."

If Rohit's support was not enough, his English counterpart Jos Buttler too backed Kohli to regain his touch, and said a big knock is "always due" from a player of his calibre.

Making a comeback after sitting out the first ODI because of a groin strain, Kohli was dismissed after striking three boundaries at Lord's, once again leading to discussions on his poor form.

In the preceding T20I series Kohli had scores of 1 and 11, and was also dismissed cheaply in the fifth Test against England, forcing legends such as Kapil Dev to wonder why he could not be dropped.

But Rohit maintained the the Indian No. 3 does not need any reassurance and his spot in the team is secure.

"As I have said previously, form can go up and down, it's part and parcel for every cricketer's career. Even the greatest of the cricketer would have his share of ups and downs.

"For someone who has won so many matches for India, you need one or two innings to bounce back. That's what I feel and I am sure all those who follow cricket will think similarly."

"I know there's been discussions going on but we have to understand we have seen for years, players go through ups and downs, but quality never goes away, we have to keep that in mind."

"Look at his past records, the number of hundreds, his average. He has the experience. You have slump even in personal life."

Just before the Indian team



arrived at Lord's for the second match, the BCCI had announced the squad for the upcoming T20I series in the West Indies, which did not include Kohli. It is said that he had asked for rest.

Echoing Rohit's views, Buttler too backed the 33-year-old Kohli.

"I suppose in a little way it's quite refreshing for the rest of us that he (Kohli) is human and he can have a couple of low scores as well, but look he has been one of

the best players, if not the best player in ODI cricket in the world," the English skipper said.

"So he's been a fantastic player for so many years and all batters, it just proves, go through runs of form where they don't perform as well as they can do sometimes, but certainly as an opposition captain, you know a player of that class is always due, so you're hoping that it doesn't come against us," said Buttler.

Opting to field, the Rohit-led side had England tottering for 148/6 only to let them recover to 246.

The total proved more than enough as India suffered a top-order collapse before being bundled out for 146 in 38.5 overs.

"This is also a challenge for us, whenever we lose five-six early wickets we too have to learn how our lower order too can make runs," he said.

Navdeep Saini to play 8 games for Kent

PTI ■ KENT

India fast bowler Navdeep Saini will be playing eight games for leading English County side Kent during the ongoing season.

The pacer will wear his preferred shirt number 96 and will follow in the footsteps of Rahul Dravid to become the second Indian Test cricketer to play for the county.

Saini, who has slipped off the radar as far as national reckoning is concerned, was a net bowler for

the Indian team ahead of its rescheduled fifth Test against England in Birmingham at the start of this month.

"Kent Cricket is delighted to announce the signing of India international fast bowler Navdeep Saini for up to three County Championship and five Royal London Cup matches, subject to visa and regulatory approval," Kent announced on its website.

The 29-year-old has represented his country in all forms of the game after making his T20I

debut for India in August 2019. The Kent county has lavished praise on India's reserve pacer.

"Hailed as one of the top five fastest Indian bowlers in world cricket, Saini is capable of clocking 95mph and has taken 148 first-class wickets at 28.80 with a career bowling economy of 2.92," the website stated.

On joining Kent Cricket, Saini said: "It's a great opportunity to play county cricket and I'm looking forward to giving my all for Kent."



Eng level series with 100-run win

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian top-order fell like ninepins as Reece Topley's 6 for 24 headlined a fine England bowling performance in a series-levelling 100-run win while defending a modest target in the second ODI at the Lord's on Thursday.

With parity restored in the three-match series, the decider at the Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday promises to be a mouth-watering contest.

When the Indian bowlers put up another impressive show to bowl out England for 246 in 49 overs, little did one know that the visiting batters would inexplicably implode for a paltry 146 in 38.5 overs in the face of nice seam and swing bowling from Topley.

David Willey (1/27 in 9 overs), seasoned Moeen Ali (1/30) and Liam Livingstone (1/4) also played their parts to perfection.

Topley's figures were the best by an Englishman at the 'Mecca of Cricket'.

Having won the first game by 10 wickets, the Indian team couldn't have comprehended that the wheels of fortune would turn so swiftly.

With Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant all back in the dressing room just after the first Powerplay and only 31 runs on board, there was only one possible result.

Suryakumar Yadav (27), Hardik Pandya (29) and Ravindra Jadeja (29) did try their bit but the scores would certainly provide a bigger picture of the kind of plight Indian batters endured during the chase.

Dhawan (9 off 26 balls) and skipper Rohit (0 off 9 balls) looked distinctly uncomfortable as 6 feet 5 inch tall Topley hit the seam and, with his height, also extracted disconcerting bounce consistently.

Knowing that Rohit is a compulsive hooker and puller, Topley kept it full and a typical left-armed's delivery that goes through with the angle found the Indian captain plumb in-front.

Dhawan, whose stay at the wicket was as painful as Rohit, tickled one down the leg-side to Jos Buttler.

Kohli's 22-second brisk walk down the Lord's Long Room was elegantly filmed by the broadcasters as he was seen getting his collars up while entering the playing arena.

It was followed by three picturesque shots — an off-drive, an on-drive and a cover drive — all out of top drawer but the propensity to play everything on front-foot brought about his downfall.

Left-arm pacer Willey angled one on the off-stump and once again the former India captain misjudged the length with his front-foot trigger. The resultant nick was gleefully accepted by skipper Buttler behind the stumps.

Rishabh Pant (0) in a blue Indian jersey has often been a pale shadow of what he is in white flannels. A full toss was deposited to the mid-on fielder off seamer Brydon Carse. It was 31 for 4 and suddenly a target of 247 looked mammoth.

Suryakumar Yadav (27 off 29 balls) seemed to start from where he had left in Nottingham during that incredible T20 hundred.

Along with Pandya, he added 42 runs before Topley, coming in for his second spell, got one to bounce extra and forced the batter to go for a non-existent cut shot when there was bare minimum room for execution.

Earlier, Yuzvendra Chahal's clever variations complemented by Hardik Pandya's steady fast medium bowling saw India bowl out England for a manageable 246 in 49 overs after opting to field.

Chahal has found a method to reinvent himself: Hogg



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Yuzvendra Chahal's bowling was becoming predictable couple of years back and to his credit has found out methods to recalibrate his skill-sets, feels former Australian spinner Brad Hogg.

Chahal, who will turn 32 next week, was dropped during last year's T20 World Cup in the UAE and since then has played 20 white ball games across two formats and taken 26 wickets.

According to Hogg, Chahal will play a key role in India's campaign at the T20 World Cup, which is slated to be held in Australia in October and November later this year.

"(Having seen) his growth over the last year or two, he is going to have a better series (the T20 World Cup) in Australia," Hogg said.

But the left-arm wrist-spinner is actually impressed how Chahal has "adapted his game in the past couple of years."

"He had a period where he got found out but he has found a method to rebuild himself and get back into the contest," Chahal said. He also cited another reason for the wiry Haryana leg-break bowler's success.

er reason India are favourites," said Hogg, who played 123 ODIs for Australia as a left-arm wrist spinner.

Hogg, who has himself been a part of World Cup winning Australian ODI team, believes that Chahal can make a difference in the middle overs in the upcoming T20 World Cup.

"Chahal is up there. I think leg-spin in T20 cricket is probably the most effective option, especially in those middle overs. And the thing I like about Chahal is that he is up there with the best," he opined.

'SKY' IS THE MOST DAMAGING BATSMAN

Suryakumar Yadav has taken the cricket world by storm with his 55-ball-117 against England in a recent T20 International in a losing cause and Hogg finds him to be the most dangerous batter with an unorthodox range of strokes.

"Suryakumar is going to be batting in the top-order. He is probably the most damaging batsman. He is a tough batsman to bowl to because he scores in different areas."

"If he and (Rishabh) Pant are out in the middle, both are different players, but they are unorthodox, so it is very hard to set them up with a good game-plan," he added.

Time away from cricket was worthwhile: Topley after taking 6/24

PTI ■ LONDON

Time away from cricket owing to recurrent injuries was made "worthwhile" by his incredible effort in England's 100-run drubbing of India in the second ODI, said left-arm pacer Reece Topley.

The 28-year-old grabbed 6-24 as reigning world champions England, defending a modest 246, bounced back from their embarrassing 10-wicket defeat at the Oval to level the three-match series at 1-1 here on Thursday.

"It means a lot, it makes it all worthwhile to be honest," said Topley at the post-match presentation.

With his performance at Lord's, he improved upon former England skipper Paul Collingwood's 17-year-

old record (6/31) against Bangladesh.

With the series now levelled at 1-1, both the teams will square up once again in the third and final ODI at Old Trafford on Sunday.

"That was a terrific team performance... Just happy that it came off. It (today) means a lot. Of course everyone dreams to play for England... It's a big game at the weekend, try and wrap up the series. Hopefully, we do that, and whatever is next," Topley said.

Topley has represented England in only 17 ODI games since making his debut in 2015, and a career interrupted by back injuries meant he had to miss several games for his country.

But he is determined to make the most of his comeback.



"It is everyone's dream to play for England," he said.

"I just want to pull the shirt on as many times as I can and play my part. It is a privilege every time," Topley said.

England skipper Jos Buttler, who admitted that England did not bat well once again, heaped praise on Topley's never-say-die attitude.

"He's had quite an interesting story. For him to come back from that and to take 6/24 at Lord's is an incredibly special performance," Buttler said.

"It's a tribute to his perseverance and his outlook on life and the game. He's had really tough experiences, not knowing if he would play again, and that's given him a real sense of perspective and a real enjoyment when he's playing," he added.

5-member ECB security team to visit Pak ahead of bilateral series

PTI ■ KARACHI

A five-member security team of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will visit Pakistan on July 17 to inspect arrangements and potential venues ahead of England's tour to the country.

The England Cricket Team are scheduled to tour Pakistan for the first time since 2015 when they play a 7-match T20I series and three Tests in September or October.

"The delegation which includes two cricket operations officials, two security experts and a representative of their professional cricketers association will be visiting Lahore, Karachi, Multan and Rawalpindi," a senior Pakistan Cricket Board official said.

The official said that the visit by the recee team is part of the routine inspection tour.

"The delegation will visit the venues, team hotels and also meet with security officials to discuss plans for the England team's visit," the official added.

Sri Lanka take on Pakistan in Test opener

AP ■ GALLE

Dimuth Karunaratne's Sri Lanka will be looking to build on their winning momentum at Galle as the hosts take on Pakistan in a likely spin battle in the opening Test starting Saturday.

Crickets has remained a welcome distraction for Sri Lankans amid the island nation's political unrest and unprecedented economic crisis with the sport providing some smiles.

Sri Lanka head into the Pakistan series after two contrasting results in Galle where they first lost to Australia on a vicious turner and then bounced back to hammer the tourists on Monday.

Former Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail said the touring batsmen will have to overcome their weakness against left-arm spin to succeed in the two-match series.

"Both the teams have grown up on spin wickets and have a hang of these types of pitches," Sohail said.

"But I believe Pakistan will have to work hard if they have to make an impact and win this series."

"We historically know that Pakistani players have a weakness against left-arm spinners, so they have to tackle it. So they should prepare well and batsmen should take responsibility."

Sohail's analysis comes after debutant left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya returned a match haul of 12 wickets to hand Australia a thumping defeat by an innings and 39 runs in the final match.



Jayasuriya, 30, was one of the three Sri Lankan players including mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana and all-rounder Kamindu Mendis to get a first Test cap in the previous match after the team suffered a Covid outbreak.

Kamindu also made a mark in the series-levelling win with his gritty 61 in a 133-run stand with Dinesh Chandimal, who hit his maiden Test double century — 206 not out.

But Kamindu is certain to lose his

place to Dhananjaya de Silva if the senior all-rounder recovers from the virus and is match-fit for the opener against Pakistan.

The visitors, led by Babar Azam, have bolstered their spin attack by giving veteran leg-spinner Yasir Shah a comeback into the Test team.

Babar himself has been in roaring form with the bat and recently hit 196 against Australia in the team's home series, which they ended up losing 1-0 in March.

Openers Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq have also been among the runs and Sohail insists the batting is not a one-man army.

"Last series Imam-ul-Haq was very consistent, Abdullah Shafique showed his ability. There is Rizwan and he has responded well and there is Azhar Ali," said Sohail.

"So I will not say there is over reliance (on Babar), but because Babar has become such a big name, the expectations have grown bigger that he does something special in every match."

Karunaratne admitted Pakistan will be tougher opposition than Australia in the two Tests but believes playing in Galle for the third straight time will be an advantage for the hosts.

"Pakistan is a strong side. (But) playing three games in Galle is good for a team. We know how conditions are in the last few games," said Karunaratne.

"Pakistan don't have that opportunity. Big advantage for us. We need to turn that in our favour."