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INDIA WINS BACK
SRI LANKA'S TRUST

WORLD 8
IMRAN APPEALS AGAINST
GRAFT CASE CONVICTION

MONEY 10
SENSEX FALLS 0.16%
TO SETTLE AT 65,846

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A COMEBACK IN
ASIA CUP
12 SPORT

Manipur hogs Opp charge; NDA mocks: 'Motion of Trust in Opp'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The first day of the no-confidence motion debate in the Lok Sabha on Thursday witnessed heated exchanges between the Opposition and the treasury benches. While Opposition parties centred their arguments on the Manipur crisis and the perceived failures of the Modi Government, the BJP and its allied parties targeted the INDIA coalition, characterising it as an ineffective entity trying to assert its relevance by proposing a doomed motion.

Kicking off the debate on the motion in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi asserted that the Opposition bloc INDIA brought forth the no-confidence motion against the government to break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vow of silence" on the Manipur issue.

Gogoi alleged that a Government that champions the notion of "one India" has paradoxically led to the creation of "two Manipurs," one existing in the hills and the other in the valley.

"Manipur demands justice. Martin Luther King Jr had said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' If Manipur is burning, the whole of India is burning; if Manipur is divided, the country is divided. It was our demand that, as the leader of the nation, Prime Minister Modi should address the House and speak about Manipur. However, he maintained a 'maun vrat (vow of silence),' refraining from addressing the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," Gogoi said.

"Through the no-confi-



Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi speaks during the debate on Motion of no-Confidence in the Lok Sabha in the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

dence motion, we aim to break his vow of silence," he emphasised.

Gogoi posed a question to the Prime Minister, asking why he hadn't visited Manipur while both Rahul Gandhi and Home Minister Amit Shah, along with Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, had done so.

Commencing the debate from the Government's side, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said that the Prime Minister had clarified that the no-confidence motion wasn't against the Government but was a test of confidence among the opposition alliance members themselves.

Dubey took a dig at the Opposition, remarking that they were squabbling among themselves while labeling themselves as INDIA. He claimed that if one were to ask Opposition leaders about the full form of the acronym

INDIA, only a few would be able to provide a comprehensive answer. Dubey also raised the issue of the Supreme Court's stay on Rahul Gandhi's conviction in the "Modi surname" case, which resulted in the reinstatement of his Lok Sabha membership.

"There was such a hullabaloo over Rahul Gandhi's return to Parliament, but where had he gone?... He was here during the Budget session. The Supreme Court hasn't acquitted him. He has also refused to apologise... He says 'I am not (VD) Savarkar, you can never be Savarkar,' Dubey remarked.

Taking a light jab at Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, both present in the House, Dubey commented that she was following the traditional approach of "Bete ko set karna hai, damaad ko bhent karna hai (Must set her son and offer a gift to her son-in-law)." Several Opposition leaders, including Congress MP Manish Tewari, targeted the Government, alleging its failure to contain violence in BJP-led states like Manipur and Haryana. Tewari contended that the Government had "failed" across various fronts, encompassing national security, economic growth, communal harmony, and the autonomy of institutions, over the past nine years.

He labeled this as unfortunate. He claimed that Manipur had been engulfed in turmoil for the last three months, with the Government making minimal efforts to restore peace in the state. Tewari asserted that disturbances in any state within the Northeast region could have national security repercussions due to its strategic importance. Tewari also alleged that despite the border dispute with China, the trade deficit

with the nation continued to rise. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised the Congress and other Opposition parties for timing the no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi Government incorrectly and employing an improper approach. Rijiju noted that when Prime Minister Modi had emerged as a global leader and the country was progressing towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, there was no valid reason for such a motion against the government. He suggested that instead of this motion, the Opposition should collaborate with the Government in celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (Independence's Golden Jubilee) and work together to achieve the goals set by the Prime Minister for the next 25 years.

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"The Congress and Opposition parties will regret introducing the no-confidence motion at an inappropriate time and in the wrong manner," the Minister asserted.

Participating in the debate, Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav enquired why Prime Minister Modi wasn't present in the Lok Sabha during the discussion, urging him to respond to the motion. "Is it not the moral and political responsibility of the BJP? We requested the Prime Minister to come to the House, but he is still absent," she added.

CPI(M) member AM Ariff accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having one of the lowest attendance records in the House proceedings.

Continued on Page 2

Cong reschedules Rahul speech to pit against PM

Cong ex-chief to now address the House on Thurs, just before Modi's scheduled reply to No Trust motion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an interesting turn of events, the Congress decided to withdraw Rahul Gandhi as its lead speaker for opening the debate on the no-confidence motion, setting the stage for a potential Prime Minister Narendra Modi vs Rahul showdown on Thursday.

The decision was made at the last minute, with Tarun Gogoi taking Rahul's place.

The former Congress chief will now address the House on Thursday, just before Modi's scheduled reply to the motion. The Congress has strategically positioned Rahul's speech immediately preceding the PM's response, with the aim of portraying him as the primary contender against Modi in the Lok Sabha elections next year.

Insider sources have revealed that this strategic adjustment was insisted upon by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

When Speaker Om Birla called upon Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi to initiate the debate at noon, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi said, based on his information, the Speaker's office had received a letter at 11.55 am indicating that Rahul would replace Gogoi as the speaker.

Gogoi swiftly responded with a sharp retort, asking, "Speaker, should we also reveal what's happening in your office



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP national president JP Nadda leaves after the BJP Parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi attends the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

confidential matters.

Gogoi, in response, directed criticism at Joshi, urging him to remember his responsibilities as Parliamentary Affairs Minister and to avoid revealing discussions from the office.

Insider sources within the Congress disclosed that Rahul did not open the debate on Tuesday to preempt the BJP's tactics of subsequent speakers targeting him on Tuesday.

The BJP had initiated the debate with Nishikant Dubey, a known critic of Rahul, who had previously accused the Congress of receiving Chinese funds and attempted to link Rahul to the controversy. Throughout the day, other figures critical of Rahul, such as Smriti Irani, were also scheduled to speak.

"This was our googy," said Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

According to sources from the Lok Sabha secretariat, even on Thursday, a substantial 3 to 4-hour debate on the no-confidence motion is anticipated in the Lok Sabha.

The debate is expected to conclude with Prime Minister Modi's address, projected to take place around 3-4 pm on Thursday.

O'Brien 'suspended', allowed to attend later in high drama in RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday saw some confusion regarding the initiation of action against Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O'Brien when he was first asked to leave the House by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar.

Dhankar first suspended him for the remaining part of the session and later allowed him to attend the proceedings.

These developments followed sharp exchanges between the TMC member and Dhankar in the pre-lunch session of the Upper House.

Later, Dhankar told Pramod Tiwari (Congress) that he had not taken the sense of the House, saying had the process 'fructified', O'Brien



TMC MP Derek O'Brien during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

would not have been able to come to the House again.

"I did not take that sense of the House deliberately. It is my obligation to ensure to an extreme degree that the House

runs. I have been extremely accommodating whenever the TMC MP has come to my chamber," Dhankar said.

Earlier, after Dhankar said he was naming O'Brien, Leader of House Piyush Goyal moved a motion for the TMC member's suspension "for continuously disturbing the proceedings of the House, disobeying the chair and continuously creating the disturbance in the House". "Derek O'Brien is directed to leave the House and is suspended for the rest of the session. The House is adjourned," Dhankar said.

The House faced its first adjournment of the day till 12 noon after the chairman named O'Brien and Goyal moved the motion for his suspension.

Continued on page 2



Restoration work underway at the Govindghat for the opening of the Badrinath national highway which was blocked due to landslides in Chamoli district on Tuesday. The Badrinath National Highway near Chhinka was blocked due to falling boulders from the hill on Friday morning. As a result of the highway closure, commuters, including pilgrims and tourists traveling to and from the famous Badrinath shrine have been stranded PTI

Rahul gets back Tughlaq Lane bunglow



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just a day after his reinstatement as a member of the LS, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been re-allotted his Tughlaq Lane bungalow in the national Capital on Tuesday.

Sources said Rahul had received the official letter reassigning the same house he had occupied as a LS member for nearly two decades. He is currently residing with his mother, Sonia Gandhi, who also serves as the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

Continued on Page 2

ED summons J'khand CM on Aug 14 in scam case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear before its investigators at its Ranchi office on August 14. This summons comes in connection with an ongoing investigation into a land scam case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Sources indicate that the agency has uncovered substantial evidence against Soren, prompting the issuance of the summons based on these findings. The ED has also identified certain individuals suspected of being involved in the case, who were reportedly in contact with the CM.

The ED's enquiry focuses on cracking down on mafias engaged in land grabbing,



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant welcomed in Jamshedpur on Tuesday PTI

including a parcel of land in Jharkhand, with transactions dating back to the pre-Independence era.

On April 13, the ED conducted searches at 22 locations linked to mafias, Government officials, and a bureaucrat implicated in the alleged seizure of land belonging to the marginalised, vulnerable, and even deceased individuals.

Continued on Page 2

Privilege motion over Goyal's 'traitors' slur

INDIA bloc in RS moves motion, seeks Goyal's apology for remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Tensions escalated within the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday as the floor leaders representing the Opposition alliance INDIA jointly submitted a privilege motion against Leader of the House Piyush Goyal for allegedly calling Opposition members "traitors".

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh announced the motion and called for an apology from Goyal. Taking to Twitter, Ramesh stated, "Today at 1300 hrs, the floor leaders of INDIA parties



Union Minister Piyush Goyal speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

in the Rajya Sabha submitted a privilege motion against Leader of the House Piyush Goyal for addressing all of the Opposition as 'traitors'. Nothing less than an apology from him on the floor of the House, when it is in order, will do."

In a subsequent tweet, Ramesh said following the "continued refusal of the Modi Government to allow an immediate discussion on Manipur on the basis of a mutually negotiated Motion" and Goyal's alleged refusal to apologise for

his remarks, the INDIA parties decided to stage a walkout from the Rajya Sabha for the remainder of the day.

The proceedings of the Rajya Sabha faced their third adjournment until 2 pm amid the Opposition's uproar over allegations made by the ruling party that the Congress and its coalition partners were aiding Chinese propaganda in India.

Goyal's remarks ignited the confrontation as he said, "Congress and its arrogant coalition parties are supporting Chinese media and hatching a conspiracy. This is a serious issue. This issue needs to be discussed in the House."

Goyal went on to question the Opposition's stance on China, calling for clarity on whether they aligned with India or China.

The root of this confrontation lay in a report from *The New York Times*, which was brought to attention by BJP

MP Sudhanshu Trivedi. The ensuing exchange escalated, resulting in the Opposition's protest and eventual adjournment of the proceedings.

The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha acknowledged a meeting with Ramesh, where concerns were raised about Goyal's use of "inappropriate" language. The Chairman assured a thorough examination of the matter and clarified that any unparliamentary remarks would not be included in the official records.

In response, Goyal himself urged the Chair to expunge any remarks that could be construed as unparliamentary.

Congress leader Digvijay Singh requested an evaluation of Goyal's statements, particularly his use of the term "traitor" and allegations surrounding finances. As protests and slogans continued from the Opposition, the Chair adjourned the proceedings until 2pm.

Bharat Jodo 2.0 from Guj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The second leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is set to take place, covering the east-to-west route from Gujarat to Meghalaya.

This yatra, a political campaign, aims to unite the Opposition bloc in India. It is scheduled to commence in September after the Opposition's consolidation meeting in Mumbai from August 31 to September 1.

The first phase of the Bharat Jodo Yatra was conducted from Kanniyakumari in the south to Kashmir in the north. This leg of the yatra was led by Rahul Gandhi, who walked approximately 3,500 km from September 2022 to January 2023.

Continued on Page 2

Probe money trail in job scam leading to TMC leadership: CPM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Within hours of jailed Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee's assertion before a designated court that he knew nothing about the school services recruitment scam and that all the information regarding recruitments were routed to the Chief Minister via Principal Secretary, State Opposition parties have raised fresh demands to take the probe to the "next level."

CPI(M) State secretary Md Salim on Tuesday said that "people already knew that all the money raised through the recruitment scam has gone to Kalighat ... Partha Chatterjee's statement before the court has made things clearer ... so the

investigating agencies should now go for the final kill ... they should knock the doors of the highest TMC leadership," Chatterjee while making a submission before a designated court had on Monday said that he was innocent and should be released on bail as despite being the Education Minister he had no role in illegal recruitments.

"Though I was the Education Minister I had no role to play in the appointments ... because a minister has no say in the appointments," he was quoted as saying.

As all the information regarding the recruitment processes were routed through the Board and the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister

the likelihood of his being privy to any such process was minimal, added apparently bringing for the first time the office of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee under scanner.

Chatterjee who was arrested on 22nd July by the ED after Rs 50 cr were recovered from his friend's house however did not take Mamata Banerjee's name. Chatterjee however, later told the media men standing outside the courtroom that his statements were being twisted in order to create distance between him and the Chief Minister.

"I have heard that my statement is being presented in a twisted manner ... I never said that the Chief Minister

knew about everything ... I only explained my capability as a recruiting authority ... while doing so I told that I was not informed about anything on recruitment processes," the jailed minister and number two in the then Mamata Banerjee cabinet said, adding he continued to be a "loyal soldier of the Trinamool Congress and its supreme leader Mamata Banerjee ... no one can break my relationship with the Chief Minister."

Taking a cue from Chatterjee's submission, BJP too said that there was enough of beating about the bush and that a time had come when the investigating agencies should catch the mastermind of the entire scam. BJP leader Samik

Bhattacharya said, "it is clear that such an organized scam at all the levels — from primary to the higher secondary schools, from Group C and D to teachers — where recruitments of thousands of candidates were made year after year could not have been possible without the active involvement of the State's highest administrative office ... now a time has come that the Agencies should call the top-most leadership of both the TMC and the government."

While four or five phases of recruitment exams were held between 2012 and 2022 an estimated 30-40 thousand teachers and Group C and D cadres were given appointments in lieu of cash.

Woman fends off sexual assault, pushed out of Mumbai train; accused held

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A 32-year-old man — who pushed a 29-year-old woman out of the running train after she resisted his attempts to molest her on board Udayan Express soon after the train left Dadar railway station — has been arrested by the Government Reserve Police (GRP) personnel.



Government Railway Police police personnel with the accused who pushed a woman out of a running train after she resisted his attempts to molest and rob her at Dadar railway station in Mumbai on Sunday night. PNS

Fortunately, the victim woman survived the incident as she fell on the extreme end of the railway platform at the Dadar railway station. She fell unconscious for a while and was helped by the onlookers at the station. She sustained multiple bruises in the incident.

The shocking incident took place inside an unreserved ladies' compartment immediately after the Bengaluru-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

at the CSMT later that night. Without waiting for formalities to register an FIR, the GRP personnel at Dadar station alerted their counterparts at CSMT. They examined the CCTV footage of Dadar and CSTM stations. They tracked down the accused at CSMT, arrested him on charges of attempted murder, molestation and robbery. The arrested accused has been booked under sections 307 (attempt to commit murder), 394 (attempt to commit robbery), 354 (molestation), 153, 147 (provocation to cause riot and punishment for rioting) and other offences under IPC.

In a complaint lodged with the Dadar police after the incident, the victim woman said: "I was alone in the ladies compartment after all the passengers alighted at the Dadar railway station.

CBI Academy joins Interpol Global Academy network

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI Academy, Ghaziabad on Tuesday joined the Interpol Global Academy Network through a virtual signing ceremony organised between CBI and Interpol Global Complex for Innovation at Singapore. The CBI became the 10th member of the Network.

The Letter of Acceptance was signed by Deputy Inspector General (Training), CBI Academy, Mohit Gupta and his counterpart at Interpol, Glenn Martindale, Director, Capacity Building and Training Directorate, the CBI said in a

statement. The signing ceremony was held subsequent to negotiations with Interpol in consultation with the Union Home Ministry, Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Personnel and Training.

Interpol Global Academy Network was launched in 2019 with the aim of supporting Interpol in leading a global approach to Law Enforcement Training. The Network has members in all regions and supports academic collaboration amongst Law Enforcement Training Institutions across the globe.

The CBI Academy has become the 10th member of Interpol Global Academy Network. "It is a step towards CBI Academy's growing engagement with International Law Enforcement Institutions enabling effective capacity building and innovation activities.

One of the most reputed Law Enforcement Agencies of India, CBI is National Central Bureau of Interpol for India as

well as a Nodal Agency for Transnational Organised Crimes, Anti-Corruption Crimes, Bank Fraud Cases and Cyber Crimes," it said.

Over the years, CBI Academy has emerged as a major police institution of the country and South Asia.

CBI Academy has imparted training to over 50,000 police officers since 2005 including around 1,432 foreign nationals from SAARC Nations, Africa, South East Asia, Central Asia and West Asia.

Several programmes have been conducted in collaboration with foreign agencies like the US Homeland, French Embassy, FBI, NCCU UK, NCA UK, RCMP Canada along with four Interpol Global Programmes, it said.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Martindale said that CBI Academy is a premier training institution and extremely well placed to contribute to the Interpol Global Academy Network.

"The cooperation between

CBI Academy and INTERPOL has a tremendous potential to enhance policing outcomes in India and across the world. This collaboration will not only be highly beneficial to police personnel in India but also offer high quality capacity building, capability development and training opportunities to police personnel across the world," it said.

By forming part of the network, the CBI Academy will further enhance its international visibility, provide valuable contribution to discussions of international and regional scope in the field of law enforcement education and benefit from knowledge exchange with other members of the network.

Interpol will collaborate with CBI Academy on inclusion of CBI Academy Courses in the Network Catalogue of Continuing Education, the development and/or delivery of Joint Training Programme and the co-ideation and development of Joint Research Projects, the agency added.

J&K Pandits hail reopening of retired Judge N Ganjoo's murder case

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP and several prominent Kashmiri Pandits on Tuesday welcomed the reopening of the Neelkanth Ganjoo murder case, with the latter saying "open wounds" are needed to be healed to restore the community's "shaken confidence".

The pandits also demanded the reopening of all cases of killings of innocent people by militants in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three decades.

Nearly 33 years after retired judge Ganjoo was shot dead by militants, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Monday sought information from the general public to unearth the "larger criminal conspiracy" behind the killing.

Ganjoo had sentenced Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) founder

Mohammad Maqbool Bhat to death in the 1960s in a case related to the murder of police officer Amar Chand.

He was shot dead by militants in Srinagar in November 1989 and was among the prominent Kashmiri Pandits to be targeted before the mass migration of the community from the valley a few months later.

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta lauded the reopening of the Ganjoo murder case and assured the Kashmiri Pandit community that their every unaddressed issue would be addressed appropriately soon.

Reacting to the reopening of the case, Director of Jonaraja Institute of Genocide and Atrocities Studies Dilip Kaul told PTI, "Though a baby step, we welcome it and request the people having knowledge about the murder to come forward to

play their part in providing justice to the victim family."

The SIA, through a communiqué, has appealed to all persons familiar with facts or circumstances of the murder case to come forward and share any account of events which has a direct or indirect bearing on the investigation of the instant case.

Kaul said he sees the development as a "tacit admission of the failure of state investigating authorities as the murder had taken place when the community was living in the valley. He was high on the hit-list and the government was complacent in saving his life."

He said the reconciliation with open wounds is not possible and so is the denial of justice. "It should have been done much earlier but still we welcome it as open wounds need to be healed and the victim families provided justice."

He said the government

should not restrict it to one case and instead reinvestigate all cases of killings of innocent people to restore lost confidence among the community members.

Titu Ganjoo, a constitutional expert, said the SIA's resounding call for truth unequivocally vindicates the community's unwavering advocacy for recognition, justice and accountability for the targeted brutality endured.

He pitched for the enactment of an anti-genocide law to prevent largescale atrocities against a community.

Convener of the Kashmiri Pandit United Front (KPUF) Satish Kishu also welcomed the reopening of the murder case and insisted that all killings, irrespective of victims' religion, be reinvestigated if the government wants to unravel the conspiracy and provide justice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
 Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

E) Re- Tender Work:-

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs)
1.	04/DGM (NTC)/Sr.M./DGM(E&M)/2022-23	Project Management Consulting for Implementation of CCTV Surveillance Camera in NOIDA.	-

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **14.08.2023** up to **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **16.08.2023** at **11.00 AM**.

Dy. General Manager (NTC) NOIDA
Office Sector- 39
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Manipur hogs Opp...

From Page 1
 He claimed that while Manipur was undergoing upheaval, the prime minister had traveled to France to deliver a speech on world peace.

Ariff alleged that due to the government's negligence, the Supreme Court had to establish a three-member committee to supervise relief efforts, rehabilitation, and compensation for victims. The MP maintained that the court also decided to monitor the overall situation in Manipur, with the committee submitting reports

directly to it. Ariff further asserted that after Manipur, Haryana was currently grappling with unrest. He noted that both states were governed by the BJP, and their "double-engine" government appeared to be promoting a "divisive agenda." Ariff mentioned that another contentious issue was the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Demanding the immediate removal of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, RSP's N K Premchandran contended that the situation warranted

invoking Article 356 to impose President's Rule due to the law and order machinery's failure in the state.

The BJD opposed the no-confidence motion against the government in relation to the Manipur violence, attributing the situation to "legacy issues" spanning several decades.

Participating in the Lok Sabha debate, Biju Janata Dal MP Pinaki Misra firmly stated that the party couldn't support any motion brought forward by Congress. He criticized the Congress, stating that they

were proficient at self-sabotage, highlighting their tendency to "cut their nose to spite their face." Misra asserted that it was illogical and politically unwise to propose a no-confidence motion destined to fail.

He emphasized that whenever the prime minister addressed the House, he figuratively dismantled the Congress party. "Let me be clear, we oppose this motion not solely because it's brought by the Congress party, but there are other compelling reasons as well," he concluded.

Gyanvapi mosque: ASI team surveys northern wall, dome, basements

Varanasi (UP): The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team surveyed the northern wall, the dome and basements of the Gyanvapi complex here on Tuesday, the fourth day of the court-mandated exercise to determine if the mosque was built over a temple.

Members of the Muslim side were also present during the survey. The ASI team carried out the work of measurement, mapping and photography of the Gyanvapi complex, government counsel Rajesh

Mishra said. The team divided itself into three groups and surveyed the northern wall, the dome and basements of the complex, he said. Vishnu Shankar Jain, the Hindu side's lawyer, said a detailed scientific study is being done inside the premises according to the court order. Subhash Chaturvedi, another lawyer of Hindu side, said ASI team is collecting evidence and besides dome and pavilion of the complex, the basements were surveyed.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छा.ग.)

कमांक 134/लौ.क.वि.न.पा.नि./2023 रायगढ़ दिनांक 08/08/2023

II ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना II

नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	सि.क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनु.लग्नता राशि रु. (लाख में)	निविदा अंजनलौड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1.	143894	17 MLD to RIYAPARA DEGREE COLLEGE TO PAHAD MANDIR ROAD, GANJA CHOWK AND KOTWALI AREA PIPE LAYING WORK etc. (2nd call)	138.53	23-08-2023
2.	143945	CONSTRUCTION OF BT ROAD FROM MAIN GATE TO NEAR KEDIYA HOUSE AT KRISHNA VIHAR AT W.N. 04	49.59	31-08-2023
3.	143960	CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE FROM KAMAL HOUSE TO SHUSHIL HOUSE AT W.N. 05 DHIMRAPUR PURANI BASTI	33.67	31-08-2023
4.	143982	INTERCONNECTION WORK IN WARD NO 33 KASHIRAM CHOWK TO GANDHI NAGAR PART - 2.	23.99	31-08-2023

अपेक्षित निगमन कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, चरहेर शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दरतावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से अंजनलौड की जा सकती है।

"स्वतंत्र पर्यवेक्षण के लिए उद्घाटन कार्य एवं पारितोषिक का प्रयोग न करें"

कार्यालय निगम, रायगढ़

O'Brien 'suspended', allowed to attend later in high drama in RS

From Page 1
 The House faced two more adjournments till 12.45 p.m and 2 p.m. When the House reassembled at 12.00 p.m, Tiwari sought to raise the Government's move for the suspension of O'Brien.

The chairman said, "This is too serious a matter for me to be overruled...After deep, immediate deliberation, I did not take the sense of the House earlier. If I had really fructified the process, O'Brien would have been out of the House. In my wisdom, I thought I must not take it to that conclusion at that point in time."

Before adjourning the House till 2 p.m amid ruckus by Opposition parties over remarks of Goyal, the chairman said he still has to conclude on the decision concerning O'Brien. "I am yet to conclude on Derek O'Brien," he said. Goyal said this is not the first instance of "such behaviour" by O'Brien and said he resorts to "thumping of desks" and "speaking loudly to the chair". He said no one in the House

endorses such behaviour. Goyal said despite his moving the motion, the chairman showed magnanimity. "Let us agree to maintain decorum," he said and added that O'Brien should express regret. "I think the least that can be expected of Derek O'Brien is that he expresses regret to the chair."

These developments took place after the House met for the day and took up the listed agenda, Dhankhar referred to the demand of Opposition parties for discussion on the Manipur situation and said it had been on the agenda but did not fructify.

Goyal said he will check the availability of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and if the Opposition members are willing, the discussion can take place at 12 noon.

The chairman said he had indicated that the discussion on the Manipur situation can go much beyond two-and-a-half hours and the Government and the Home Minister have indicated their willingness. O'Brien stood up to raise a

point of order. The chair cautioned him not to say anything except the point of order. The Trinamool Congress member apparently referred to the notices given by Opposition parties for discussion under Rule 267. The House then witnessed sharp exchanges between O'Brien and the chairman.

The move came days after Dhankhar and the TMC member had a heated argument in the Upper House of Parliament. The chairman had said O'Brien was making "engaging in theatrics" a habit, inviting a strong objection from O'Brien, who said he was quoting the rules of the House and demanding a serious discussion on Manipur.

The spat occurred when Dhankhar was addressing the members of the House and pointing out that the repeated disruptions in the House do not evoke respect among the people. He also spoke of how he was getting inputs from all over, indicating "alarming concern" over the situation in the House.

Bharat Jodo 2.0 from Guj

From Page 1
 The response to this phase was overwhelming, leading to the planning of the second phase. Nana Patole, the Congress chief, announced that the second phase of the yatra will cover the route from Gujarat to Meghalaya. This announcement follows the success of the first phase led by Rahul. The purpose of the yatra is to strengthen Opposition unity and gather public support.

Rahul gets back Tughlaq Lane...

From Page 1
 Talking to the media personnel regarding the re-allotment of his bungalow at 12 Tughlak Lane, Rahul Gandhi said, "Mera ghar pura Hindustan hai (my home is the entirety of India)."

Following his disqualification as an MP due to a conviction in the 'Modi surname' remarks defamation case by a Surat court, Rahul had to vacate his official residence. He concluded his relocation on April 22, a month after his disqualification on March 24.

Rahul's reinstatement as a Member of Parliament took place on Monday after the Lok Sabha secretariat issued a fresh order. This updated order effectively reversed the prior one that had resulted in Gandhi's disqualification from his parliamentary position due to his conviction in the 'Modi surname' case.

ED summons J'khand CM on Aug 14 in scam case

From Page 1
 During the course of investigation, ED officials discovered that a piece of land initially registered under the name of Jharkhand resident Jayant Karnad and the 4.55 acres of land in Ranchi, currently held by the Indian Army, had been fraudulently

sold by a group using falsified documents. The buyer was identified as a Kolkata-based entity registered as Jagatbandhu Tea Estate.

While the official director of Jagatbandhu Tea Estate is Dilip Ghosh, sources reveal that the true beneficiary of the land was Amit Aggarwal,

allegedly a close associate of Hemant Soren. The 47-year-old leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) was previously interrogated by the ED in November of the previous year in connection with another PMLA case linked to alleged illegal mining in the Jharkhand.

LG nod for prosecution of two men for incendiary slogans

Vikram, Balram were apprehended by police for creation of pro-Khalistani graffiti across West Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena on Tuesday granted the much-awaited sanction for the prosecution of two persons accused of propagating anti-national sentiments through the display of incendiary slogans, including "Khalistan Zindabad," earlier this year.

The accused, identified as Vikram Singh and Balram Singh, were apprehended by the Delhi Police for their alleged involvement in the creation of multiple pro-Khalistani graffiti across various areas in Western Delhi, including Vikaspuri, Janakpuri, Paschim Vihar, Peeragarhi and Meera Bagh. The incident took place on January 19, 2023.

The graffiti, adorned with



inflammatory slogans such as "Khalistan Zindabad," "SFJ," "1984," "Punjab Banega Khalistan" and "Referendum 2020 Vote for Khalistan," were attributed to both of them. Subsequent investigations revealed that they confessed to engaging in these activities under the directives of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a fugitive associated with the secessionist organisation Sikh for Justice (SFJ). Pannun is considered the founder of the outfit.

In accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 196(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, the L-

G authorised the initiation of legal proceedings against the accused persons. The sanction for prosecution comes as a result of the case lodged on January 19, 2023, by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police. The charges brought against the accused stem from their alleged violation of Sections 153B and 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Section 153B of the IPC pertains to assertions and imputations that are prejudicial to national integrity, social harmony, and religious coexistence.

During the course of the investigations, the Delhi Police managed to secure USB pen dri-

ves containing crucial evidence, including CCTV footage, payment records, and mobile phone locations linked to the accused persons at the locations where the contentious graffiti were discovered.

Moreover, the probe unveiled a video circulated across various social media platforms, featuring Pannun actively advocating and endorsing secessionist ideologies through the medium of graffiti and video messages. The investigation also suggested Pannun's alleged involvement in conspiratorial activities aimed at destabilizing India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This significant development marks a crucial step towards upholding national integrity and curbing activities that could potentially threaten the social and communal fabric of the nation. The prosecution of the accused individuals, guided by the relevant sections of the IPC and CrPC, underscores the commitment of law enforcement agencies and the government in safeguarding the unity and harmony of the nation.

Bid to take away Chadha's MP status: AAP

Raghav accused by BJP of forging signatures of five MPs in motion related to Delhi Services Bill in RS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Tuesday defended its MP Raghav Chadha after the BJP accused him of forging the signatures of five MPs in a motion related to the Delhi Services Bill in the Rajya Sabha, alleging that it is an "attempt to disqualify" him as a Member of Parliament.

Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said that any MP can propose names for a select committee and that "signatures are not required" for it.

"Any MP can propose names for select committee without their signature. The BJP is spreading lies and rumours," he said.

AAP national spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the BJP is "cooking up a false case" against Chadha.

"Those (MPs) who said that Raghav Chadha forged their



signatures, they lied because there was no signature. Breach of privilege motion action can be taken against them. Just like they (Centre) disqualified Rahul Gandhi by creating a false case, BJP wants to do the same with Raghav too. These people are very powerful and can do anything. But we are not afraid of them," Bhardwaj claimed.

A select committee was proposed by Chadha in the Upper House on Monday to examine the Delhi Services Bill.

Senior AAP leader Atishi also said that the BJP accusing Chadha of forgery is "an attempt to take away his Parliament membership."

"It is BJP's attempt to take

away the Parliament membership of Raghav Chadha through backdoor, just like Rahul Gandhi's membership was revoked," she said.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Monday announced a probe into the complaints of at least four MPs that their names were included in a proposed select committee of the House for the Delhi Services Bill without their consent.

The select committee was proposed by Chadha in the Upper House to examine the Delhi Services Bill. AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said, "Raghav Chadha proposed the names of 19 MPs (for the

select committee), of which five members refused. They made it a big issue out of it because they got scared of his speech."

After the Deputy Chairman read out the names to be included in the proposed select committee, Home Minister Amit Shah informed that five members have complained that their names were included without their signatures in the proposal moved by the AAP leader.

He demanded that this issue be investigated. Terming it a breach of privilege of the House, Shah said the matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Then three members, including Sasmit Patra of the BJD, M Thambidurai of the AIADMK and S Phangnon Konyak of the BJP stood up and informed the House that their consent was not taken for the inclusion of their names in the proposed select committee.

To this, the Deputy Chairman said the complaints of the MPs will be probed. He, however, did not indicate the agency for the probe and the timeframe for completing it.

Parliament on Monday passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, that gives the central government control over bureaucrats in the Delhi government.

Kejriwal approves transplantation of 96 trees for Rly housing



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approved a proposal to transplant 96 trees for the construction of a multi-story residential building of the Western Railway at Arakpur Bagh Mochi here.

However, none of the 96 trees will be felled and all of them will be transplanted at a site selected near Shakurbasti, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said.

Kejriwal cleared the path for the project by approving the proposal of the Northern Railway in national interest, the statement said.

The Chief Minister has approved the proposal against the condition that the Northern Railway take up the transplantation of 96 existing trees and plantation of 960 new saplings as per the plan, it added.

"The Delhi Government had received a request from the Northern Railway to transplant 96 trees out of a total of 162 trees at the location near Moti Bagh. A joint inspection of the project site was carried out by concerned officials of the West Forest Division along with Northern Railway officials," said the statement.

A report on the matter was placed to the tree officer (deputy conservator of forest) of the West Forest Division, who cross-checked the information. As per the tree officer's undertaking, the total number of trees in

the area is 162 and 96 of them have been proposed for transplantation.

The Delhi government has made it mandatory for the Northern Railway to plant ten times the number of trees that would be removed from the site of the building. These trees will be planted upon the identified land parcels within three months from the date on which the permission for shifting of the trees will be issued.

The Northern Railway will further take the responsibility of maintaining the trees for the next seven years, as per the Delhi government's guidelines.

As per the proposal approved by the Delhi government, various species of trees that suit the soil and climate of the national capital will be planted in lieu of the removal and transplantation of the trees. These include neem, amaltas, pipal, pilkhan, gular, bargad, desi kikar and arjun, among other species. These trees will be planted as saplings of six-eight feet in height on non-forest lands, the statement said.

As for the trees that have to be transplanted, the Northern Railway has been asked to start the process immediately after fulfilling requisite conditions, and complete it within six months, it said, adding the Northern Railway will further submit a report on the same to the tree officer for supervision.

The Delhi government has also asked the Northern Railway to not damage a single tree at the site other than those that have been identified and approved by the government. If any tree apart from the approved ones is damaged, it shall constitute an offence under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, the statement said.



Delhi Govt grants permission to move 107 trees from upcoming Central Secretariat site to Eco Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has granted permission to transplant 107 trees from the site of the upcoming Common Central Secretariat building on Ashoka Road. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has sought the city Government's nod to transplant the 107 trees affected due to the construction of the building — meant to house central administrative offices of the Union Government — on the site.

The trees will be trans-

planted at the NTPC Eco Park in Badarpur. No trees will be felled at the construction site, the Delhi government said in a statement.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal approved the proposal on the condition that the agency will have to plant 1,070 saplings of native species such as Neem, Amaltas, Pipal, Pilkhan, Gular, Bargad, Desi Kikar and Arjun as compensation.

The CPWD will have to maintain the saplings for seven years, according to Delhi government guidelines.

Minor girl forced to work as domestic help rescued from Greater Kailash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 14-year-old girl forced to work as a domestic help was rescued by the Delhi Commission for Women along with the city police from Greater Kailash, a statement said on Tuesday. On Saturday, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) received a complaint from an organisation, Silver Seven, informing that a minor girl was forced to work as a domestic help in Greater Kailash in southern part of the city. It was informed that the girl was being kept in a house against her wish and she was being mentally and physically tortured, the statement said.

The girl was rescued and brought to the police station. She was very frightened and traumatised and kept requesting not to be sent back to the house, it said.

"The girl belongs to Giridih district of Jharkhand. Her parents died when she was young. She has two brothers and two sisters. Her brother and sister-in-law harassed her and used to often beat her, therefore, she ran away from her home and came

to Delhi in 2021, along with her neighbour," it said.

The girl told police that there were four members in the family where she was working as a domestic help. She alleged that the house owner's wife abused her. The couple told her that she was bought for a huge sum and they would not let her go, it said.

Once she called her uncle from Jharkhand to take her away, but the house owner scolded him and did not allow



her to go with him. She revealed her ordeal to a cook who came to the house and he informed the NGO.

Police said the girl will be produced before the Child Welfare Committee and presently has been placed in a shelter home. "We received a complaint of a girl being kept forcibly in a house. She was being physically abused and detained against her wishes. We immediately ensured that the girl was

rescued with the help of the Delhi police. However, the police are yet to register an FIR in the matter.

"We are issuing a notice in the case. It is shameful that the house owners living in a posh bungalow in GK-1 have committed such atrocities on the girl. They need to be urgently arrested and the strongest action needs to be taken against them," DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal said.

AIIMS asks DMRC to enhance feeder bus service to hospital campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences here has urged the DMRC to augment the feeder bus service to the hospital campus to address the commuting challenges faced by patients, attendants, and staff.

Around 40-50 thousand individuals visit AIIMS daily and a majority of them rely on Delhi Metro services. The need for convenient transportation from the metro stations to the AIIMS campus has become evident,

AIIMS Director Dr Srinivas said. In a letter to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Managing Director Vikas Kumar, Srinivas said, at present, the hospital is accessible from the AIIMS Metro Station and South Extension Metro Station, both of which are significant entry points for visitors.

However, the AIIMS campus is distributed across three different land parcels, namely Masjid Moth, Ansari Nagar, and Raj Nagar.

As a result, those arriving

via Delhi Metro are faced with a considerable distance to walk or the challenge of finding alternative modes of transport like autorickshaws to reach their intended destination, Srinivas said in the letter.

This ordeal is particularly burdensome for the frail and ill patients visiting AIIMS, despite the comfortable air-conditioned metro ride, he said.

"Within the AIIMS campus, we have provisioned electric carts for the convenience of the patients and staff. However,

similar connectivity is missing from the Metro Station to the various AIIMS New Delhi campuses," Srinivas said in the letter.

Srinivas has sought DMRC's support in enhancing the feeder bus service, preferably by introducing air-conditioned electric low-floor buses, from AIIMS Metro Station and South Extension Metro Station to the surrounding campuses of AIIMS New Delhi, including Ansari Nagar, Masjid Moth, and Raj Nagar.

Staff among three held for trying to extort ₹80 lakh from northwest Delhi businessman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man, along with his two associates, was arrested for allegedly demanding Rs 80 lakh as extortion from his employer by impersonating gangster Neeraj Bawania, police said on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Aarush Kashyap, Krishan Murari (22) and Vikram (22), all residents of Shakurpur, they said.

Police said the three men had planned to settle in Nepal and start some business there with the extorted money.

On Saturday, a complaint was received from a businessman engaged in chemicals business in the Mangolpuri Industrial area in northwest Delhi, alleging that he received a call from a person demanding Rs 80 lakh "protection money", a senior police officer said.

During investigation, police analysed the call detail records and nabbed Kashyap, Murari and Vikram. Two SIM cards and two mobile phones used to make extortion calls were recovered from their possession, Deputy Commissioner of Police



(outer) Harendra Singh said.

Kashyap was working at the factory of the complainant for the last four years as a multi-tasker. He was close to the owner, the DCP said.

Kashyap roped in Murari and Vikram and hatched a plan to intimidate the businessman and extort money from him. They believed that the complainant could also give money if he was threatened, police said.

Murari arranged SIM cards and Vikram made the extortion calls to the businessman impersonating gangster Neeraj Bawania. He threatened the victim and demanded Rs 80 lakh as protection money, they said.

Waste-to-art: LG, CM jointly inaugurate Shaheedi Park

Park to open to public from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The revamped 'Shaheedi Park' in the national Capital, which showcases scrap-made sculptures of various freedom fighters, was jointly inaugurated by Delhi Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday. The inauguration ceremony took place amid strains of patriotic songs like 'Mera Rang de Basanti Chola.'

The revamped park has been developed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that it will be opened to the public from August 9.

The MCD has claimed that this is "India's first outdoor museum park".

fighters who died in the wars of India's independence and the wars that followed, the Corporation's Shaheedi Park creates a mesmerising sight with its artefacts and colourful lights. Let us be here to witness the sacrifices made by the builders of golden India," the MCD posted on X on Tuesday.

The civic body also shared some aerial views of the revamped park.

Spread over 4.5 acres, the park will serve as an iconic recreational space narrating the glorious past of India through reliefs, figures and sculptures symbolising notable time spans in India's history, as also various cultures and heroes, officials said.

The park, originally built about 20 years ago, comprises a wide variety of attractions which showcase the rich historical and cultural heritage of India.

It houses beautiful motifs and art installations that commemorate important events, prominent individuals and historical periods that shaped our country, a civic official said.



It has been developed in the ITO area, under the 'waste-to-art' initiative of the MCD.

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi, Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal, Leader of House Mukesh Goel, area coun-

cillor Sarika Choudhary and Municipal Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti were also present on the occasion.

Sculptures such as old trucks, cars, electric poles, pipes, angle iron and rickshaws have

been made out of scrap. The glorious history of India has been depicted through these installations in 'Shaheedi Park'.

"A unique feature of this park is its grand plan, which includes elements of unity, diver-

PUBLIC NOTICE
M/s Modern Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. is pleased to inform you that the "Development of Hi-Tech Industry (IT/ITES/KBI) at B-15, Lawrence Road, Industrial area, Delhi 110035 has been accorded with Environmental Clearance identification no-EC238038DL179258 & Environmental Clearance no- SEIAA-D/C-445/EC-382/2023 dated 03.08.2023 by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Delhi. The copies of the clearance letters are available with the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Delhi and Ministry of Environment and Forest Clearance, Jor bagh, Delhi and can also be seen on their website www.parivesh.nic.in.
M/s Modern Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd

Bill for better synergy among forces passed

Inter-Services Org Bill among 4 passed by RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed four bills including a legislation to have more synergy amongst the three Services, Indian Institutes of Management (amendment) 2023 and two bills related to nursing and dental commission. All these bills were earlier passed by the Lok Sabha.

The bills were titled the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill - 2023, National Dental Commission Bill, National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill and the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill. The Opposition remained absent when these legislations were passed.

The Inter-Services bill paved the way for faster synergy amongst the three Services to fight modern day warfare.



Tabling the bill, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh finance was no constraint for modernising the forces. He also said work at appropriate levels was on regarding a National Security Strategy (NSS). Rajnath said this when some members said advanced countries had such a strategy in place. As regards the Inter-Services bill, the Lok Sabha passed it on August four. The bill seeks to empower Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in-Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) with all disciplinary and administrative powers in respect of the personnel serving in or attached to such organisations. Initiating the bill, Rajnath also said it was

necessary to strengthen the Armed Forces in view of the global security scenario, emphasising that only through better jointness and integration can the military move forward towards securing national interests. The bill will ensure better coordination among the three services and bolster the integrated structure, he said, assuring the House that it will prove to be a milestone in the path to India's military reforms.

Rajnath pointed out that today's warfare is no longer conventional, but has become technology and network centric, which makes it even more important for the three Services to work with greater coordination to face future challenges faced by the country.

BJP calls No-Trust Motion drill to save 'dynasty'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Trying to dig holes in Opposition unity, the BJP on Tuesday questioned Opposition parties for their support to the Congress which it said, back-stabbed many of them in the past as the ruling party described the no-confidence motion an exercise to save the "dynasty".

The BJP on Tuesday questioned the contradictions in the Opposition "unity" as it moved no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha against the Modi-government as the 26-parties-led INDIA attacked the "silence" of Prime Minister over the ethnic strife in Manipur and allowing "polarization" of community there.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who a day before hit-out at Congress leaders for having a "China nexus", initiated the debate for the BJP.

Dubey was speaking after Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said the opposition bloc INDIA was forced to bring the no-confidence motion against the government to break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vow of silence" on Manipur.

In another scathing attack on the Gandhi family, Dubey said no-confidence was brought by the Opposition party to save the interests of the family. This no-confidence motion has been brought. Why has this been brought? Sonia ji (Gandhi) is sitting here...I think she has to do two things - Bete ko set karna hai aur Damad ko bhent karna hai...That is the base of this Motion, said the BJP MP as Sonia was seen smiling.

Dubey's comment is seen as an apparent dig at Rahul and Sonia's son-in-law Robert Vadra. Dubey's remarks were objected to by Congress members at which another BJP MP



Union Minister Piyush Goyal, with party MP Sudhanshu Trivedi and others, speaks to the media at Parliament House complex during Monsoon session, in New Delhi, Tuesday on Aug

Sanjay Jaiswal said "if the person being named not objecting then why others have problem...". Dubey mentioned income tax cases in National Herald case and also mentioned that Sanjay Bhandari has given a statement in a foreign court that one of the houses abroad is that of "damad"-son-in-law.

In swipe and raising question on the Opposition unity, the BJP MP from Godda, Jharkhand, also criticised Opposition MPs for lacking knowledge about the complete acronym for INDIA, which represents the opposition alliance.

"MPs here haphazardly inquire about the full form of INDIA," he remarked. My PM says that this is not a no-confidence motion, this is a motion of confidence within the opposition to see who is supporting whom," said Dubey.

Making Congress as the focus of his attack the BJP MP questioned other opposition parties as why they were going with the Congress which in the past dismissed their state governments, set cases against them and even jailed many of them. He said DMK government in Tamil Nadu was dis-

missed by the Congress in 1976 "on corruption charges" but still DMK backed Congress in 1980. The Jain Commission of enquiry said DMK supported the Lte but still it is with the Congress. He said it is not the BJP which jailed DMK leaders, "it is the Congress which did it", he said. Similarly, Dubey took on the Congress launching cases against the TMC in West Bengal.

"We did not do NARDA and SHARDA..it is the Congress", said the BJP MP referring to cases faced by the TMC leaders. Similarly, he said it is not the BJP which "sent Lalu Prasad Yadav to Jail", he said adding it is JDU leaders who were behind his incarceration. "Ankh ke Andhe Naam Nayak sukh", said Dubey pointing-out that all opposition parties were "fighting each other". He said cases of "disproportionate assets against SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav were launched by Congress...and we undid them and awarded him Padam Bhushan." Continuing his tirade against the Congress, the BJP MP said NCP government of Sharad Pawar was dismissed in 1980 by the Congress.

Dubey also raised the issue of the Supreme Court staying Rahul's conviction in the 'Modi' surname remark case following which his membership was restored. "The Supreme Court has not given a judgement. It has given a stay order...He is saying that he will not apologise...Secondly, he says "I am not Savarkar" - You can never be Savarkar...". Dubey said attacking the Congress MP. The BJP leader further censured the Congress for opposing the re-inclusion of his remarks on the NewsClick news portal into the Parliament records. The portal is accused of receiving funding from China.

"If NewsClick's name has been reinstated (in yesterday's speech), what's your objection? Former leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), Prakash Karat, had exchanged numerous emails with Singham. I can present them as evidence. CPI-M is an anti-national party," Dubey asserted.

Earlier, BJP MP and parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi on change of speaker order, took dig at Rahul "What happened sir? Why did they change order? We are keen to hear him. What happened in 5 mins."

As opposition creates ruckus over the tickers displayed on Sansad TV, Union minister Joshi said, "Their speeches are already going live. What are they afraid of? Why there is so much intolerance?"

BJP MP from Arunachal and Union Minister Kiren Rijju opened second front on the Opposition in opposing the no-confidence motion and defended the Modi-government policies in the North-East and Manipur. Before 2014, many people from the Northeast faced racial dis-

crimination and atrocities in Delhi and other major cities of the country. After 2014 the situation changed, and the DGP conference was held in Guwahati for the first time after independence. During this meeting, the PM directed that police must ensure the security of people from the Northeast: Union minister & BJP leader Rijju said.

He said "I am the first cabinet minister from Arunachal Pradesh..first tribal minister from the NE", he said as he detailed the Modi-government's efforts to end militancy in the region.

"After Modi took-over 8000 militants have surrendered in the NE with their arms and AFSPA removed from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram", he said and gave details of road and infrastructure aching every nook and corner of the region under the Modi-government.

He dismissed opposition alliance a disjointed effort which will "fail". "Nothing will happen by naming the alliance I.N.D.I.A when you are actually working against" said Union minister. This no-confidence motion has been brought at a very wrong time. The Congress will regret it later," said Rijju who spoke for more than one-hour.

BJP ally Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde recited 'Hanuman Chalisa' during the debate in Lok Sabha while opposing the no-confidence motion and backing the Modi-government. Sunita Duggal, BJP MP, from Sirsa, Haryana, said after building Ram temple and abrogating article 370 from Jammu-Kashmir, her party would "soon legislate on Uniform Civil Code. She praised Modi for "New Education Policy and reviving Sanatan culture in the country"

Plea in SC over hate speeches calling for killing, boycott of Muslims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court over alleged "blatant hate speeches" calling for killing Muslims and their social and economic boycott delivered at rallies in different states, including Haryana where recent communal clashes claimed six lives. The petition was mentioned on Tuesday before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned the plea before the CJ, who was heading a five-judge constitution bench which is hearing arguments on the petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

As the constitution bench was about to rise for the lunch break, Sibal, who was arguing in the Article 370 matter, said a "very serious thing" has happened in Gurugram.

"There is a very serious thing that has happened in Gurugram where there is a call...That if you employ these people (Muslims) in shops, you will all be 'gaddars' (traitors)," he said. Sibal said a petition has been filed in the apex court over it.

The application, filed by journalist Shaheen Abdullah, has referred to the August 2 order of the apex court which said, "We hope and trust that the state governments and police will ensure that no hate speeches irrespective of the identity are made against any community and there is no physical violence or damage to the properties."

Observing that hate speeches vitiate the atmosphere, the top court had said that wherever required, adequate police force or para-military force would be deployed and the authorities, including the police, will use the CCTV cameras installed or record/make video recording in all sensitive areas.

The application said despite the apex court's order, over 27 rallies were organised in various states where hate speeches were made.



Team of Haryana Cong stopped from entering affected villages in Nuh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

A 10-member delegation of Haryana Congress on Tuesday was stopped from entering violence-hit villages of Nuh district, police said.

Citing curfew imposed in the area and security concerns for the delegation, a senior police officer said the delegation was stopped at Rojka Meo village and were stopped from entering villages affected by the communal clashes in the district. The delegation returned after that, police said.

Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda said they wanted to listen to the problems of affected people in Nuh city and send out a message of peace. "If the huge force deployed today to stop us had

been deployed that day also, there would have been no clash between the two communities. The government is entirely responsible for this whole episode. Obviously, the government was negligent and their intentions were not right," Hooda said.

"The purpose of the delegation was to meet traders and other affected people of Nuh city, and give out a message of peace after listening to their issues. We also wanted to visit the Shiva temple at Nalhar," he added.

The delegation was led by state Congress president Uday Bhan. Deepender Singh Hooda, Captain Ajay Singh Yadav, Mahendra Pratap, BB Batra, Bajrang Das Garg, Rao Dan Singh, Pankaj Dawar and



Indian Youth Congress workers during a demonstration "Save India Parliament Gherao", against Manipur violence, inflation, unemployment and other issues, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday

Jitender Bhardwaj were also part of the delegation were also part of the delegation. Hooda also said that both the home guards who died in the violence should be given "martyr status". The family of deceased should also be given financial assis-

tance and a family member should also be given a job, he said. Slamming the Haryana government, senior Congress leader Captain Ajay Singh Yadav said, "The Haryana government is not even ashamed of its failure. Our delegation

wanted to go to Nuh with purpose of restoring peace. Politics is of no use at this point," Yadav said. Party state chief Uday Bhan said that they will inform Congress high command that were stopped from visiting the affected parts of Nuh.

Jamiat moves SC seeking rehabilitation of Nuh residents

New Delhi: Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has moved the Supreme Court seeking directions for rehabilitation of those whose homes were razed by authorities in Nuh district of Haryana in the past few days after six people were killed in communal violence in the state.

The organisation of Muslim scholars, in a statement, said though the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered a halt on Monday to the demolition drive in vio-



lence-hit Nuh, it did not order rehabilitation of those displaced and compensation to them. "The Punjab and Haryana High Court, acting on its own, has stopped the brutal bulldozer operation on Muslim properties in Nuh district of

Haryana, but no order has been issued for the rehabilitation, compensation and transitional stay of the residents of about six and a half hundred mud-brick and pukka houses demolished illegally, and no order has been issued to take action against the erring officers," Fazlur Rahman Qasmi, Jamiat press secretary, said.

The statement said Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has appealed to the top court for the rehabilitation of the victims of the "bulldozer operation", com-

ensation and accommodation in transit houses, and action against guilty officers. "It requested the court to issue directions to all the states to refrain from illegal demolition with bulldozers or strict action must be taken against them," it said.

"Bulldozer operation is illegal, no matter whether bulldozers run on property of people of any religion. The bulldozing of houses of the alleged accused or simply because stones were allegedly pelted

from such a building is like punishment before conviction which is legally wrong," it said. The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday ordered a halt to the demolition drive in Nuh and asked whether it was an "exercise of ethnic cleansing".

"Apparently, without any demolition orders and notices, the law and order problem is being used as a ruse to bring down buildings without following procedure established by law," the high court said.

SC to hear pleas in Bilkis Bano gang-rape case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday it will hear arguments on August 9 on the locus standi of multiple people who have filed PILs in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case and the murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Besides the petition filed by Bilkis Bano, several other PILs including one by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, independent journalist Revati Lul and former vice-chancellor of Lucknow University Roop Rekha Verma have challenged the remission. Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra has also filed a PIL against the remission.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for one of the convicts, told a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan that once the victim individual is in court, others may not have a locus standi (entitlement to bring a lawsuit in court) to intervene in the matter of this nature.

"We have heard counsel for the parties. The other writ petitions are in nature of PILs. A preliminary objection has been raised with respect to maintainability of PILs. In order to hear preliminary objection, list matter tomorrow at 3 pm," the bench said. Senior advocate



Indira Jaising, appearing in one of the PILs, submitted she will not address the court on the facts of the case and argue purely on the proposition of law.

The top court had on April 18 questioned the Gujarat Government over the remission granted to the 11 convicts, saying the gravity of the offence should have been considered before showing leniency, and wondered if there was any application of mind. All of them had walked free on August 15, 2022.

Asking for reasons for the premature release of the convicts, the top court had also questioned frequent parole granted to them during their incarceration. "It (remission) is a kind of grace, which should be proportional to the crime," it had said.

Terming Bilkis Bano's gang-rape and the murder of her family members a "horrendous" act, the apex court had on March 27 asked the Gujarat Government whether uniform standards, as followed in other murder cases, were applied while granting remission to convicts.

Book Hussain under loot, arson in Delhi riots case: Court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A sessions court here has ordered the framing of charges including those of rioting, loot and arson against former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, saying he prima facie instigated mob violence during the 2020 northeast Delhi communal riots.

The court, which discharged three accused in the case, however, ordered framing of charges against nine others for several offences, saying a "prima facie case" existed



against them. The court was hearing a case against 13 people, who were accused of being part of a riotous mob that looted and torched three shops in Moonga Nagar locality in New Mustafabad on February 24, 2020. Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala, in

an order passed on August 5, said there was a prima facie case against the nine accused for offences under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 380 (theft in dwelling house) and 427 (punishment for committing mischief and thereby causing loss or damage to the amount of Rs 50 or upwards).

The nine accused are Shah Alam, Mohammed Shadab, Riyasat Ali, Gulfam, Rashid

Saifi, Mohammed Rihan, Pramachala said, "The mob was instigated by Tahir Hussain to indulge in vandalism, loot and arson in the properties and shops situated in that area.

That mob consequently attacked the nearby properties including the three properties in question in this case." A prima facie case for the offences under IPC sections 148, 380, 427, 435, 436 and 450 read with IPC section 109 (punishment of abetment) is made out against Tahir Hussain," he said.

The court, however, discharged three accused persons, Deepak Singh Saini,

Mahak Singh and Navneet, saying the prosecution was unable to bring on record any "admissible" evidence which could establish that the trio was part of the riotous mob.

Noting that one of the incidents of vandalism remained unsolved, the court directed the Station House Officer (SHO) concerned to look into the relevant aspects and act accordingly. An FIR was lodged at Dayalpur police station against the accused on the basis of a complaint. Later, two more complaints were clubbed together with it.

Ganga flowing above danger mark in Ballia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The flood condition of some low-lying areas in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) has turned grim as the river Ganga was flowing above the danger mark of 57.615 metres in downstream Ballia where the level is expected to reach 58 metres mark by 8 am on Wednesday as the water level was increasing there by two cm per hour during the day. In Ghazipur where the water level was recorded at 61.37 metres on Tuesday morning and rising with a speed of three cm per hour, it has inched close to warning level of 62.105 metres.

However, the residents of Varanasi heaved a sigh of relief as the rising trend of the river was checked and it was recorded steady at 68.3 metres against alarming level of 70.262 metres. The river Ganga was almost close enough to force the reverse flow of river Varuna which merges into Ganga in the northern part of the city at Adi Keshav Ghat near Namo Ghat. According to the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the river started receding at upstream Phaphamau and Sangam in Prayagraj district while it was steady at Mirzapur and Varanasi but still continued rising at Ghazipur and Ballia during the day. As the river was receding upstream, the same trend



NDRF personnel keeping watch at Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi as the water level reaches high.

is expected to be seen in this region in a few days whereas the river has already affected life in low-lying flood prone areas of the region. In view of rush of devotees to have a holy dip prior to offering prayers at one of the Dwadasa Jyotirlingas Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) and still a good number of saffron-clad kanwariyas are arriving in the city for jalabhishek during the ongoing auspicious Shrawan which is of two months long this time, the personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Water Police are continuously keeping vigil at different ghats, especially at Dashashwamedh and adjoining ghats.

Deputy Inspector General

(DIG) of NDRF Manoj Kumar Sharma said that NDRF personnel are ready 24 x 7 at the 11-NDRF headquarters here for emergencies in the surrounding areas. "As the water level of river Ganga is increasing continuously, NDRF rescue personnel along with water ambulances, divers, paramedics, deep diving sets, life jackets, life buoys and other rescue equipment have been deployed at all major ghats for smooth and safe offering of prayers at KVT by the devotees throughout the Shrawan," he said, adding that the NDRF rescue personnel along with rescue motor boat and water ambulance are continuously patrolling the Ganga for the

safety of devotees apart from motivating the devotees to take a safe bath and not to go in deep water.

The NDRF DIG said that a medical camp has also been set up by the NDRF at Kashi Vishwanath Corridor for the entire Shrawan and medical assistance is being provided to the needy devotees. "Due to continuous rise in the water level of Ganga in Varanasi, one team each is deployed at Dashashwamedh and Rajghat ghats for flood relief," he said, adding that besides, four teams for Varanasi district and surrounding areas are fully prepared for flood relief operation at 11 NDRF headquarters with all resources.

CMO inspects dengue-prone areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary inspected some dengue-prone sensitive areas in the city here on Monday with the representative of the corporator from Nagwa ward and some senior Health department and Nagar Nigam officers. During his visit, the CMO made people aware of cleanliness and communicable diseases. First, Dr Chaudhary reached Primary Girls School Nagwa where he interacted with the children of the school. Along with disposing of the water collected in utensils, coolers, pots, pits etc kept inside the houses, the people living in the nearby houses should also be encouraged to do this work, he advised.

The CMO, along with the team of the Health department and Nagar Nigam, also visited other localities of Nagwa ward and found that the employees sprinkled anti-larvae with small and big machines. Dr Chaudhary also found that fogging was also done in the area and the garbage collected at various places was also disposed of by the safai employees of the Nagar Nigam. The CMO directed that health



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary inspecting dengue-prone Nagwa area in Varanasi on Monday.

workers to go door-to-door to check people suffering from fever and if they found any positive patient inform the same compulsorily to the District Malaria Unit apart from completely destroying the mosquito breeding sources. He asked the health department employees to take cooperation for sprinkling and fogging from Nagar Nigam in urban areas and Panchayati Raj depart-

ment in rural areas. He instructed the government hospitals and block level community health centres and primary health centres (CHCs/PHCs) to reserve required beds. "Spraying and fogging should be done actively in high risk (hot spots) areas of rural and urban areas," he said, adding that the dengue-causing mosquito breeds in stagnant clean water in and around

homes such as coolers, water tanks, bird drinkers, fridge trays, vases, coconut shells, broken utensils and tyres and so on, make these vessels empty and clean once a week. Nodal Officer Dr SS Kanojia, District Malaria Officer Sharat Chand Pandey, inspector Diwakar of Nagar Nigam Dr Gulrez, medical officer in-charge of Nagwa area were also present during the inspection of CMO.

Mayor inaugurates IMI 5.0

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Mayor Ashok Tiwari inaugurated the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 campaign at Shivpur Community Health Centre (CHC) here on Monday. On the occasion, the Mayor, along with Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary administered polio drops to the children. Speaking at the programme, the Mayor said that vaccination of children and pregnant women deprived of vaccination should be ensured.

"Full immunisation is the right of every child. Vaccination is completely safe and all necessary vaccines are available at all government hospitals, health centres and vaccination sessions. Do take the vaccination card of children and do not panic if the child develops fever after vaccination. Take care of the child as per the advice of the ANM," said Tiwari.

The CMO said that the first phase of the campaign started from Monday in the entire district to immunise children up to five years and pregnant women, who were left out due to any reason in the regular vaccination campaign. This phase will continue till August 12 and in this phase, 15112 children and 2508 pregnant women will be vaccinated. A



Mayor Ashok Tiwari inaugurating Mission Indradhanush in Varanasi on Monday.

total of 397 ANMs have been put on duty for this and 1641 sessions will be held.

He appealed to the people to motivate family members to go to the PHCs/CHCs to get the child vaccinated. "If any child is left out, make sure to get him/her vaccinated. Make the indifferent family aware about vaccination. Tell them that all vaccines are completely safe. Normal fever may occur after vaccination but there is no

need to panic," he said, adding that apart from this, Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have been formed to deal with serious situation or adverse effect.

District Immunisation Officer Dr AK Maurya said that the second phase of IMI 5.0 will be run from September 11 to 16 and the third phase from October 9 to 14. A beneficiary and local woman, who reached Shivpur CHC and got

her daughter administered fIPV dose of polio, said that through ASHA 'didi', we get timely information about all the vaccines. That's why my baby girl has got all the vaccines from birth to six months on time.

Another beneficiary who reached there along with her one and a half month old child to get the first dose of PENTA vaccine praised the health department for its initiative.

'Munadi' conducted for Shaista Parveen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Prayagraj police on Monday evening resorted to 'munadi' for absconding Shaista Parveen, wife of slain mafia turned politician Atiq Ahmed, in Chakia and adjoining areas under the Khuldabad police station.

'Munadi' is a medieval practice of beating drums to make a public announcement, which the police now sometimes follow outside homes of gangsters banished from the city to make residents aware about their externment and urging them to inform the police if they spotted the troublemakers.

Shaista has been absconding since February 24 after the killing of lawyer Umesh Pal and two of his police gunners.

Residents of Chakia and adjoining areas were taken aback when a group of drum-beating men along with a heavy police force arrived and read out Parveen's name. She is also carrying a Rs 50,000 cash reward. DCP (City) Deepak Bhuker told reporters that cops conducted 'munadi' for elusive Shaista Parveen under the Section 82 of CrPC and slapped a notice also. He added, "If she fails to appear, action would be initiated against her under Section 83 of CrPC".

Section 82 of the CrPC provides for issuing of a procla-

mation in a case where the court has reason to believe that the person has concealed himself or herself or has absconded in order to evade the execution of warrants issued against him or her.

ARRESTED: A wanted criminal was injured and arrested after an encounter with the police near Tikri-Meerapur road under Puramufi police station here. The injured criminal, identified as Mohd Haider (25) of Phaphamau was admitted to SRN hospital for treatment.

The police said as many as 19 criminal cases, including loot and burglary, were pending against the criminal. He was carrying Rs 25,000 cash

reward. Acting on a tip off that a hardcore burglar was planning to execute a crime in Tikri area, a joint team of surveillance and Puramufi police intercepted a bike near Tikri village. The criminal opened fire on police party was injured in the exchange of fire.

The police also recovered a country-made pistol of 0.315 bore along with one used and one live cartridge and a bike on the spot. DCP (City) Deepak Bhuker said arrested criminal Mohd Haider was a hardcore criminal and over a dozen criminal cases were pending against him in different police stations of the district, including Georgetown, Phaphamau, Civil Lines etc.

Bid to make bus travel easier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The passengers using Civil Lines and Zero Road bus depot for their journey can avail the facility of porters in the same way as they get the service at railway stations. The move is being introduced to make bus travel easier and hassle-free, especially for elderly.

As part of the initiative the first batch of porters have been stationed at the Civil Lines bus depot of Prayagraj city.

In view of the forthcoming Mahakumbh-2025, the service

has been revived by the Uttar Pradesh State Roadways Transport Corporation (UPSRTC).

According to Assistant Regional Manager, Prayagraj, Jaikaran Prasad, in the first phase 16 porters have been deployed at Civil Lines Roadways bus station and will soon be deployed at Zero Road bus stand as well. At present they will be offering services in two shifts of eight hours each at the Civil Lines bus stand. The porters have also been provided with uniforms and badges," he said.

Instead of the red uniform of railway porters, the UPSRTC porters have been given blue trousers and shirt as uniform. He explained that these porters akin to their counterparts at the railway stations will also wear a brass badge on their arm with their identification number embossed on it, he said. The badges have been given only after verifying their Aadhaar cards and ensuring that they have no criminal records. Roadways will register and renew them every year.

The fee has been kept at Rs 48, he said. There are 118

buses plying from Civil Lines Bus Station of Prayagraj each day.

Roadways porter Phoolchand says the Transport department has not yet issued the rates to be charged from a particular passenger. "At present, we take whatever is mutually decided.

However, the formal rate list is expected to be issued soon," he said.

However, the porters are prohibited from working for passengers of private bus operators functioning right outside the Civil Lines Bus stand.

SHUATS achieves another milestone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) achieved another milestone when a hydraulic jack invented by mechanical engineering students under the guidance of assistant professor of the university was approved by the Government of India as a patent.

A jack that uses a screw-thread for lifting and lowering heavy tools and equipment to a pre-decided working height, is known as mechanical jack, whereas the one that employs hydraulic power for such tasks, is called hydraulic jack. In the last several decades hydraulic jacks are widely used in various industries and applications such as automobile industry,

agricultural machines, railroad work, machine shop, hydropower plants etc.

In view of this a few years back an effort was made by two students of B'Tech named Vishesh Ranglani and Sateesh Chaurasia from the Department of Mechanical Engineering of SHUATS in their final year project under the guidance of their supervisor Dr Rahul Davis, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SHUATS. This project invented a hydraulic jack that was derived from a commonly available hydraulic jack in the Indian market. "This invention can offer a cheaper solution to lifting two-axle trucks with a GVW (gross vehicle weight) of up to 20 tonnes," said Vishesh. Further, "The original market-purchased hydraulic jack

underwent an intensive design and fabrication process to enhance its capabilities significantly. One of the fabrications was design and installation of six height adjustable balance legs which could be engaged while lifting heavy vehicles. The weight of the jack remained light and it is easy to lift and carry for repair work" said Dr Davis. The three inventors named this invention as "Tall-Jacker Wheeled Jack" and filed an application in The Patent Office, Government of India, at New Delhi, which, after a long scientific evaluation, has recently been approved as Patent. SHUATS officials congratulated the above students and Dr Davis for this achievement.

After finishing his bachelors from SHUATS, Vishesh started pursuing MS in auto-

motive engineering from Czech Technical University, which is one of the most prestigious technical institutions of Europe, thereby, gaining expertise in automotive technologies and functioning. With a passion for innovation and engineering, Vishesh is currently running a business in Europe where he brings decision makers from large companies all around the world on a common stage to discuss solution to their problems.

Whereas Sateesh after completing the graduation from SHUATS, started working as Professional Audio Video design Engineer at Creative Devices Pvt Ltd and currently creates unique ideas to assemble the products. These activities help the company to capture new and niche customers in the market.

Health check-up camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Jeevan Jyoti Hospital organised a free super specialty health check-up camp under the aegis of late Dr AK Bansal Foundation at Parle-G factory (Tirupati Bakers Private Limited) Industrial Area Naini for extending health facilities to the employees and staff members.

Around 200 patients were examined free of cost at the camp which was organised under the supervision of Jeevan Jyoti Hospital Director and eminent gynaecologist and IVF Expert Dr Vandana Bansal and Advancad Laparoscopy and Cancer

Surgeon Dr Arpit Bansal. The doctor's team led by Dr Arpit Bansal, paediatrician and genetics expert Dr Sakshi R Bansal examined the patients and provided consultation accordingly. The team that examined the patients also comprised Dr Ashish Rai, Dr Devendra Tripathi, Dr Manas Tiwari, Dr Amit Yadav Sujeeet Varma amongst others. Most of the patients who were examined at the camp complained of fever, joint pain, stomach disorder etc. Tests like diabetes, blood sugar etc were also conducted free at the camp and patients were also provided some medicines. The lab technicians and nursing staff were also present.

Address pending cases on portal: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma on Tuesday took a serious note of the cases pending on the portal of various departments and directed the officers to address them within the stipulated time.

Chairing the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Online Building Plan Approval System in his office here the DC found the cases pending on the portal of departments such as Municipal Corporation, Jal Sansthan, PWD, power, VDA, NHAI and Tehsil and directed the officers to address them within stipulated time.

He found the maximum 169 cases pending in the Municipal Corporation and

directed the Additional Municipal Commissioner (AMC) to get the mail checked and then address all the pending cases.

He directed the VDA to hold a meeting of the respective departments in the gap of 15 days through Zoom.

It is learnt that the Uttar Pradesh Online Building Plan Approval System is an online map approval system which automatically approves the plans of all types/categories with the minimum human interference using available techniques.

The Varanasi Development Authority VC Abhishek Goel and officers of various departments were present in the meeting.

SP inspects police station

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinandan conducted a surprise inspection of Padari police station on Monday. He inspected the records, different registers, store room, mahila help desk, visitors' register, computer room, lock up, mess etc. He directed the cops to maintain cleanliness in the premises and remain polite with the applicants. He asked the cops to listen to the problems of the aggrieved persons sincerely. He directed the cops to ensure regular patrolling, especially at spots with a heavy turnout. Meanwhile SP Abhinandan during his intro-

ductory meeting with the media at Police Lines on Monday said every person's self respect is valuable so it should be protected by the police. He said he will take all possible steps to make traffic smooth for all. During the introductory meet he was accompanied by the Circle Officer (CO/City) Parmanand Kushwaha.

DRIVE: During the special 15-day drive to control the illegal drug trade the police of range achieved a lot under the guidance of DIG RP Singh. The police arrested 54 accused. Besides, 428.70 kg of ganja worth around Rs 50 lakh and 68.00 grams of heroin worth Rs

6 lakh were recovered. The DIG directed the cops to keep an eye on drug traders. The cops were asked to make aware the youth of ill effects of drug and ensure that its transportation was not done in the area.

CEREMONY: Chairman, UP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Dr Devendra Sharma while attending the 'janmotsav' ceremony of 15 girls at the women's hospital on Monday said the government is committed to ensuring overall development of children. He said under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme the government has introduced Mukhyamantri Kanya

Sumangala Yojana under which Rs 15,000 were being provided to girls in six instalments to ensure their education up to college. About rights of children he said the government had launched a scheme under which children from different work places, including brick kilns and mining sites, were being traced to rehabilitate them. The chairman threw light over schemes being run by government for betterment of children. Probation Officer Shakti Tripathi convened the Shakti Janmotsav programme along with official team. HoD Women's Hospital Dr Juhi Deshpande blessed the newly-born girls and congratulated the mothers.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Power play

AAP despite being elected by the people would not have much say in the governance of Delhi

The recent passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Amendment Bill 2023 has set off ripples across India's political spectrum. This significant legislative development has the potential to reshape the dynamics of both Indian politics and the governance of Delhi. At the core of the bill lies the proposition to grant the Central Government greater authority over Delhi's bureaucrats and administration. This shift of power has raised concerns about the federal structure of India's democracy. While proponents argue that centralizing power can streamline decision-making and coordination, critics fear it might undermine the autonomy of regional governments, setting a precedent that could influence governance across the nation. Delhi, as the capital city, holds a unique political significance. The bill's passing could alter the balance of power between the elected Delhi government and the Central Government. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has been at the helm of Delhi's governance strongly opposed the bill. They contend that it could weaken the influence of elected representatives, potentially hampering their ability to deliver on promises and cater to local needs. The bill was opposed by the newly formed INDIA alliance but the BJP got the support of BJD and YSRCP. The BJP defends the amendment, claiming it will not infringe upon the elected government's authority, opposition parties, including Congress and AAP, are rallying against it. These parties are leveraging the situation to showcase unity and strengthen their positions by framing the bill as an encroachment on regional autonomy. The bill was passed with 131 to 102 votes in the Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha has already passed it



and now only the President's approval is required to make it an act. Indeed, The passing of the bill might also signal shifts in the political dynamics between the ruling party and the opposition across the country. The opposition fears that this amendment could set a precedent for future central interventions in states governed by opposition parties. This, in turn, could erode the autonomy of these states and potentially lead to conflicts between the state and central governments. The bill's proponents emphasize that it is in line with the Supreme Court's recognition of the elected government's supremacy in Delhi. However, critics argue that the bill's implications might extend beyond the scope of the present debate and influence broader interpretations of constitutional principles. As Raghav Chaddha the AAP MP has indicated, AAP is planning to challenge the passage of the bill in the court. Whatever the outcome, it is clear that from now on till the court gives it relief, AAP's power in the capital will be severely curtailed. AAP though has an overwhelming majority in the Delhi Assembly and holds over the Delhi MCD, it is the BJP that would rule Delhi. But the battle for Delhi also raises pertinent questions about the balance between federal and regional powers, the autonomy of elected representatives, and the nature of India's democratic structure.

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PICTALK



Young women stitch national flags at a workshop ahead of the Independence Day, in Nadia, PTI

Scarcity of teachers in Uttarakhand schools

Many school teachers posted in remote villages of Uttarakhand do not go to school to teach despite their appointment

Despite the district of Bageshwar in Uttarakhand having a total of 127 secondary and higher secondary schools, as per the UDISE report 2017-2018, and a higher literacy rate of 90.74% compared to the state's 78.82%, the educational landscape is not without its challenges. Many schools in remote villages of the district continue to grapple with a lack of teachers. Although teachers are officially appointed on paper, their regular presence in these schools remains dubious. The Government Junior High School in Lamchula village, located 24 kilometres away from Garur block in the Bageshwar district, has been facing an acute shortage of teachers. Until recently, only two teachers were responsible for instructing 80 students (40 girls and 40 boys) from 6th to 10th standard. Fortunately, last month, two more teachers were appointed after a gap of 7 years. A teacher transfer policy was also crafted to address the scarcity of teachers in inaccessible areas of the state, requiring newly recruited educators to serve in the hills. Despite



this measure, the continued absence of teachers in these schools highlights the existing discrepancies. Kumari Geet, a student from the school, expressed her concern about the challenges students face due to a scarcity of teachers. She mentioned that for the past several years, there have been only two teachers responsible for teaching five different subjects. On the other hand, Kumari Maheshwari, a former student of the school, stated, "I studied in this school until class 10th, and during that time, we only had two teachers available. Consequently, we couldn't study every subject adequately, as there was one teacher for science and another for social science. With such limited resources, it became exceedingly challenging for them to cater to the educational needs of so many students."

With only two teachers so far, the students of the school faced several hurdles in preparing for their board exams. Most of them appeared for their board examination without completion of the course. As Kumari Kavita, who recently appeared for 10th boards puts it, "We encountered numerous obstacles while sitting for the papers. Our school had only two teachers. Consequently, we were unable to adequately prepare for the board exams, given that the syllabus itself remained unfinished. Managing the education of the entire school with just two teachers proved to be an impossible task."

Parents, on the other hand, often tend to place the blame on their children for their inability to study effectively and achieve high scores. However, delving into the matter, it becomes evident that expecting children to achieve good percentages without proper guidance from subject teachers is unreasonable," highlights Pushkar Ram, a concerned parent. He added "In a way, our hard work also goes to waste if our children don't

receive proper education from school. Despite our efforts to work overtime and cater to their educational needs, it becomes futile if the school fails to provide them with different subject teachers."

The teachers are overloaded with several responsibilities to run the school of 80 students. "Our situation is such that we are the teachers, the principal, the watchman, and also the clerk," laments Prakash Kumar, a teacher from the school who has been teaching for the last seven years. According to him, there have only been two teachers present since he started teaching in this school. Although both of these teachers have specializations in science and social sciences, they have to teach all the subjects to the children in every class. Padam Ram, the Sarpanch of Lamchula, emphasized that for several years, appointed teachers in the school come for only a month or two and then leave, while somehow two teachers have been serving for years.

(The writer is a student from Uttarakhand) **Charkha features**



MONA KHULJUNIYA

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India wins back Sri Lanka's trust

India's economic assistance package and CEPA has been instrumental in dispelling distrust built over time between the two countries



ASHOK K MEHTA

India is being hailed as Sri Lanka's savior following its economic meltdown last year by providing a lifeline of USD 4bn. It turned out to be a great opportunity to restore trust with the Sinhalese after decades of civil war. Sri Lankan Army won a magnificent victory against the Tamil Tigers in 2009 significantly aided by India ironically by the latter not intervening and providing valuable intelligence about LTTE replenishment and logistic ships at sea. Not even grudgingly did Sri Lanka formally acknowledge the intelligence provided so peeved was Colombo with New Delhi for propping up Prabhakaran and his deadly LTTE. The level of distrust built up over three decades of ethnic conflict and India's involvement in it including the 30-month intervention by IPKF was staggering but necessary for national security. The defeat of LTTE on 18 May 2009 was a turning point in Sri Lankan history. Sometimes later, Sri Lanka's top leaders said: "for our security we look to India, a relative; for economic assistance we turn to China, a friend". Just the opposite happened last year.

Fast forward to 2022. The green shoots of economic collapse were visible when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was elected on a security plank following the Easter bombing. His brother, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was defeated in elections in 2015, and was later Prime Minister, had spent beyond the country's means on development after winning the war. He thought that development could replace devolution of power (13A) for the Tamils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces though the extravagance of projects was mainly in his constituency in Sinhala South. The Chinese (EximBank of China) were his buddies in the white elephant ventures that provided no returns like Hambantota International Port and Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport. These are examples of debt trap diplomacy and predatory lending by China, Sri Lanka's largest creditor. Sri Lanka's economic crisis started in 2019 following the decline in tourism following COVID19 pandemic. The compounding factors were tax cuts, money-creation, policy to shift to organic farming, fall in foreign exchange reserves and decline in remittances. Murphy's Law came into play. Sri Lanka faced its first ever sovereign default in April 2022. Economic hardships led to people's uprising Argallya, ouster of the Rajapaksas and appointment of Ranil Wickremesinghe the sole UNP Proportional Representation nominee in Parliament as President with support of 135 of Rajapaksa's SLPP in a House of 225. Sri Lanka's total debt is USD83bn, 128 per cent of GDP. Local debt is USD42 bn which is more than the external debt of USD41.5bn. The economy has declined by 7 per cent and will reduce a further 3 per cent in 2023. Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said China will not join the debt restructuring plan but support bilaterally. In the 17 creditors official committee, China attended as an observer. The IMF package of USD2.9bn is expected to grow to USD4bn with additional support from World Bank and Asia Development Bank. The World Bank has approved USD 700mn support. India's economic lifeline was welcomed by ministers and more importantly, Sri



Lankans. The USD4.5bn disbursed include LOCs on fuel for USD500mn and food and medicine worth USD1bn. India was the first country to reassure the IMF in debt restructuring. It used its G20 presidency, QUAD partners and Paris Club to lobby Sri Lanka's case. It has provided 12 years for loan repayment and extended the LOC of USD1bn for one more year. International and Sri Lankan economists including Ahilan Kadrigamar have called the IMF relief package with tough conditionalities as a prescription worse than the malady. In September 2022 a UN report said: "the economic crisis is a result of officials' impunity for human rights abuses and economic crimes". According to WA Wijewardena, former Deputy Governor Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the economic crisis was blowing up in 2015 after warnings by Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka but the coalition government could not act to try and counter it. People are calling for action against those who brought about the economic collapse and distress. Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi one year after he replaced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was designed to stimulate Sri Lanka's economic recovery though it will take a long time to repair. The joint document was titled



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Promoting Connectivity: Catalysing Prosperity. Besides the land bridge, connectivity is to increase in all dimensions of movement. In addition, talks have begun on modalities of laying a petroleum pipeline to Trincomalee, the new energy hub for the region. A new framework Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm Agreement is based on the existing agreement of January, 2022. The strategic importance of Trincomalee Harbour, the fourth largest in the world, was recognized alongside the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord in the exchange of Letters between President J R Jayawardene and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The understanding was that no Sri Lankan port would be given out to any foreign power for military use. Hambantota Port on which China has a 99-year lease was first offered to India in 2007 but it was not taken up. India will hope that its economic assistance package and CEPA - work in progress - will remove some of the distrust built over time and it has been able to push back China which was not directly involved in the economic rescue mission. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLD MARRIAGE SYSTEM COLLAPSING

Sir — In India, there is a strong cultural emphasis on joint families, where marriages involve not just two individuals but their families too. Some people argue that it's essential to consider family approval and parental consent before tying the knot. However, there are concerns about incidents of couples eloping, especially in love marriages, leading to discussions about the need for parental consent to address this trend. This approach is seen as the state's way of coping with changing attitudes towards arranged marriages. Gujarat's Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel, is considering studying such incidents to explore constitutional considerations. The situation raises debates about interfering in people's elopement, which could dampen the romantic aspect of relationships.

Mahi Khandelwal | Ujjain

GREEN INDIA MISSION (GIM)

Sir — Green India Mission (GIM) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The campaign targets ten million hectares of forest and non-forest land to increase forest tree cover and improve the quality of existing forest. Based on the perspective plans submitted by the states and as per the availability of funds, so far seventeen states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and one Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been taken under GIM. States will be considered for funding under GIM after evaluation of their perspective plan and annual plan of operations prepared as per the guidelines of GIM. Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, Government of India has appraised the National Mission for Green India in 2020-21 on aspects such as relevance, effective-

SC criticises trial court in Rahul case



While staying the conviction of Rahul Gandhi in a case of defamation for his remark on the surname, Modi, the Supreme Court criticized the trial court in Gujarat for its failure to cite any reason for handing Mr Gandhi the maximum punishment. The verdict, the highest court also pointed out quite correctly, had a deleterious impact on Mr Gandhi's rights as a parliamentarian as well as on the people who had voted him resoundingly to Parliament. The Supreme Court's rap on the knuckles of the lower court would certainly lead to speculation regarding the latter's ruling. There is an attendant issue that has been

brought to light by the controversy. Public attention must not be deflected from the increasing politicization of the legal instrument of defamation. This necessitates an informed debate on the need to institute greater checks to insulate the law from mischief. There is even a line of thought that advocates the decriminalization of defamation given its vulnerability to, more often than not, political chicanery. Despite its bravado, the Bharatiya Janata Party finds itself on a sticky wicket on the matter.

This is because the public perception of the BJP's vindictiveness towards and unethical targeting of Mr Gandhi has undoubtedly been bolstered by the Supreme Court's observations. The Opposition alliance has, on the other hand, received a shot in the arm: it would, without a doubt, try to salvage political brownie points from the episode. More distressingly for BJP, Mr Gandhi's return to Parliament and the renewal of his membership of the House should not be subjected to machinations would mean that the government would face intense scrutiny. That is the norm in a democracy. **Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai**

ness, efficiency, sustainability, impact and equity within the scheme and issued a Retention Plan as recommended. **N Ashraf | Mumbai**

INDIAN TEAM IN DISARRAY

Sir — Virat Kohli ceased being the captain in January 2022, triggering changes in leadership across different cricket formats. Recently, the team's performance, particularly in T20 matches, has been lackluster, resulting in losses against less successful teams. This has led to speculation as to why the accomplished player Kohli is absent from the T20 lineup. Within the cricket community, discussions are ongoing regarding this situation. Some assert that the absence of an explanation for Kohli's non-participation could undermine the team's confidence and erode trust in the management's decisions.

This scenario underscores the significance of effective player management. Although the process of selecting team members and leaders is intricate, it is imperative for the management to elucidate their choices comprehensively and provide sound justifications. Failure to do so could not only dishearten Kohli but also have an impact on the team's performance and its trajectory moving forward. To address these concerns, the management should reconsider their decision-making approach and engage in more transparent communication with all stakeholders, including fans. Such openness would facilitate better understanding and contribute to fortifying the team's unity and resilience. **Md Imdadullah | Muzaffarpur**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

HOW TO LET GO OF THE EGO?

We can learn to recognise and overcome our ego by embracing our true self



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Most of us, in some way or other, are ego personified. Aren't we? It's quite strange that in spite of being under the influence of ego, the majority refuse to accept it. Why? because most of us do not know the difference between our true self and our ego. In fact, we don't even realize that there is a difference between the two. This is mainly because we identify ourselves as simply ME, and it is this mistake of our's that creates much unnecessary suffering and emotional pain in our lives. Hence, it's very critical to acknowledge that our true selves and our egos are separate.

Ego can become a great obstacle to our personal development without even being aware of it. This is because it is a little difficult for most people to identify ego as most of the literature on it identifies symptoms like arrogance, stubbornness, fear of judgement, fear of failure, amongst others, but it misses the key point. All of these elements have one core element in common: they only occur when you're dependent on the external environment to feel the way you want to feel. When you rely on other people's perceptions to feel good, then you're going to fear judgement, you're going to fear failure, you're going to fight to prove a point that you know is wrong, and you're going to try and blame others for your situation in life. This is what's at the core of the Ego i.e being dependent on the external environment to feel the way you want to feel.



History has shown how great civilisations, powerful dynasties and empires completely disappeared when they fell in the hands of ego-centric, conceited and arrogant rulers. It is because of such ego or arrogance of the past and even many modern rulers that the saying was coined that "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". The one who has ego, always struggles for his/her survival. Such a person's mind wants to think and make plans out of nothing, making an important "something" with a disturbing meaning. Remember! As long as there is a desire within us to be something, we will be experiencing ego. This is because desires work in future tense & while pursuing them, we forget about the necessity of living in now i.e the present. We must not forget the fact that everything we do has a consequence, be it good or bad, and that consequence works based on what we are. Hence, doing is merely a consequence of being. So, the moment we desire to do something in our life, for example, to progress faster, to be more successful or to be something which we are not...from that very moment we stop enjoying and start struggling.

So how does one tide over this complex paradox? Is it practically possible? Oh Yeah!! by simply remaining in consciousness of one's role in the world drama as a detached observer, because the world drama is about natural consequences & not about individual desires. But one must also understand the fact that achieving an ego-less stage is a journey in itself. Practically it takes just a second to realize it but.... There are many karmic accounts to burn, before we get there. Mahatma Gandhi in his autobiography said: "Act like a trustee who, though having control over great possessions, regards not an iota of them as his own". This stage can be achieved with Humility as it gives us great ability to act and accomplish missions as a trustee and not with the feeling of ownership. This quality is a natural expression of someone whose ambitions are selfless and completely devoid of anger, greed, ego, lust and attachment. Remember! humility means an absence of anger, aggression, selfish motivation or a hidden agenda. It is in no way an act of subservience or weakness but the characteristic of strength and power. Remember! Our ego is a part of our inner system & we can never be rid of it entirely; however, we can learn to recognize and overcome it by embracing our true self.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist)

Attacking social evil through GST

We need to define which jobs are desirable and which are not, and then promote only desirable ones discourage undesirable jobs by taxing them



ASHWANI MAHAJAN



Recently, the GST Council has decided to levy GST on the entire initial amount charged on online real money games. Earlier, GST was levied only on the amount received by these online gaming platforms (by way of their commission), which was only a small fraction of the total amount of bets. However, the proposed GST will not be implemented as of now, as the same can be implemented only after giving effect to this provision in the GST Act.

But, while there is a near-consensus that the addition to these games is affecting the future of our countless youths, there is intense lobbying by venture funds and companies operating these gaming platforms against the GST Council's decision. The argument of these platforms and the venture capital funds that fund them is that the decision will hurt startup platforms operating these games and may even force them to go out of business. This will end the 'employment' of the people associated with these platforms. He also says that future investments in this area will also be affected not only in terms of online games but may also affect the overall startup ecosystem. They also argue that this will also hinder incoming foreign investment.

But this is an open secret that the decision to levy 28 per cent GST on online games was not taken for revenue. The main reason for this is that millions of youth in the country are getting disoriented due to their addiction to online games and many times due to this addiction they get trapped in debt to such an extent that they get involved in criminal and other unethical activities, or they even commit suicide. To get rid of this social evil, the government has adopted the route of taxation. To discourage a demerit good, taxing the same at a higher rate is not a new phenomenon. Even before this, taxes have been imposed on cigarettes, tobacco, liquor etc. at the maximum rate, but no objection has ever been registered on such decisions, because society has understood the importance of higher taxation in discouraging demerit goods, and this is also a responsibility of the government.



MANY STARTUPS ARE COMING UP IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, WHICH IS IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OUR FARMERS, HELPING THEM IN INCREASING THEIR INCOME

(The writer is a Professor, at PGDAV College, University of Delhi, views are personal)

stood the importance of higher taxation in discouraging demerit goods, and this is also a responsibility of the government.

The representative of the Finance Ministry says that till now only the effective tax is hardly 2 to 3 per cent on the amount (i.e. bets) placed on these gaming platforms, as the tax is imposed on the GGR of these platforms. Gross gaming revenue, or GGR, is a measure of all the money generated by player losses in a certain period. Due to this, only Rs 1700 crore revenue was received in the form of GST last year. But now after imposing GST at the rate of 28% on the initial amount, the total revenue from GST is expected to reach at least ten times.

After globalization and the emergence of new technology, a lot of new businesses are taking shape, attracting investments from abroad and from within the country. These businesses are related to the use of technology related to social media apps and platforms, e-commerce, gaming apps, agriculture, mobility, job-related platforms, designs and other manufacturing-related services and others. Most of these businesses are making our lives easier and bringing efficiency into the system. However, we see that some businesses are becoming socially harmful even while using new-age technology. For example, we see that due to some social media apps like Tiktok, youth end up wasting their valuable time, which could have been used more productively. Apart from this, some of these sites indulge in pornography, data breach and many other social evils. With Chinese investment, Tiktok had grown in a short period to become a \$100 billion-plus company with most of its business

based in India. After it was banned, capital valuation dropped by 90 per cent. Similarly, OTT platforms though opening new avenues in the entertainment industry are also becoming the cause of obscenity and many social evils.

Online gaming has almost pushed the youth towards a never-ending addiction and most of their youth is being wasted in unproductive activities or even losing money, leading them into a debt trap. An interesting aspect of the whole story is that investment is coming from both domestic and foreign sources. Employment is also being created for those who make or run these platforms. This is the time to think, whether this employment is desirable.

Nowadays trading of cryptocurrency is also attracting our youth in a big way. In the greed of earning quick money, youth had been investing a lot of money in crypto. People's hard-earned money which could have been used for nation-building had been going into the black hole of cryptocurrencies in a big way. The government decided to tax the trading of cryptos. As per the provisions so inserted, the gains incurred by trading crypto assets are taxed at a rate of 30% and 4% cess, according to Section 115BBH. While Section 194S states that a 1% TDS will be deducted on the transfer of crypto assets from July 01, 2022. After these provisions, trading in cryptos has come down significantly, saving youth from this menace.

It is time to pause and think about whether we need investments and jobs that are detrimental to the interests of our youth. In our growing economy, there are always avenues for job creation in

various sectors including industry, services and agriculture. India as a nation has taken a pledge to become Atmanirbhar where we are trying to produce all the items which we had been importing earlier. Various schemes and programs are being launched to achieve this objective.

At this time investment is coming in some areas, due to which some youth can get employment. But the government has to identify those sectors which employ the youth, which add value to the economy by producing goods and services, thereby making our economy go into manufacturing or services like software, manufacturing design, banking, insurance; or new age technologies like drones, AI and automation. Many startups are coming up in the agriculture sector, which is improving the lives of our farmers, helping them in increasing their income.

Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC), a new initiative of the central government, is also gaining momentum, eliminating cash-burning models that are detrimental to job creation. ONDC is also democratizing e-commerce and is eliminating exploitation by sellers and consumers. Huge employment generation opportunities are also available through ONDC. We need to define which jobs are desirable and which are not, and then promote only desirable employment and discourage undesirable employment. In this endeavour, we should be making use of all types of measures including tax measures or non-tax measures to discourage activities detrimental to social good, and fiscal support by way of cash incentives and tax rebates to promote desirable activities.

Protecting patient privacy must be our top priority

Make no mistake, patient data is one of the most sought after information by cyber criminals and it could have disastrous implications

In an alarming development, Indian healthcare was the second-most targeted in the world last year after the US. Cyberattacks on Indian healthcare shot up by a whopping 60% last year when compared against those in the preceding year. More than a quarter of cyber-attacks on healthcare customers taking place globally every month happened to be in India. So, even as an assortment of new-age healthcare technologies increasingly shapes the delivery of care as well as the management of the larger healthcare ecosystem today, they have also sparked concerns over cyber security.

Today, whether it is telehealth and telemedicine, or remote diagnostics to remote patient monitoring and virtu-



DEEPAK SHARMA

al care, or mobile health, EHRs and EMRs, or wearable technologies and cloud and data analytics, or healthcare AI and blockchain, or even healthcare edtech, each of these individually or in different combinations, would entail an element of cyber security risk. As hospitals and healthcare facilities inevitably opt for IT-based healthcare administration systems with smart hospital management, automated front office and reception management systems, automated patient management systems, robotic surgical devices and equipment, app-based connected emergency response solutions, and smart devices, monitors and trackers, the stakes have been raised even higher.

And even as the absence or

an inadequacy of cyber security tools and solutions can lead to multitude of risks and problems, the threat to patient's privacy and the breach of confidentiality of patient data is perhaps most crucial.

Patient privacy is about dignity and autonomy

First of all, protecting the privacy of a patient's medical condition is critical to the natural right to a dignified and unprejudiced treatment process for a patient and his family. Personal health information falling into wrong hands not only is liable to be misused by individuals for personal social reasons, any public disclosure of a patient's health conditions could come in the way of his everyday regular functioning as an individual especially in terms of seek-

ing matrimonial alliances, suitable jobs and health insurance, among others. In fact, some health conditions are naturally more sensitive and are even socially stigmatizing. These would include reproductive or sexual or public health or psychiatric health concerns. Sometimes, any leak in health information can impinge on his choice of a hospital or a doctor thereby impacting his sense of individual autonomy. **Patient safety susceptible to compromise**

Second, an ongoing cyber attack on the healthcare network of a hospital or a clinic can spell havoc for a patient's safety and even life. By disrupting continuity of care, precious time can be lost which can not only irretrievably reverse the treatment process but even

prove to be fatal for patients with serious conditions. Sometimes a ransomware attack can completely derail and jeopardize the treatment procedure with fatal results in the end. So, adopting cyber security measures will ensure continuity of effective delivery of high-quality care by way of mitigating disruptions that can have a negative impact on clinical outcomes. **Financial implications for patients and family**

Third, we need to remember that health information is tantamount to a lot of wealth today. It has been estimated that stolen health records may sell up to 10 times or more than stolen credit card details on the dark web. **Can damage a hospital's reputation**

Fourth, while patients are

obviously impacted, hospitals also have a lot at stake. A major cyber-attack that lasts relatively long can cause irreparable damage to a hospital's reputation. With patients turning away and switching to other facilities, it can lead to a significant loss of patient revenue and thereby financial loss.

Can result in extraction of data from medical devices Fifth, given the networked nature of medical devices, wearables and healthcare equipment today, a cyber-attack can not only cripple their functioning but also result in stealing of sensitive personal health information of patients stored on them.

Therefore, even as the government is coming up with a charter of patient rights along with suitable privacy laws with

a view to protect patients' privacy, for their part, hospitals and healthcare facilities in the course of digitizing their systems - both government and private - also need to urgently ramp up their cyber security tools, protocols and systems. As such, they should be equipped to handle all conceivable types of cyber security threats prevalent today including phishing, malware, ransomware, Address Resolution Protocol or ARP attacks, IoT attacks, among others. There must also be stringent access protocols, adequate training of staff, continued monitoring and testing of systems within the hospitals and clinics. At the same time, it is important that cyber security courses with a focus on the healthcare sector, must be taught.

Imran appeals against graft case conviction

Seeks release from jail

Pakistan's jailed former premier Imran Khan on Tuesday challenged his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case by a trial court, saying the verdict by a "biased" judge was a "slap in the face due process and fair trial" and "a gross travesty of justice". Khan, 70, was arrested on Saturday shortly after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced him to three years in jail. Khan is currently lodged in the Attack Jail. Khan has appealed his conviction and the three-year prison sentence in the case by filing a plea through his lawyers - Khawaja Haris and Gohar Ali Khan - at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). He said that the trial judge made the conclusions on the basis of a "predisposed mind" instead of merit of the case because the petitioner's lawyer was not given the right of presenting arguments. Khan's plea stated that the judgment passed by the trial court judge was "tainted with bias, is a nullity in the eye of the law and is liable to be set aside". It said the order was issued



without providing the petitioner with a chance to fight his case and alleged that Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar had refused to hear the arguments of Haris, Imran's counsel in the Toshakhana case, on the pretext that he was late - which the plea claimed was because he was filing other applications with the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court.

Thus, the petition said, the verdict of the trial court was a "slap in the face due process and fair trial" and "a gross travesty of justice". "The impugned judgment was announced despite the fact that before commencement of counsel for the appellant was very much in court fully prepared to address arguments after explaining the reasons for the delay in arriving in court, but the trial judge, who throughout the proceedings had been exhibiting his extreme bias towards the appellant and his counsel, and constantly using disparaging remarks against them, even in their absence, was bent on carrying out a well-orchestrated plan," it read. He accused that the judgment given at the conclusion of hearing had already been prepared and written, which is why a 35-page verdict was issued within 30 minutes of the announcement of the decision through a short order.

Over 200 Khan supporters held

Lahore (PTI): More than 200 supporters of Imran Khan, including those who resisted the former prime minister's arrest in a corruption case, have been arrested across Pakistan's Punjab province, police announced on Tuesday.

Khan, 70, was arrested from his Zaman Park residence on Saturday shortly after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced him to three years in jail. Khan, also the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, is currently lodged in the Attack Jail in Punjab province.

According to Punjab police, more than 200 PTI party office-bearers and workers have been arrested from different parts of the province since Khan's arrest.

The PTI, however, alleged that the police not only arrested its workers as they were protesting against Khan's arrest but also raided the houses of its office bearers to take them into



custody in Punjab province. Over a dozen of Khan's supporters have been booked under terrorism charges, police said. According to the FIR, those present with the ex-premier, including his media team members, threatened the police team that came to arrest him on Saturday. "They attacked and snatched the official guns from the policemen and pointed weapons at them and threatened to kill them. Police later overpowered and arrested them," the FIR says. Meanwhile, the Insaaf Lawyers Forum (ILF), the lawyer's wing of the PTI, held a demonstration outside the Lahore High Court both on Monday and Tuesday and chanted slogans against the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government and its backers - the military establishment - for sentencing their leader in a 'fake case'.

Missing fishplates caused Pak train derailment: Report

PTI KARACHI

The express train derailment which killed at least 34 people was caused by missing fishplates and a damaged track, a preliminary probe report has said, even as officials are not ruling out the possibility of sabotage in the major accident in Pakistan's Sindh province.

The Hazara Express train travelling from Karachi to Rawalpindi derailed on Sunday in Nawabshah district near the Sarhari Railway Station, 275 kilometres from the provincial capital Karachi. "Missing fishplates and a damaged track caused the derailment of the Hazara Express, the preliminary report was quoted as stating by the Dawn newspaper on Tuesday. "After checking from all the aspects, we came to (the) conclusion that (the) accident took place due to fresh rail broken and fishplates missing," said the report released by the six-member Pakistan Railways inquiry team on Monday.

The team also identified the skidding of the train's locomotive as another reason behind the derailment.

The report says the train engine had left the site without examination by senior subordinates.

However, some railway officials are not ruling out the possibility of sabotage in the accident. Moreover, "little hitting spots" were found on the iron fishplates and wooden terminal beyond the accident point. "Hence the engineering branch and mechanical branch are held responsible for this accident," it reads.

At least 34 people died and over 100 were injured in the accident, officials said. Two of the team members gave dis-

senting notes. Stating that he did not agree with the report, one member said, "The derailment took place due to two fishplates missing, broken rail, [and] engine derailment inside the track due to spread of the gauge. As a result, the grazing marks were also found visible outside the wheel disc. Also, no heating marks were observed on the track, fishplates and bolts."

According to the other dis-enting official, the actual cause of the derailment was "due to engine axle jamming resulting in deep fling which left hitting marks" at fishplates. "This deepness increased with continuous jamming, resulting in breakage of fish bolts for the missing fishplates," the official's note reads.

However, it was a "very initial probe report" as the final one will take some time to prepare, the report said.

"A detailed probe is underway as the Federal Government Inspector of Railways is on-site to find out the reason behind this tragedy," the report added.

Meanwhile, the burials of many of the passengers killed, including women and children have started since Monday, and tragic tales of families losing their bread earners and close ones are still being revealed. A woman, Sharifan Bibi, boarded the train from Tando Adam to take a half an hour's journey to Nawabshah station to go and console the death of a close relative. "She came to know that two of her close relatives were coming from Karachi on the train to get off at Nawabshah to go and console with relatives so she also got on the train from Tando Adam," her brother told Geo TV.

Storm kills 2, leaves 1.1 mn without power

AP WASHINGTON

At least two people died, thousands of US flights were canceled or delayed, and more than 1.1 million homes and businesses lost power Monday as severe storms, including hail and lightning, moved through the eastern US.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for the greater DC area, lasting until 9 p.m. A special Weather Service statement warned, "There is a significant threat for damaging and locally destructive hurricane-force winds, along with the potential for large hail and tornadoes, even strong tornadoes." The storm's spread was massive, with tornado watches and warnings posted across 10 states from Tennessee to New York. The National Weather Service said more than 29.5 million people were under a tornado watch Monday afternoon.

In Anderson, South Carolina, a 15-year-old boy who arrived at his grandparents' house during the storm was struck and killed when a tree fell on him as he got out of a car, according to the Anderson County Office of the Coroner. In Florence, Alabama, police said a 28-year-old man was struck by lightning and died. WAAY-TV reported. By Monday night, more than 2,600 US flights had been canceled and nearly 7,900 delayed, according to flight tracking service FlightAware. Many cancellations were at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which was digging out from disruptions caused by Sunday storms.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it was rerouting planes around storms heading to the East Coast.

The White House pushed up by 90 minutes President Joe Biden's departure on a four-day trip that's taking him to Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The White House also canceled a back-to-school cybersecurity event that was to feature first lady Jill Biden, who is a teacher, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and school administrators, educators and education technology providers from around the country.

The Office of Personnel Management announced Monday that all non-emergency employees would have to depart before 3 p.m., when all federal offices closed.

"This does look to be one of the most impactful severe weather events across the Mid-Atlantic that we have had in some time," National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Strong said in a Facebook live briefing. The storms were expected to strike major population areas in late afternoon and early evening, prompting federal workers to be sent home early so they wouldn't be in their cars amid wind, hail and tornadoes.

Sharif likely to step down today

Islamabad (PTI): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to step down on Wednesday as the coalition government led by him is all set to dissolve Pakistan's National Assembly prematurely to get extra time for holding the general elections scheduled for later this year.

The five-year tenure of the lower house of the Parliament is ending on August 12 but it is likely to be dissolved on August 9 by Prime Minister Sharif who will send an advice to President Arif Alvi, a former leader of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. In case the president dithers, the assembly would be dissolved within 48 hours of advice given by the premier. In an indication



that Sharif would relinquish premiership, he made a farewell visit to the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army in Rawalpindi.

Prime Minister Sharif paid his farewell visit to the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday, marking an important

moment in his tenure as the head of the government. The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The prime minister was warmly welcomed by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir as the visit was replete with moving ceremonies and tributes to the nation's fallen heroes.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government would have liked to remain in power for a couple of more days and dissolved the Parliament on August 11 but it has a hunch that President Alvi might refuse to issue a notification immediately for the dissolution, political observers opine.

That is why the advice for

dissolution is being given three days before the end of the assembly so that even if the president refuses to oblige the prime minister, the assembly would be dissolved before the end of its term, giving the Election Commission of Pakistan 90 days for elections.

In case the assembly completes its constitutional term, the ECP is bound to hold an election within 60 days. But even 90 days may not be enough for election as the new census has been endorsed by the Council of Common Interests, a constitutional body tasked to address issues involving the federating units, and after its approval, it is incumbent on the ECP to hold elections according to it.

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED				
Regd. Off. : Unit No 307A, 3rd floor, Worldmark 2 Asset Area No 8, Hospitality Dist. Delhi Aerocity New Delhi - 110037				
E-mail: onbhinvestors.relations@orientalinfratrust.com; CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649				
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2023				
(Amount in Millions)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2022 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	1,125.27	1,267.15	4,165.33
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	525.63	565.17	2,251.97
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items)	525.63	565.17	2,251.97
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional Items)	528.70	1,048.33	2,131.94
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	528.50	1,048.33	2,131.94
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	181.35	181.35	181.35
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	8666.76	12,119.33	10,922.90
8	Securities Premium	3,443.66	3,443.66	3,443.66
9	Net Worth	8,848.10	12,300.67	12,818.07
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	21,176.05	23,249.40	21,171.39
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.69:1	1.89:1	1.84:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
1	Basic:	29.14	57.80	117.56
2	Diluted:	29.14	57.80	117.56
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	1713.82	1,923.14	1,713.82
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.14:1	1.05:1	1.23:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.02:1	2.01:1	2.03:1

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publicly notified that the Flat No 043C, Second Floor, Block-U-3, Dhaulagiri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida has been allotted in the name of R. Rama Chandran S/o Sri R. Raghawan R/o B-203, Anandlok, CGHS Mayur Vihar Delhi-91, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons-
A. A. A. A. executed in favour of Ashwani Goel S/o K.A. Goel R/o 043C, Block-U-3, Dhaulagiri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida executed at GPA executed at Sub Registrar Delhi Vide Book No IV Volume No 2523 on pages 29-32 at Document No 2257 dated 5.4.1995 and Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above flat goes in favour of Kusum Lata Zaidi W/o A.H. Zaidi R/o 049A, Block-U-3, Dhaulagiri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida if any one/above partners has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice.
Ashwani Goel

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that our client Aarti Asja is in process to purchase (avaluing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited) the Entire Third Floor with roof rights of Property bearing No. 2235-A & 2236-A, measuring 200 sq. yds. Part of Kharsa No. 10334/200, 1333/201, 166, 1339/208, 1336/207 & 165, situated at Raja Park, Shakurbasti, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-34 from - Gaurav Chopra, who is the owner of the said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 08.04.2022 (doc. no. 5128) executed by Mrs. Harjinder Kaur Chaudhary & Mrs. Sharan Kaur Chaudhary All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, address, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vasthali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 981003351

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Aashu Choudhary intends to purchase & mortgage the Plot No. SC-18/2 & SC-18/3, admeasuring 92 Sq. Yds., Kharsa No. 528, situated at Garima Garden, Village Pasonda, Loni, Ghaziabad (U.P.) with our client, against the financial assistance. Whereas, out of the entire chain link documents Original Sale Deed dt. 11-06-1999, regd. as Doc. No. 4316 and Sale Deed dt. 16-03-2000, read, as Doc. No. 2142 in favour of Mr. Chandveer Singh and Mrs. Poonam Singh respectively were already lost/misplaced and in this regard NCR/FIR No. 20230000506509 has been lodged with UP Police.
Public is hereby warned not to deal with the above-mentioned documents & the property. If anyone does the same, then he will be responsible for all consequences. If any person(s) having objection with regard to mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address.
DEEPLYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 No 011-40587824

NOTICE
Locker hired by **Mr. Navtej Saluja/Ms. Jasmine Dhangra** having address at: **H No-277 Nirvana Country Unitech Space South City-2 Gurgaon 121001** with Branch of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Address | Shop No. 3, 3A, 3B & 4, Amrapali Commercial Cum Corporate Hub, Tower -J, Sector-2, IIT Road, Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana-122050**, has rent in arrears for the last 5 years.
All the 3 letters sent to **Mr. Navtej Saluja/Ms. Jasmine Dhangra** calling upon them to clear the dues of the rent has returned unserved and they are not contactable.
It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker dues are not cleared by **Mr. Navtej Saluja/Ms. Jasmine Dhangra** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **November 07, 2023 at around 12 p.m.**

S Korea evacuates Scouts as tropical storm nears coast

AP SEOUL

Carrying huge backpacks and water bottles, tens of thousands of Scouts began arriving at university dormitories, government and corporate training centres, and hotels around Seoul and other inland cities on Tuesday as the South Korean government evacuated the World Scout Jamboree ahead of a tropical storm. The South Korean government had scrambled to keep the 12-day gathering of Scouts going in the face of struggles with heat, hygiene and land use controversies, as thousands of British and American Scouts departed over the weekend.

It wasn't until Monday afternoon that officials announced the decision to abandon the coastal campsite in Saemangeum, a huge area reclaimed from the sea in the southwestern

county of Buan, after forecasters raised alarms that Tropical Storm Khanun was heading toward the Korean Peninsula. As of Tuesday evening, Khanun was passing through waters 60 kilometres south of Japan's Yakushima island, which is south of the southern main island of Kyushu. Japan's weather agency issued warnings for heavy rain and high winds in the southern regions of Kyushu and parts of Shikoku island, east of Kyushu.

The 37,000 Scouts, who hailed from 156 countries and were mostly teenagers, folded up their tents before boarding over 1,000 vehicles for the evacuation that began Tuesday morning. The World Organisation of the Scout Movement said all youth participants had safely departed from the Jamboree campsite as of Tuesday evening.

July was hottest month on record by far: Scientists

AP BRUSSELS

Now that July's sizzling numbers are all in, the European climate monitoring organisation made it official: July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record by a wide margin. July's global average temperature of 16.95 degrees Celsius (62.51 degrees Fahrenheit) was a third of a degree Celsius (six tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) higher than the previous record set in 2019, Copernicus Climate Change Service, a division of the European Union's space programme, announced Tuesday. Normally global temperature records are broken by hundredths or a tenth of a degree, so this margin is unusual.

"These records have dire consequences for both people and the planet exposed to ever more frequent and intense extreme events," said Copernicus deputy director Samantha Burgess. There have been deadly heat waves in the Southwestern United States and Mexico, Europe and Asia. Scientific quick studies put the blame on human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. Days in July have been hotter than previous records recorded from July 2 on. It's been so extra warm that Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organisation made the unusual early announcement that it was likely the hottest month days before it ended.

Pak extends visa of Indian woman

Peshawar (PTI): Pakistan has extended by one year the visa of a 34-year-old Indian mother of two children who travelled to a remote village in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to marry her Facebook friend after converting to Islam, her Pakistani husband said on Tuesday.

Anju - who now goes by the name of Fatima after converting to Islam - on July 25 married her 29-year-old friend Nasrullah, whose home is in the Upper Dir district in the province. They became friends on Facebook in 2019.

On Tuesday, Nasrullah said that Anju's visa, which was earlier extended for 2 months, has now been extended for a year after their marriage. Her original one-month visa was set to expire on August 20.

"The visa of my wife Anju has been extended for a year after the provision of related documents to the Interior Ministry," said Nasrullah.

"All Pakistani institutions are cooperating with us," he added. Last month, a real estate company gifted the couple a plot of land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and presented them with a cheque. Anju, who was born in Kailor village in Uttar Pradesh and lived in the Alwar district of Rajasthan, travelled to Pakistan legally from India via the Wagah-Attari border. She was granted a 30-day visa, valid for Upper Dir only.

Niger's junta rejects diplomatic visit by UN, regional officials

AP ■ NIAMEY

Niger's military junta has refused the latest diplomatic attempt to reinstall the ousted president, rejecting a proposed visit by representatives of the West African regional bloc, the African Union and United Nations on Tuesday, according to a letter seen by The Associated Press.

The letter cited "evident reasons of security in this atmosphere of menace" against Niger, two weeks after mutinous soldiers overthrew the country's democratically elected leader.

The regional bloc known as ECOWAS had threatened to use military force if the junta didn't reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum by Sunday, a deadline that was ignored.

On Monday, acting US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland met with the coup leaders and said they refused to allow her to meet with Bazoum, whom she described as under "virtual house arrest."

She described the mutinous officers as unresponsive to her appeals to start negotiations and restore constitutional rule.



last democratic nations in the vast Sahel region, south of the Sahara Desert, that they could partner with to fight growing jihad violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. The US has not yet called the junta's actions a coup, which would mean Niger would stand to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in military assistance and other aid.

“These conversations were extremely frank and at times quite difficult because, again, we are pushing for a negotiated solution. It was not easy to get traction there. They are quite firm in their view of how they want to proceed,” Nuland told reporters on a call from Niamey.

ECOWAS is expected to meet again Thursday in Abuja, the capital of neighbouring Nigeria, to discuss the situation.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking to Radio France International on Monday, said diplomacy is the preferred way forward, and he couldn't speculate about the future of 1,100 US military personnel in Niger.

“What we are seeing in Niger is extremely troubling and provides nothing to the country and its people. On the contrary, the interruption of this constitutional order puts us, and many other countries, in a position where we have to stop our aid, our support, and this will not benefit the people of Niger,” Blinken said.

Niger has been a crucial partner to the United States and other European countries, which viewed it as one of the

attempt to change course. But the junta doesn't appear open to dialogue. On Sunday, it closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack.

Analysts and diplomats say the window for military intervention is closing and without regional support for the use of force, ECOWAS and others are searching for a way out.

“A lot of the tough talk from the region and beyond is perhaps more a reflection of how they wish they had responded to previous coups in Mali, Burkina and Guinea,” said Cameron Hudson, a former official for the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Similarly, Washington and Paris will now have to make their own hard choices about working with junta leaders on counterterrorism or risk ceding hard-won ground to jihadist groups and possibly Russia, he said.

The junta, led by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, has been exploiting grievances among the population toward its former colonial ruler France.

It also has accused Bazoum's government of failing to do enough to protect the

country from Islamic extremists, and has asked the Russian mercenary group, Wagner, for help. Wagner already operates in a handful of African countries, including Mali, and has been accused of committing human rights abuses.

Niamey's mostly quiet streets have seen pro-junta rallies, anti-foreign rhetoric and residents waving Russian flags.

The ruling military has called on the population to defend the country. It's unclear how much genuine support there is for the junta, but it appears to have rallied some civil society and political groups to its side.

And since there has been no military intervention against the coup leaders, “there is no real reason for them to believe that suddenly this whole thing is going to come crashing down,” Manzin said.

Boubacar Moussa, a former jihadi fighter who joined a programme that encourages fighters to defect and reintegrate into society, said that jihadis in Niger have been celebrating the chaos and greater freedom of movement since countries like France suspended military operations.

Russia missile strike targets rescue workers

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian officials on Tuesday accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers as the death toll from two Russian missile strikes that slammed into residential buildings in the downtown area of a Ukrainian city climbed to seven.

The dead in the Monday evening strikes in the city of Pokrovsk were five civilians, one rescuer and one soldier, Donetsk Gov Pavlo Kyrilenko said. Dozens more were wounded, most of them police officers, emergency workers and soldiers who had rushed to the scene to assist residents.

The Russian missiles slammed into the centre of Pokrovsk, which is in the eastern Donetsk region that is partially occupied by Russia. Emergency crews were still removing rubble at the scene on Tuesday. The Iskander missiles, which have an advanced guidance system that increases their accuracy, hit within 40 minutes of each other, according to Kyrilenko.

Russia has since the start of the war aimed artillery and missiles at the exact same spot it struck around 30 minutes earlier, often hitting emergency workers who had deployed at the scene. It's a tactic, called a “double tap” in military jargon, that the Russians also used in Syria's civil war.

“All of (the police) were there because they were needed, putting their efforts into rescuing people after the first strike,” Ivan Vyhyvskyi, chief of Ukraine's National Police, said Tuesday. “They knew that under the rubble were the injured - they needed to react, to dig, to retrieve, to save. And the enemy deliberately struck the second time.”

Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed it hit a Ukrainian army command post in Pokrovsk. Neither side's claims could be independently verified.

Among those injured was Volodymyr Nikulin, a policeman originally from the now Russian-occupied port city of Mariupol.

Arriving at the scene after the first missile strike, Nikulin was wounded in the second

strike when missile shrapnel pierced his left lung and left hand.

“Today is not my happy day because Russian criminals committed another awful crime in Pokrovsk,” he said in a video he sent to The Associated Press from a hospital ward in the city.

In the video, he is seen lying on a bed shirtless, dried blood on his side and covering his left hand. He moves with pain to show his injuries.

Pointing his camera to show other injured security forces in the ward, he says: “Look, these are Ukrainian heroes who helped (injured) people.”

Like others, Nikulin was taken to a hospital in the city. But there were so many injured that he was still waiting for surgery on Tuesday morning. He was later transported to a hospital in Dnipro, where he was to undergo surgery to remove the shrapnel.

Nikulin had already witnessed some of the war's horrors. He helped an AP team escape after Russian troops that had besieged the city entered the downtown area and searched for them.

He featured in the award-winning documentary “20 Days in Mariupol”, a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS Frontline about the earliest phase of the Russian invasion of Mariupol.

The head of the Pokrovsk City Administration, Serhii Dobriak, described the attacks on Pokrovsk as “a typical Russian scenario: 30-40 minutes between missiles.”

“When rescuers come to save people's lives, another rocket arrives. And the number of casualties increases,” he said in a video comment to local media.

Kyrilenko, the regional governor, said that 12 multi-story buildings were damaged in Pokrovsk as well as a hotel, a pharmacy, two stores and two cafes.

Russian missiles, drones and artillery have repeatedly struck civilian areas in the war. The Kremlin says its forces target only military assets and claims other damage is caused by debris from Ukrainian air defense weapons.

Intel agencies warn of violent protests in SL again: Prez

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Tuesday briefed the Cabinet on intelligence reports warning of attempts by certain groups to create public unrest of the type that had happened on May 9 last year.

The Cabinet spokesman and minister Bandula Gunawardena said the water crisis for cultivation caused by the ongoing drought was used by opposition groups to create problems in the cash-strapped country. The farmers in the southwestern region of Udawalawe have been protesting for weeks demanding water for cultivation from the Samanlalawewa reservoir — a dedicated reservoir to produce

hydropower. The officials have been reluctant to release water from the reservoir, saying it could cause daily electricity cuts. “There were attempts to surround the house of Agricultural Minister Mahinda Amaraweera while special protection had to be provided to the house of Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera,” Gunawardena said. Gunawardena said the intelligence reports suggested that at least two media institutions were behind the move to incite street violence using the drought-induced water crisis.

“They had planned to organise May 9-like street protests with agitated farmers, causing a gunfire retaliation from the law enforcement and then using dead bodies to meet

political ends,” Gunawardena said. In the May 9 incident last year, the then prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign as violence erupted across the island nation after government supporters attacked peaceful protesters agitating over the then government's inability to tackle the economic crisis which caused severe public hardships.

The farmer agitation ended on Tuesday morning with the cabinet decision to release the Samanlalawewa hydropower reservoir water for farming purposes. The energy minister informed Parliament on Tuesday the state power entity would be forced to make emergency power supplies at a higher cost to ensure uninterrupted power supplies.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, rescuers work on the scene of a building damaged after Russian missile strikes in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Tuesday

Thai king's second son returns after decades of estrangement

AP ■ BANGKOK

The estranged son of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn visited a daycare centre for underprivileged children in Bangkok on Tuesday following a surprise return to the country after 27 years of living abroad. Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse's return was first revealed in a video posted

online Sunday showing him in the arrival area of Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport being greeted by well-wishers. His return came at a sensitive time for the Thai royal family, with the eldest daughter of the king being in a coma since December.

The 42-year-old, who works at a law firm in New York, is the second son of

King Vajiralongkorn with his second wife Sujarinee Vivacharawongse, a former actress. The then-crown prince divorced Sujarinee who was accused of adultery in public in 1996. Sujarinee and her children later moved abroad. The youngest daughter was taken back by the royal family and was given the title Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, but

the four sons remain estranged and do not have any formal royal titles. The Palace has not commented on his visit.

Vacharaesorn went to the Foundation for Slum Child Care and donated money to support their work, according to the foundation's Facebook post, saying he “greeted the children thoughtfully and took great interest in the founda-

tion's work of helping underprivileged children and families”. Photos posted showed Vacharaesorn embracing children and talking closely with them. A day after his arrival, Vacharaesorn was seen in videos visiting several religious sites in Bangkok, including the Temple of the Emerald Buddha which is in the Grand Palace's grounds. He posted on his

Facebook account a photo of himself on an auto-rickshaw at night with the caption “Bangkok Tuk-Tuk”.

King Vajiralongkorn, 71, has married four times and has seven children, but he has not named an official heir. His fourth marriage to Queen Suthida was announced just days before his coronation in 2019.

Conflict in Sudan has displaced over 4 mn, UN official says

AP ■ CAIRO

Sudan's escalating conflict has driven more than 4 million people from their homes, including over 884,000 who have fled to neighbouring countries, a UN official said on Tuesday. The fighting has also triggered outbreaks of disease and an increase in malnutrition, according to William Spindler, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency.

From mid-May to mid-July, the UNHCR recorded over 300 deaths from measles and malnutrition, mainly among children under 5, Spindler said, speaking to reporters in Geneva. His remarks came as clashes between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary force intensified in the eastern part of the capital, Khartoum, and the nearby city of Omdurman.

Sudan was plunged into chaos in April when simmering tensions between the military, led by Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting in Khartoum and elsewhere.

“Chronic shortages in health staff, as well as attacks on personnel as reported by the World Health Organisation, have significantly compromised the quality of health care across the country,” Spindler said. On Monday, army operations in Khartoum and the surrounding area killed at least 20 members

of the RSF, according to Nabil Abdallah, a military spokesman. The RSF did not acknowledge those casualties but claimed its fighters had killed scores of soldiers in street battles in Omdurman. The Associated Press could not verify either claim. The rival forces had ordered civilians to evacuate Omdurman's riverside district of Abu Zouf due to the intensifying fighting, according to a pro-democracy network. Omdurman's Al-Nou Hospital — where many of the wounded are being treated — is short on surgeons, blood supplies and oxygen tanks, the Sudan Doctors Union said Tuesday.

In June, the government said more than 3,000 people had been killed in Sudan's conflict so far but has not released any data since then. Activists and doctors say the real death toll is likely far higher. The fighting has reduced Khartoum to an urban battlefield where many residents live without water and electricity. In the western region of Darfur, the fighting has morphed into ethnic violence with RSF and allied Arab militia targeting African ethnic group communities. Amnesty International has accused both sides of committing war crimes and the International Criminal Court's prosecutor announced last month an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the latest fighting in Darfur.

Poland to hold parliamentary election on October 15

Warsaw (AP): Poland's president announced on Tuesday that the country would hold its parliamentary election on October 15, marking the official start of an electoral campaign that has informally been underway for months and is being shaped by Russia's war against Ukraine. President Andrzej Duda said in a statement posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the elections for the 460-seat lower house of parliament, the Sejm, and for the 100-seat Senate will both take place on that Sunday. Lawmakers will be elected for a four-year term. The election campaign begins during rising anxieties in Poland over the presence of Russia-linked Wagner mercenaries across the NATO nation's northeastern border in Belarus, where they have arrived by the thousands since a short-lived mutiny in Russia in June.

Tensions have also been growing with ally Ukraine, to the country's southeast, over grain imports and historical memories of past ethnic conflicts. Poland's conservative ruling party, Law and Justice, has been seeking to present itself as strong on national defence given the turmoil across its eastern borders. It has ordered more soldiers to beef up security at the Belarus border and is planning a large military parade on the August 15 Army Day holiday next week to show off new tanks and other military equipment it has been purchasing.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Kamal Ahmad is in process to purchase Property No. C-27, area measuring 100 sq. yd. Part of Khasra No. 27/13, situated at abadi of old Gobind Pura in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Delhi-110051 from Rajkumar, who has acquired this property vide relinquishment deed dated 4/10/2022 (doc. No. 9382) executed by Shivam Lal Mehra, Asha Arora, Babita Malhotra, Sangesta Kohli, Kanchar Kundra, Pralok Kumar, Rajal Ohi, Shivam Ohi & Jyotsinder Lal Mehra whereas he i.e. Rajkumar do not have the copies of below mentioned documents :-

1. Copy of Legal heirs Certificate of Late Gokal Chand.
2. Copy of Legal heirs of Late Kishore Chand Mehra.
3. Copy of Death Certificate of Late Kishore Chand Mehra.
4. Copy of legal heirs of Late Janak Ram Mehra.
5. Copy of Death Certificate of Late Ranesh Kumar Mehra.
6. Copy of Legal heirs of Late Ranesh Kumar Mehra.
7. Copy of Death Certificate of Late Ashok Kumar Mehra.
8. Copy of Legal heirs of Late Ashok Kumar Mehra.
9. Copy of Legal heirs Certificate of Late Jyotsinder Lal Mehra.
10. Copy of Legal heirs Certificate of Late Minni Ohi.

Persons having any claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaidhali, GZ., U.P., Mob. 9810063391

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Sadiq Road, Faridkot-151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items/services upto 23-08-2023

- 1) Upgradation of kutchha area near main opposite ATM by kota stone and interlocking floor
- 2) Upgradation of Kutchha area near main porch by Kota stone and interlocking floor at GGS(H) 3) Fully Automated Clinical Chemistry Analyser on Regent Rental Basis
- 4) Supply and Installation of Head Light with Surgical Loop Attachment
- 5) Supply and installation of Screening Impedance Audiometer for ENT department
- 6) Supply and installation of Green Laser machine
- 7) Automated Hemoglobin Estimation Machine on Regent Rental Basis
- 8) Fully Automated Chemiluminescence Immunoassay system on Regent Rental Basis
- 9) Supply of Printer, Scanner and MFP.

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items upto 30-08-2023

- 1) Procurement of Leadfree Coat Aprons with attached Thyroid Shield for GGS Medical Hospital, Faridkot
- 2) Procurement of 4 KJ/HD L.E.D smart 85°/86°, Projector and IT equipments
- 3) Procurement of UTM fire wall
- 4) Services for Photography and Biometric
- 5) Printing of Blank Degrees
- 6) Replacing dilapidated floor of Emergency Block with granite floor and other repairs in GGS Medical Hospital, Faridkot
- 7) Construction of waiting shed for patients in open area between OPD Block & X-ray Block at GGS Medical Hospital, Faridkot
- 8) Work of up-gradation of cooling of AC system of Lecture Theater no.3 (by providing 22 ton ductable AC with Plenum) of GGS medical College, Faridkot.

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items (with pre bid meeting) upto 08-09-2023

- 1) Rate contract for sanitary material
- 2) Procurement of Multiloop CR system

Note: Pre-bid meeting shall be held. Please refer tender document for Date, time and venue for pre-bid meeting

Terms and conditions can be downloaded from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfhus.ac.in

Registrar
nil/12/133/2023/26573 Dated CHD - 8/8/2023

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)
Phone Fax : 05944.240921 E-mail - sepwdusn@gmail.com

पत्रांक-2229 / 23 एम-04 / 2023 **राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)** दिनांक 07/08/2023

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लॉन्गोविवो रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई- टेंडरिंग द्वारा टू-बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 16.08.2023 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	घरोहर घनराशि (रु० लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	टेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	राज्य योजना के अंतर्गत जनपद ऊधमसिंहनगर के विधानसभा क्षेत्र बाजपुर में एन०एच० 74 एस्प०एन० इन्टर कालेज से सरकरा मेहता फार्म तक एव सरकरा से बाजपुर की ओर रेलवे सीमा तक मार्ग का पुनः निर्माण कार्य।	4.06	5000.00 + 18% GST	90 दिन	09 माह	केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभाग / उपकरण में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी B एवं उच्चतर में पुजीकृत

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

APPENDIX- IV A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

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) and Rule 9(1) 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 Properties mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 60,43,348/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDP000514883, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 04.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUNIL PAHWA, KAIZEN PAHWA TECHNOCRATS PVT. LTD. (THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS) and CHARU PAHWA. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Properties will be Rs. 55,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

PROPERTY NO. 1
ENTIRE UPPER GROUND FLOOR OF BUILD - UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 252 (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), AREA MEASURING 25.90 SQUARE METERS, BLOCK /POCKET D - 11, SECTOR 7, ROHINI, NEW DELHI - 110085 ALONGWITH ONE - FOURTH UNDIVIDED SHARE IN STILL PARKING AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-
EAST : PLOT NO. 257 WEST : OPEN
NORTH : PLOT NO. 251 SOUTH : PLOT NO. 253

PROPERTY NO. 2
ENTIRE UPPER GROUND FLOOR OF BUILD - UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 253 (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), AREA MEASURING 25.90 SQUARE METERS, BLOCK /POCKET D - 11, SECTOR 7, ROHINI, NEW DELHI - 110085 ALONGWITH ONE-FOURTH UNDIVIDED SHARE IN STILL PARKING AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-
EAST : PLOT NO. 257 WEST : OPEN
NORTH : PLOT NO. 252 SOUTH : PLOT NO. 256

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 04.08.2023 Authorized officer
Place : NEW DELHI Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX- IV A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 11.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 17,20,875/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00051223, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 31.07.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 01.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from DAYA SHANKER SHUKLA, HARI SHANKER SHUKLA and GEETA DEVI. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEING FLAT ON GROUND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) (REAR LEFT HAND SIDE) HAVING TOTAL COVERED AREA 70 SQUARE YARDS EQUIVALENT TO 58.52 SQUARE METERS CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. B-78, BLOCK-B, KHASRA NO. 410, SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY SLF VED VIHAR, VILLAGE SARDULLABAD, PARGANA LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 01.08.2023 Authorized officer
Place : GHAZIABAD Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Sensex falls 0.16% to settle at 65,846

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices fell on Tuesday as investors turned cautious ahead of the key events — RBI's monetary policy and the US inflation data — due to be announced later this week. Continuous foreign fund outflows and weak trend in Asian and European markets also played spoilsport for the domestic markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 106.98 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 65,846.50. During the day, it declined 200.85 points or 0.30 per cent to 65,752.63. The NSE Nifty slipped 26.45 points or 0.13 per cent to end at 19,570.85.

Amid expectations of another status quo on the key interest rates, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed high-powered rate-setting panel MPC on Tuesday began its three-day meeting to firm up the next bi-monthly policy. The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would be announced on Thursday, August 10, by Governor Das.

"On the global front, investors are adopting a cautious approach even amidst declining bond yields as they await the release of crucial economic data. The significant drop in Chinese exports has also contributed to concerns within the global market. FIIs remain in a selling mode in the domestic market, yet active buying from DIIs is mitigating downside risks. Among sectors, PSU banks and pharma stocks inched up, while mid and small-cap stocks have continued to outperform the benchmark, showcasing their resilience," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.



From the Sensex pack, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Sun Pharma, Nestle, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and ITC were the major laggards.

Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Titan and ICICI Bank were among the major gainers. "Caution prevailed in the market ahead of the RBI's monetary policy announcement, while weak European and Asian cues saw the local benchmarks linger

in negative territory for the majority of the trading session. Listless trading could be seen till the MPC meeting outcome and global cues will continue to dictate trends in the local market," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.25 per cent and midcap index gained 0.15 per cent.

Among the indices, metal declined by 0.94 per cent, telecom communication fell by 0.92 per cent, utilities declined 0.60 per cent, commodities dipped 0.54 per cent, power (0.39 per cent) and energy (0.32 per cent).

Financial Services, healthcare, industrials, bankex, capital goods and consumer durables were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo ended in the green.

European markets were quoting in the negative territory. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude fell 1.38 per cent to USD 84.16 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,892.77 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

"While global cues will continue to dictate trends, investors would be watchful of the two key catalysts - RBI's monetary policy and US inflation data on Thursday," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. The BSE benchmark had climbed 232.23 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 65,953.48 on Monday. The Nifty advanced 80.30 points or 0.41 per cent to end at 19,597.30.

Sebi plans to issue norms for dealing with unclaimed funds of clients

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi plans to come out with a detailed procedure for dealing with unclaimed funds of clients lying with the stock brokers, whereby such trading members will make attempts to find out the whereabouts of the investors for return of money.

In case the end client is not traceable despite the efforts of the Trading Member (TM), the unclaimed funds would be transferred to investor protection funds of stock exchanges on a periodic basis, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its annual report for 2022-23.

This will ensure that unclaimed funds of clients lying with the TMs are returned to the respective clients in a timely and efficient manner.

"It is proposed to have a detailed pro-



cedure for treatment of unclaimed funds of clients lying with the TMs, in which the TMs shall make efforts to find out the whereabouts of the clients for return of such funds," Sebi said.

In September 2022, Sebi directed all entities, which have listed non-convertible securities, to submit information about unclaimed redemption and dividends amount.

In addition, Sebi would examine mandating digital assurance in respect of financial statements disclosed by listed entities.

"There is increasing availability of external information sources that provide information on the listed entity and its financial statements. An auditor may rely on such digital information, from external information sources in its routine nature of auditing," as per the annual report.

In order to encourage and make the process easier for retail investors to participate in the voting on motions moved by listed companies, Sebi is looking to facilitate various channels for participation such as the website or app of the broker and depository participant.

Also, it is looking to explore the possibility of providing ease of access to reports of proxy advisors, for investors to make an informed decision.

Exide Industries expects to regain pre-Covid margin in 1-2 years

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Storage battery major Exide Industries Ltd on Tuesday said it expects to regain its pre-covid EBITDA margin of 13-14 per cent in the next one to two years.

The company's current EBITDA margin is 10.6 per cent, as input costs have remained erratic.

"We are seeing a revamp in demand after Covid and expecting both automotive and industrial verticals will do well. However, it will take another one to two years to get back to the pre-covid level of margin," Exide Industries MD and CEO Subir Chakraborty said.

Speaking about the company's Rs 6,000 crore 12GW lithium-ion cell manufacturing plant near Bangalore, Chakraborty said it is progressing well.

He said the company remains unperturbed about the emerging alternative technologies, given the growth of the storage battery market and that all technologies will be required.

Commercial production in the Bangalore plant will begin in 2024-25, attracting an estimated capex of Rs 4,000 crore.

Chakraborty said the company has received very lucrative incentives from the Karnataka government, which ranged between 18 and 20 per cent of the capex. However, the compa-



ny could not qualify for the PLI scheme.

He also said that the anti-dumping by GCC countries on batteries will have a minor impact on the company. Currently, exports account for 8 per cent of total revenue and the company will explore newer markets to increase it to double digits in the near future.

Exide Industries has applied for regulatory approvals for the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiary Exide Energy Pvt Ltd (EEPL) with Exide Energy Solutions (EESL).

The merger is expected to be completed shortly, officials said.

EEPL has a 1.5GW fully automated lithium-ion battery packs and modules manufacturing plant at Prantij, Gujarat. EESL is the promoter of the lithium ion cell plant. The company aims to bring the lithium businesses under a single entity.

"We will continue to have the existing facility even after another module and pack facility in the new facility," Chakraborty said.



NSEL paired contracts case: Sebi suspends registration of Mavji Haribhai Commodities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has suspended the registration of Mavji Haribhai Commodities for its involvement in illegal paired contracts on the now defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL).

By providing access for taking exposure to paired contracts, the broking firm's clients were exposed to the risk involved in trading in a product that did not have regulatory approval, Sebi said in an order passed on Monday.

Further, the regulator said that trading activities of the noticee (Mavji Haribhai Commodities) in paired contracts for their clients on the NSEL platform have jeopardised its reputation as also Sebi's belief in its character, competence and integrity which compelled the regulator to file the criminal complaint against Mavji and also against several other brokers.

Accordingly, Sebi has suspended the registration of Mavji Haribhai Commodities for a period of three months from the date of the order or till such time an order is passed by a court of competent jurisdiction, discharging or acquitting the noticee, whichever is later.

Also, the Securities and

Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said the order will come into force with immediate effect.

In September 2009, NSEL introduced the concept of paired contracts for trading, which allowed buying and selling of the same commodity through two different contracts at two different prices on the exchange platform. The scheme of paired contracts traded on NSEL had caused a huge loss to investors to the extent of Rs 5,500 crore, as per Sebi.

In four separate orders on Monday, the regulator slapped fines totalling Rs 22.20 lakh on four entities for indulging in non-genuine trades in the illiquid stock options segment on the BSE. Individually, the regulator imposed a fine of Rs 11.20 lakh on Satish Agrawal HUF, Rs 5 lakh each on Shilpa Baldevbhai Patel and Scandia Properties and Rs 1 lakh on Moneyplex Securities.

The order came after Sebi observed a large-scale reversal of trades in the illiquid stock options segment of BSE, leading to the creation of artificial volumes on the bourse. Thereafter, the regulator conducted an investigation into the trading activities of certain entities engaged in the segment on BSE from April 2014 to September 2015.

Passive funds gain traction among investors; mkt share rises: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passive funds have gained traction among investors in India in the last few years, capturing a market share of over 17 per cent of assets under management (AUM) in 2023 from 1.4 per cent in 2015, according to a study. A passive fund is an investment vehicle that tracks a market index or a specific market segment. These funds include passive index funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), and Fund of Funds investing in ETFs.

According to the study by Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company, 61 per cent of investors who participated in the study have invested in at least one passive fund and 53 per cent of respondents increased their allocation to passive funds in the last 12 months. Low-cost nature of passive funds has been cited as the biggest reason by investors for opting for such funds, followed by simplicity of these funds and market returns. The study was conducted among more than 2,000 investors participating from across the country.

"At the end of FY-2018, the AUM of all



passive funds put together stood at around Rs 83,000 crore. It has grown to more than Rs 7 lakh crore as of Mar-2023, rising 8.5 times in just 5 years at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 54 per cent," the study mentioned.

Investors seem to have a preference between Index Funds and ETFs with 87 per cent of respondents investing via Index Funds as compared to 41 per cent investing through ETFs. Also, more than 75 per cent of respondents said that they preferred to invest regularly every month using systematic investment plans (SIPs), while only 42 per cent said that they leaned towards lumpsum investment.

When it comes to investor preferences

in terms of allocation, the study revealed that nearly half of those investing in passive funds allocate 10-30 per cent of their portfolio to passive funds. About 15 per cent of respondents mentioned that they have allocated 31-50 per cent in passive funds, while 12 per cent of respondents allocated more than 50 per cent of their portfolio in passive funds. On the other hand, 28 per cent of investors participating in the study have a less than 10 per cent allocation to passive funds.

According to the fund house, this is because ETFs are bought and sold on the stock exchanges and require the investor to have a demat account.

On the other hand, investing in Index Funds has no such requirement and is comparatively straightforward similar to any other mutual fund transaction.

The investment landscape in India is evolving rapidly, with more than 80 per cent of respondents saying that they were planning to hold their investments for more than 3 years, while 16 per cent planned to hold for 1-3 years. Only 3 per cent of investors said that they were looking to liquidate their investments in less than a year.

Jiva Ayurveda announces its foray into Thailand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Jiva Ayurveda, household name in the field of Ayurveda and holistic medicine, on Tuesday announced its foray and expansion plans in South East Asia with the opening of the first two "Jiva iRETREAT Centers" in Thailand's hilly region of Pak Thong Chai and northern forest region of Chiang Mai.

"Through this expansion, Jiva Ayurveda will further spread Ayurveda practice and products in the South East Asian countries, providing healthier and more holistic health management solutions for the masses," said Jiva Group Chairman Rishi Pal Chauhan at a function held to announce the venture.

Monk Duke, the founder of iRETREAT, commended the joint venture, and stated blending the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda with the tranquility of our meditation retreats, we are taking a leap forward in promoting inner peace and self-discovery. Speaking on the occasion, Sister BK Shivani, renowned spiritual leader, TV personality and senior Rajyoga meditation teacher, expressed her admiration for the initiative.

Maruti to issue shares on preferential basis to parent SMC for 100% stake in Gujarat unit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said its board has approved issue of shares on preferential basis to Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) as consideration for the acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Suzuki Motor Gujarat. The transaction is expected to enhance SMC's stake in Maruti Suzuki India to 58.28 per cent from 56.4 per cent currently.

Post such acquisition, Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG) will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company,

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a regulatory filing. "The Board approved the issue of MSI equity shares to SMC to pay for the SMG shares," it added.

The total number of securities proposed to be issued to SMC as consideration for the acquisition of its 100 per cent stake in SMG shall be decided in a subsequent board meeting, basis relevant valuation reports subject to and in compliance with the applicable regulatory and statutory framework, the auto major stated.

MSI board, in its meeting held on Tuesday, evaluated two



options for acquiring the SMC equity in SMG, MSI noted.

The board discussed payment in cash and issue of MSI shares on a preferential allotment basis, it said.

The impact of both options on the profitability of MSI, the earnings per share and the dividend payment to shareholders was considered for each year up

to 2031, the auto major said.

After going through the data, the board concluded that the option of acquiring SMG shares by issue of MSI shares to SMC would clearly be beneficial to both the minority shareholders as well as the company, MSI said. The board also approved seeking of minority shareholders' nod at an EGM or through postal ballot.

Besides, the board also gave its nod to seek approval of all shareholders at the same EGM or through postal ballot for issue of shares on preferential basis to SMC.

Average prices of luxury homes up 24% in last 5 yrs in top seven cities: Anarock

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Average prices of luxury homes, costing more than Rs 1.5 crore, have increased by 24 per cent in the last five years across seven major cities, according to property consultant Anarock. Luxury homes recorded the highest average price appreciation of 24 per cent in the last five years, while rates of affordable homes below Rs 40 lakh went up by 15 per cent.

The price increase in the mid- and premium-housing segment — costing in the range of Rs 40 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore —

was 18 per cent in the last five years. Prices of luxury homes in the top seven cities in 2018 were at an average of Rs 12,400 per sq ft. The rates have increased to Rs 15,350 per sq ft now, Anarock said in a report released on Tuesday.

The average price in the affordable homes category across the top seven cities was Rs 3,750 per sq ft in 2018 as against Rs 4,310 at present.

Mid- and premium-segment homes saw the average price go up from Rs 6,050 per sq ft in 2018 to Rs 7,120 per sq ft in 2023.

Sebi categorises dues worth ₹73,287 crore as 'difficult to recover'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has segregated dues to the tune of Rs 73,287 crore under "difficult to recover" category at the end of March 2023.

Overall, the markets watchdog has dues worth Rs 1.02 lakh crore that needs to be recovered from entities, including those that failed to pay the fine imposed on them, or were unable to pay fees due to it and did not comply with its direction to refund investors' money, according to Sebi's annual report for 2022-23, which was released on

Monday. Of Rs 1.02 lakh crore, Rs 63,206 crore, which is 62 per cent of the total amount, pertains to collective investment scheme and deemed public issues of PAFL Ltd and Sahara Group company Sahara India Commercial Corporation Ltd.

Further, the regulator said parallel proceedings are pending before various courts and court-appointed committees in 77 cases involving Rs 70,482.62 crore, or 69 per cent of the total amount. "In these cases, Sebi's recovery proceedings are subject to directions/approvals of respective court/committee.



Credit card default rises to ₹4,072 crore in FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Credit card default rose to Rs 4,072 crore or 1.94 per cent at the end of March 2023, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"As per the inputs received from RBI, in respect of defaults in credit cards, the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) in credit cards was Rs 3,122 crore in March-2022 and Rs 4,072 crore in March-2023, while credit card outstanding in March-2022 and March-2023 was Rs 1.64 lakh crore and Rs 2.10 lakh crore, respectively," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

GNPAs in credit cards have declined from 3.56 per cent in March 2021 to 1.91 per cent in March 2022, and stand at 1.94 per cent in March 2023 against the schedule commercial banks' GNPAs of 3.87 per cent in March 2023, he said.

Replying to another question, Karad said, the total number of frauds as reported by the cooperative banks during FY23 was 964 with amount involved to the tune of Rs 791.40 crore.

BUSINESS BRIEF

RUPEE FALLS 9 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 82.84 AGAINST US DOLLAR
MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated 9 paise to settle at 82.84 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday weighed down by safe-haven dollar demand and a muted trend in domestic equities. Foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.80 against the dollar and finally ended the day at 82.84 (provisional), registering a fall of 9 paise from its previous close. During the session, the local unit touched a peak of 82.78 and hit the lowest level of 82.85.

GOLD FALLS ₹80 TO ₹60,120/10 GM; SILVER PLUNGES ₹800
NEW DELHI: Gold edged lower by Rs 80 to Rs 60,120 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a decline in the precious metal in global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 60,200 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also plunged Rs 800 to Rs 74,000 per kg. Gold declined for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 60,120/10 gram down by Rs 80 per 10 gram, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance) and CMD (Addl. Charge), has been conferred with the "Finance Leader of the Year Award". This prestigious accolade was presented during the Felicitation Ceremony of the 'ETPrime Women Leadership Awards' (ETPWLA) 2023, held in Mumbai.



Colombia edge Jamaica 1-0 to set up England World Cup quarter-final

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Catalina Usme scored the only goal as Colombia kept their World Cup charge on track Tuesday by beating Jamaica 1-0 to secure a maiden quarter-final against European champions England.

The South Americans failed to qualify for the 2019 tournament, but have taken huge strides since, topping their group in Australia and stunning world number two Germany along the way.

The 25th-ranked Colombians carried the form into a sold-out Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, grinding down a resolute and physical Jamaica side who had not conceded a goal all tournament.

Colombia's intense, attacking ethos under coach Nelson Abadia finally paid dividends in the 51st minute when the dangerous Usme got the breakthrough with a composed finish inside the box to unlock a previously impenetrable defence.

It set a cagey game alight and sent the pumping pro-Colombian crowd into deafening delirium, with the Reggae Girls unable to find a way back.

Colombia will now play England in Sydney on Saturday for a place in the semi-finals after the Lionesses came through a



gripping penalty shootout against Nigeria.

Four years after crashing out of the 2019 tournament with three heavy defeats, 43rd-ranked Jamaica, like Colombia, also came to Australia with low

expectations. And despite the crushing defeat, they will leave with their heads held high after clean sheets against France, Panama and Brazil.

In front of riotous fans, who booed whenever Jamaica touched the ball, both sides pressed early in a stop-start opening that saw several players go down under heavy challenges.

The chances were few and far between in the opening 20 minutes with Colombia's Diana Ospina having the best -- and only -- shot on target, but it didn't have enough power to trouble the keeper.

But the South Americans began to find some rhythm as their supporters urged them on and the opportunities started flowing, with Leicy Santos and Usme both going close.

With Colombia assuming control, Jamaica resorted to some clumsy challenges and Chantelle Swaby and Drew Spence both picked up yellow cards in a tough-tackling half.

The breakthrough came six minutes after the restart with teenage World Cup debutant Ana Guzman ping-ponging a beautiful ball to Usme who took one touch before side-footing home.

Australia were in danger of a humiliating early exit after a surprise defeat to Nigeria but they are now into the Women's World Cup quarter-finals and belief is growing that they can go all the way.

Throw a returning Sam Kerr into the mix and add in the departure of holders the United States, and the co-hosts sense that a first World Cup triumph is within their grasp.

The 3-2 loss to Nigeria in the group phase put Australia's hopes in peril but they responded with a 4-0 thumping of Olympic champions Canada and beat Denmark 2-0 in the last 16.

Skipper Kerr's belated appearance at the tournament after a calf injury made the headlines but it was Caitlin Foord and Mary Fowler who together blew Denmark away in front of nearly 76,000 spectators in Sydney on Monday.

The Matildas will face France or World Cup debutants Morocco in the last eight and they have all the momentum as they close on a first World Cup semi-final and possibly more.

"If we play like this we can beat anyone," Arsenal forward Foord said after giving the Danes a torrid time with her pace, movement and power.

The 20-year-old Manchester City forward Fowler was just as impressive. It was her vision and inch-perfect ball down the left wing which teed up Foord for a clinical finish in the first half at a near-capacity Stadium Australia.

Fowler was instrumental again in the second goal, 20 minutes from time, with Hayley Raso applying a deadly finish. But one of the biggest cheers was yet to come, when 10 minutes later talismanic striker Kerr climbed off the bench for her first action at the tournament.

There was a nervous moment for the home fans when she slipped late on, but the Chelsea goalscorer appeared unharmed and her return is perfect timing for Australia.



Aus 'can beat anyone' as World Cup hosts hit stride

PNS ■ SYDNEY

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Pliskova, Azarenka win WTA openers at rain-hit Montreal

AFP ■ MONTREAL

Former world number ones Karolina Pliskova and Victoria Azarenka advanced after rain delays on Monday's first day of the WTA Montreal Open hardcourt tournament.

Czech standout Pliskova beat China's Zhu Lin to book a second-round berth against current world number one Iga Swiatek of Poland, the reigning US and French Open champion.

Pliskova, the runner-up at Montreal in 2021, needed two hours and 22 minutes to eliminate Zhu 6-3, 6-7 (8/10), 6-2.

Rain hit with the tie-breaker level 8-8 after Pliskova had missed on two match-point chances. Zhu won the first two points once play resumed but Pliskova broke her three times in the final set for the victory.

"I was kind of ready for both situations because it's 8-8, so it can just be like two quick points, so you have to be ready that you are going to lose them as well," Pliskova said.

"It's tough because you're so close to the win, and then you just start from zero going in the third set, but there's nothing you can do. You have to still be there and fight."

Swiatek is 2-0 against Pliskova, blanking her 6-0, 6-0 in the 2021 Rome final and



prevailing in three sets four months ago in Stuttgart.

"I was not really close to winning (in April) but I just felt like I found the game which I have to play against (Swiatek)," Pliskova said.

"She doesn't give you many free points. You have to find that balance between playing risky, aggressive, but not too risky, not too much."

World number 19 Azarenka, the 16th seed from Belarus, won 6-3, 6-0 over Poland's 25th-ranked Magda Linette in a matchup of this year's Australian Open semi-final losers.

It was Azarenka's 187th career match victory at the WTA 1000 level, the 34-year-old breaking the former mark set by Simona Halep for the

most wins since the level began in 2009.

Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, returned from a three-hour rain delay between sets and won 24 of 31 points in the second set, avenging a loss at Miami to Linette.

US 13th seed Madison Keys, the 2017 US Open runner-up, defeated 43-year-old compatriot Venus Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, by 6-2, 7-5 after an hour and 51 minutes.

Keys, 28, won her seventh career WTA title last month at Eastbourne. She booked a second-round match against Italy's 49th-ranked Jasmine Paolini, who eliminated world number 22 Donna Vekic of Croatia 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

No.1s Alcaraz, Swiatek named top seeds at Cincinnati Masters

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

World number ones Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek, the reigning US Open champions, were named Monday as the top seeds for next week's WTA and ATP Cincinnati Masters tournament.

The tournament is the last major hardcourt tuneup event for this year's US Open, the final Grand Slam showdown of the year that begins on August 28.

The top 16 players in the men's and women's world rankings were named Cincinnati seeds with the top eight receiving byes into the second round.

Alcaraz is coming off his second Grand Slam crown last month at Wimbledon. The 20-year-old Spaniard is also the top seed in this week's ATP hardcourt event at Toronto.

Swiatek, a 22-year-old



from Poland, won her third French Open crown earlier this year and will try to match her back-to-back titles on the red clay at Roland Garros with back-to-back titles on the New York hardcourts.

Serbian star Novak Djokovic, owner of a record 23 men's Grand Slam titles after capturing this year's French and Australian Opens, will be the second seed at Cincinnati, where he is a two-

time champion and five-time runner-up.

Daniil Medvedev, the 2019 winner, is seeded third on the men's side.

Reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka is the women's second seed followed by American Jessica Pegula, Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan and Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, runner-up at last year's US Open and the past two Wimbledon.

Benfica striker Ramos signs for PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Portugal attacker Goncalo Ramos has joined Paris Saint-Germain from Benfica on a one-year loan deal with an option to buy, the French champions announced on Monday.

Ramos, 22, came through the Portuguese club's academy and scored 19 league goals in 30 matches last season.

At the 2022 World Cup he scored a hat-trick and made an assist in his first international start in the last 16 win over Switzerland.

"It's a big moment of pride and immense joy to join Paris Saint-Germain," Ramos said in a PSG statement.



the best squads," he added.

Ramos is the Parisians' eighth summer signing after the arrivals of the likes of France defender Lucas Hernandez and Spain attacker Marco Asensio.

They missed out on Harry Kane with the England striker being heavily linked with Bayern Munich.

PSG open the defence of their Ligue 1 crown by hosting Lorient on Saturday but the start of the campaign is being clouded by questions over Kylian Mbappe's future.

The France captain has one year left on his contract with PSG, who want him to leave now rather than for free next summer.

Mbappe is refusing to sign a new contract and PSG believe he has already struck a deal to move to Real Madrid next year.

The standoff between the 24-year-old and the French club reached a new peak last month when they dropped him from their squad to tour Japan and South Korea.

Mbappe has been training with the reserves in preparation for the new term.



Tsitsipas striving for calm after coaching earthquake

AFP ■ TORONTO (CANADA)

Stefanos Tsitsipas held out hope on Monday that massive changes in his coaching staff will pay results at this week's ATP Toronto Masters.

The fourth-ranked Greek star has gently laid down the law to his father and longtime coach Apostolos, handing over that duty to Greek-Australian Mark Philippoussis, a former US Open finalist.

Tsitsipas relegated his parents to concerned members of his travelling party at the bigger events.

This week's fourth seed at the first of two Masters events prior to the August 28 start of the US Open spelled out his new team order after arrival following his title run at Los Cabos, Mexico.

Tsitsipas made a breakthrough in Canada in 2018, finishing runner-up to Rafael Nadal.

The 24-year-old Greek made it clear that all coaching will now be handled by Philippoussis in the hopes his at-times chaotic player box dynamic will calm down.

"(I gave) my father some time off," Tsitsipas said. "He hasn't had time off since I was 12 years old."

"For him, it's very healthy to take some time away from the court and feel refreshed again."

he's still there following our path and journey."

Tsitsipas said that with his parent now longer acting as coach he's hoping for "much more tranquility and calmness in the air when I'm competing."

The Greek star was well-known for loudly engaging with his father on court during matches while his mother often had to leave the player box, unable to watch in tense moments.

"Parents can get emotional sometimes and I completely understand that," he said. "I can imagine how difficult it can be at times seeing your child give it their all and to be going through so much during a match."

Tsitsipas said Philippoussis, 46, has "been through a lot of moments in his career that he can identify and capture better."

"He's an incredible human being. He has helped me a lot and has been there for me. Even when people didn't see him around, he has been there behind closed doors."

Berrettini advances On a day whose start was delayed by rain, 2021 Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini lined up a second-round encounter with fellow Italian and seventh seed Yannik Sinner.

Berrettini, who has suffered for more than a year with various injuries, defeated Gregoire Barrere 6-4, 6-3, striking 24 winners while breaking four times.

Real Madrid with Benzema void to fill as La Liga returns

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Real Madrid begin life after Karim Benzema looking to wrest back the Spanish title from Barcelona as the La Liga season kicks off this weekend, seemingly content to play the waiting game for Kylian Mbappe.

Benzema, the reigning Ballon d'Or, swapped the Santiago Bernabeu for Saudi Arabia in June after 14 seasons in Madrid, where he is second on the club's all-time goalscoring list with 354 -- trailing only Cristiano Ronaldo.

In a bid to bridge the 10-point gap that separated them from Barcelona last season, Madrid splashed out 103 million euros (\$112 million) on England international Jude Bellingham and swooped for Turkish prodigy Arda Guler.

But Mbappe, who has scored 212 goals in 260 games for Paris Saint-Germain, is the player they have long targeted.

After missing out on the France captain last year as he agreed a new deal to stay in Paris, Madrid again appear the

likely destination for Mbappe, who is locked in a contract dispute with PSG.

Mbappe is training with PSG's reserves and has been told he must sign a new contract if he wants to remain with the French champions this term.

PSG are thought to suspect that Mbappe has already struck a deal to join the Spanish giants for free in June 2024, but Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has been reluctant to broach the subject publicly.

Mbappe "is a player who is not at Madrid," Ancelotti said last month. "To talk about players who are not here, it doesn't seem right to me."

Spotlight on Vinicius While Madrid weigh up a late bid for the exiled Mbappe before this transfer window shuts, Vinicius Junior is set to become the focal point of the attack after inheriting the number seven shirt worn by Ronaldo, Raul and Emilio Butragueno.

Ancelotti plans to experiment with a system that exploits the attacking potential of Bellingham and Guler, with veteran striker also Joselu mak-



ing a surprise return to his former club.

The 33-year-old journeyman, who played twice for Madrid in 2011, finished as the top-scoring Spaniard with 16 goals for Espanyol last season.

"For me, the squad has improved," said Ancelotti. "We have lost a player who has been fundamental for years in Karim... a club legend. But we have a very young group that we are convinced will give us a lot of satisfaction."

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez has questioned whether he has enough depth

for the upcoming season after a relatively quiet summer. That concern is even greater with the club unable as yet to register their new arrivals.

A year ago, the Catalan club's board sold off various assets to raise enough money to comply with spending restrictions imposed on the club, but that didn't stop them luring a raft of new signings including Robert Lewandowski.

Twelve months on, Barcelona have continued their recent policy of hiring experienced players at zero transfer cost, albeit fewer, bringing in

Manchester City's treble-winning captain Ilkay Gundogan.

They toyed with the idea of re-signing Lionel Messi, but the club's perilous financial situation effectively ruled out a reunion and the Argentine instead moved to Inter Miami.

Can Barcelona replace Busquets? Centre-back Inigo Martinez has arrived from Athletic Bilbao, with Oriol Romeu returning to his boyhood club as what Barcelona hope will be a low-price replacement for Sergio Busquets.

The loss of the influential Busquets, who joined Messi and Jordi Alba in Miami this summer, is one of Xavi's greatest worries.

"A player who has been so important for us, on and off the pitch... we have to find a very important player to replace Busquets," Xavi said in May.

"We have to find this piece, if we want to compete well."

Real Sociedad, who qualified for the Champions League, have brought in Portugal forward Andre Silva on loan following the retirement of Spain great David Silva after a serious knee injury suffered during pre-season.

Villarreal, fifth last term, are set for a rebuild after losing Nicolas Jackson and Pau Torres to the Premier League, and Samuel Chukwueze to AC Milan.

Granada are back in the top flight after securing promotion at the first attempt along with play-off winners Alaves, with Las Palmas returning after a five-year absence.

Atletico Madrid finished third last season, just a point

POWELL PUSHES WI TO 159/5

KL set to join team India for Asia Cup 2023



conceded a couple of boundaries.

Leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, who usually doesn't bowl in the first six overs, was given that task on Tuesday. Mayers put Chahal under pressure straight away by sweeping him for a six.

The third spinner, Kuldeep, came on to bowl after the powerplay and was whipped by Mayers for four on his very first ball. Three balls later, a courageous King stepped out to dispatch Kuldeep's googly for a straight six.

Following the dismissal of Mayers and Johnson Charles, Pooran joined King and tried to stamp his authority over the Indian bowlers. He came down the track to smash Kuldeep over long on, before collecting a boundary on the next ball.

Kuldeep, however, had the last laugh as the spinner beat a charging Pooran to have him stumped. Four balls later, Kuldeep took a sharp return catch to send back King, leaving West Indies at 106 for four in 14.5 overs.

Powell then played a crucial cameo to take his team to a fighting total. Arshdeep Singh's 19th over went for 17 runs, giving the home team a much-needed move on.

The hosts collected 53 runs off the last 30 balls.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Star wicket-keeper batter KL Rahul, who is currently in NCA working on his road to recovery is set to make his much awaited return to International cricket in the upcoming edition of Asia Cup 2023.

As per the recent report from RevSportz, Rahul is expected to be selected in the Asia Cup squad. He is currently performing at his best in all aspects including batting, fielding and wicket-keeping.

He suffered a thigh injury during an IPL 2023 match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore that forced him to leave the tournament mid-season and rule himself out of WTC Final 2023 against Australia.

KL Rahul Likely To Keep Wickets In Asia Cup 2023

If Rahul is included in the Indian squad for Asia Cup 2023, he will most likely also be the primary wicket-keeper for Team India and the player to fill the number four spot in the playing 11. Rahul will be a crucial asset for the Indian team.

Asia Cup 2023 will take place in a hybrid model where Pakistan will host four games while Sri Lanka will host nine games including all knock-outs and the final.

With the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup now only two months away, it is time for the teams to fine tune their combinations and see who are their best eleven players and four back-ups ready to participate in the competition from October 5 to November 19.



PTI ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA),

India spinner Kuldeep Yadav put West Indies under pressure with a timely three-wicket haul before Rovman Powell's whirlwind 40 not out off 19

balls pushed the hosts to 159 for five in the third T20I, here on Tuesday.

Kuldeep, who missed the previous game due to a sore thumb, got rid of the dangerous Nicholas Pooran (20 off 12)

and a well-set Brandon King (42 off 42) in the 15th over to wrest momentum from the West Indies.

Skipper Powell then came up with three sixes in the last two overs to prop up the total.

In an unusual occurrence, the start of the game was slightly delayed as the 30-yard circle was not marked.

After opting to bat, the West Indies enjoyed their best start of the series with King and

Kyle Mayers (25 off 20) sharing a 55-run stand.

The surface was on the slower side, as expected,

prompting Hardik Pandya to introduce spin as early as in the third over via Axar Patel, who

PCB restores Sarfaraz Nawaz's pension



PTI ■ LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has restored the pension of former Test pace bowler Sarfaraz Nawaz, who had all his payments suspended since January 2017 after making unsubstantiated defamatory statements against former Chairman, Najam Sethi.

The ex gratia payments were discontinued as a result of disciplinary proceedings initiated against Nawaz by the previous set-ups of the PCB over his violation of the Code of Conduct under the Players' Welfare Policy.

Nawaz, who is not keeping well after a health scare in London last year, met with PCB chief Zaka Ashraf who is

also the head of the PCB's Cricket Management Committee in Lahore on Tuesday in a bid to resolve the suspended ex gratia payments.

He assured the PCB of his compliance with the Code of Conduct.

Ashraf handed over a cheque to Nawaz to settle the outstanding payments in the presence of the head of the Cricket Technical Committee, Misbah ul Haq and member, Muhammad Hafeez.

The payment has been made to Nawaz under the PCB's Players' Welfare Policy and the PCB Chief assured unconditional support for former players.

Ashraf said he decided to meet with the former Test pacer and hear him about as

he was upset to learn that a former Test cricketer was in bad condition and was being deprived of his pension which was his right.

"It is disappointing that the previous administrations have used the PCB's coffers to settle personal scores," Ashraf said.

"No cricketer should have to go through what Nawaz had to face, and I want to reassure every former and current cricketer, international or domestic, that the PCB considers them as its asset and will look after them at every stage of their life and in every possible way. They deserve to be loved and respected by their cricket board."

Najam Sethi as Chairman of the board filed a libel suit against Nawaz for making unsubstantiated allegations against him. Nawaz had a few months back appealed to the board to end the matter.

Nawaz said he was happy to see the matter resolved due to his health problems.

He played 55 Tests and 45 One-Day Internationals for Pakistan from 1969 till 1984 and is famous for his stunning figures of 9 for 86 against Australia at Melbourne in 1979 when at one stage he took seven wickets for just one run to set up a famous victory.



'Whether or not win World Cup, beat Pak': Dhawan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Asia Cup is set to get underway on August 30, with Pakistan taking on Nepal in Multan. The tournament will present the Asian teams with an opportunity to prepare themselves for the World Cup in India later this year.

However, there is plenty more than just getting ready for the World Cup. Asia Cup in itself is a prestigious tournament. It is the only continental tournament in the world. It also allows fans to witness the mouth-watering India vs Pakistan clashes.

The two arch-rivals are set to clash on September 2 in Pallekele. If there are no upsets, the teams will again clash on September 10 in Super 4s. The India squad for the Asia Cup has not been announced yet.

Recently, the official broadcaster of the Asia Cup, Star Sports, released a promo featuring veteran India batter Shikhar Dhawan where the batter talks about how beating Pakistan is more important than winning the tournament. The video, however, was soon taken down by the broadcaster.

"It has always been the case of 'Whether or not you win the World Cup, you have to beat Pakistan' (laughs). But winning the World Cup is also important and by god's grace hopefully we will. There's definitely excitement (while playing Pakistan) but also a lot of pressure.

There's definitely a satisfying feeling playing against them when the match ends. Whenever I have played Pakistan, we have won mostly. The intensity on the field is also high, but there's also some light chat with them," Dhawan could be heard saying in the video.

No Place For Shikhar Dhawan In India Squad Shikhar Dhawan lost his place in the Indian team owing to inconsistent performances and the team's willingness to induce fresh blood. Dhawan for a long time represented India in second-string teams where the seniors were rested.

There were speculations that Dhawan might return to the squad in the World Cup given his outstanding record in ICC events but with the team not picking him in the ODI series against West Indies, his return looks unlikely.

Shoaib available to play for Pakistan in T20Is

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran Pakistan cricketer V Shoaib Malik confirmed that he is available for selection in the national side if they consider him for the T20 Internationals. However, he expressed no interest in representing Pakistan in ODI or Test matches.

He also talked about losing his spot in the Pakistan team despite performing great. While he is prepared to play T20Is for Pakistan, he said that he has no expectations from Babar Azam or the management.

"When I was dropped from the Pakistan team, my performances and stats were very good. I have retired from Tests and ODI and I have no plans of making a comeback in those formats. However, I am ready to return to the T20 team if they call me. But I don't expect anything from the captain, the selectors, or the PCB. I have zero expectations from anyone. I am fit and will continue as long as I enjoy playing," Malik said while talking to PAK TV.

However, Malik added that his hopes are extremely high with Babar Azam and company to perform in the upcoming edition of ODI World Cup 2023.



He said "All the participating teams will be under pressure during the World Cup, and the same goes for Pakistan. However, Pakistan have been playing very well, and a lot of players are in great form currently. My hopes are very high."

Shoaib Malik's All-round Heroics Goes In Vain In LPL Clash vs Dambulla Aura

Shoaib Malik played his first match of LPL 2023 on Monday. He was representing Jaffna Kings in the tie against Dambulla Aura. He put on a

show with his all-round performance but that was not enough to ensure his team's victory.

Dambulla Aura batting first were restricted to 134 for 8 in 20 overs. Shoaib Malik grabbed two wickets in his four-over spell and just gave away 13 runs. He was the best bowler from the Kings' side.

Then chasing 135, Malik played an unbeaten knock of 74 runs off 53 balls and helped his team recover from a batting collapse. However, Dambulla still managed to earn a 9 runs win.

Unadkat-Shardul set for tie-breaker to get World Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The national selection committee will have its task cut out as it would have to choose between Shardul Thakur and Jaydev Unadkat for the extra fast bowler's slot in the 15-member India squad for the World Cup, starting October 5.

As per ICC rule, every team has to submit its initial squad of 15 by September 5 but the final submission can be done by September 27, and a country is allowed to make as many changes as possible between the initial and final submission.

Interestingly, the Australia series ends on September 27, the day of the final submission.

Therefore, one shouldn't be surprised if India carry around 16 to 18 members for both the Asia Cup and Australia home series before zeroing in on the final squad.

So Unadkat and Shardul will certainly get their share of chances during the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and the three-

match home series against Australia (both in September), serving as a pre-cursor to the World Cup.

India's World Cup campaign against Australia starts in Chennai on October 8, which is exactly two months from this date, and the squad composition looks far from settled at the moment.

While the availability of injured batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer would certainly make India one of the serious title contenders, it is the bowling combination on low and slow decks which will decide the team's run during the marquee event.

There are two bones of contention -- the extra seamer's slot and the third spinner's spot in the fifteen.

But, in the case of speed merchants, it wouldn't be as straightforward as one envisages.

Jasprit Bumrah is coming back from a lower-back stress fracture but even at 80 percent fitness, Bumrah will be playing



the World Cup and so will Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj.

With Hardik Pandya also filling up the fourth fast bowler's slot and is expected to bowl at least six to eight overs per game if not 10, the reserve pacer's slot becomes important.

In terms of performance and quality, Shardul is way ahead and has again proved his mettle in the Caribbean with eight wickets in three ODIs but Unadkat's advantage is being a left-arm seamer in this setup.

With Arshdeep Singh, a left-arter with better skill-sets,

shunted to the Asian Games T20 squad, Unadkat is very much in the scheme of things as he adds variation despite his lack of pace.

Also since the team management has carried Unadkat for so long, it is imperative that he is considered for the big occasion.

Another option is Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar, who has impressed one and all with his work ethic but even he has been picked for the Asian Games in Hangzhou, which ends on October 7, provided India qualify for the gold medal match.

The third spinner's slot could be a more straightforward choice with Axar Patel miles ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal at the moment, although his skill-set is quite similar to Ravindra Jadeja, who is expected to start in all of India's games.

But Axar's better batting abilities and the team management's distinct lack of interest to try Chahal during the West Indies ODIs is an indicator.

RAHUL MIGHT HAVE TO DO 50-OVER SIMULATION BEFORE ASIA CUP

The Indian team management is desperate to get a fully fit KL Rahul during the upcoming Asia Cup in Sri Lanka but the senior Karnataka man, just like his pace bowling colleague Bumrah, will need to do 50-

over match simulation ahead of the continental showpiece.

Closer to the World Cup, people in the know of things believe that if all specialist bowlers are fit and available, then it will be a straight tie-breaker between Mumbai's seam bowling all-rounder Shardul and Saurashtra's left-arm medium pacer Unadkat.

Having completed its round of experimentations during the three-match series against the West Indies, the think-tank won't cast its net any further and if sources are to be believed, they have zeroed in on the core 18-19 members for the World Cup, out of which 15 will be chosen for the tournament proper.

"The selectors and the team management wants to give both Rahul and Shreyas full chance of recovery. Yuvraj is certainly way ahead in terms of recovery and getting closer to full match fitness."

"But he needs to do match simulation where he is able to keep wickets for 50 overs," a

BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

"The Instagram videos show that he is doing well but 50 overs of keeping and at least 30 overs of batting in the heat will prove how his operated thigh is holding up in humid conditions."

"If he is able to do well over next nine possible games (six if India play the Asia Cup final plus three against Australia), it will be the best news for the Indian team," he added.

It is expected that India's Asia Cup squad will be selected end of this week or by the middle of next week (latest by August 16-17).

Likely core group: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya (vc), Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Surykumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan (wk), Axar Patel, Sanju Samson, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadkat, Mukesh Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal.