

OPINION 6

JAPANIFICATION OF CHINA:
IS IT ON THE CARDS?

WORLD 8

RUSSIA HITS UKRAINIAN
GRAIN DEPOTS AGAIN

MONEY 10

'RISE IN HOME LOAN RATE HITS AFFORDABILITY;
AHMEDABAD MOST, MUMBAI LEAST AFFORDABLE'

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY AUGUST 17, 2023; PAGES 12-13



the pioneer

KNEE INJURY
ENDS SHAW'S
SHIRE STINT
12 SPORT

www.dailypioneer.com

Late City Vol. 33 Issue 226
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

SC handbook abolishes gender unjust terms

Judges to avoid: 'Prostitute, eve-teasing, housewife', etc, words

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court launched a handbook on Wednesday to help judges and lawyers use more accurate and respectful language in legal discourse. The handbook suggested replacing terms like "eve-teasing," "prostitute," and "housewife" with terms like "street sexual harassment," "sex worker," and "homemaker."

The handbook encompasses a glossary of gender-biased terms and offers alternative words and phrases for usage. The initiative came to light as a five-judge bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, convened to address arguments related to challenges against the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which had conferred special status upon the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Justice announced the handbook's launch during the proceedings.

He stated, "This is intended to aid judges and the legal community in recognising, comprehending... stereotypes about women prevalent in legal discourse."

The apex court, in a press release, explained that the "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes" aims to



empower judges and legal professionals to identify, comprehend, and counteract detrimental stereotypes concerning women.

The release detailed, "The handbook includes a glossary of terms perpetuating gender bias, proposing alternative vocabulary for legal documentation, encompassing petitions, decrees, and judgments. This compilation exposes prevalent stereotypes about women, refuting their inaccuracies and illustrating how they can impact the implementation of the law."

The document further encapsulates the prevailing legal doctrine on significant matters, particularly those related to sexual violence.

"Collectively, the handbook strives to equip judges with knowledge and resources

that phrases like "seductress," "whore," or "woman of loose morals" should be replaced with the term "woman."

Moreover, it discourages the usage of derogatory terms such as "hooker" and "prostitute," instead suggesting "sex worker." The document proposes substituting expressions like "concubine" or "keep" with "woman with whom a man has had romantic or sexual relations outside of marriage."

This initiative endeavours to cultivate a more inclusive, unbiased, and gender-fair judicial system, aligning with the Indian judiciary's commitment to eliminate gender biases from legal discourse and proceedings.

The word "eve-teasing" will now be termed as "street sexual harassment," the handbook said, adding that instead of word "faggot," the term accurately describing the individual's sexual orientation be used.

"Housewife" will now become "homemaker" for judicial discourses, it said, adding that word "mistress" be now described as "woman with whom a man has had romantic or sexual relations outside of marriage."

It said instead of word "bastard," the word "non-marital child or, a child whose parents were not married" should be used.

to critically assess their own reasoning and writing, thereby ensuring the dispensation of justice that is both impartial and equitable," the release affirmed.

It hailed the handbook's release as a crucial stride towards a gender-equitable legal framework, marking a significant milestone in the journey towards a fairer society.

The initiative, under the guidance of Chandrachud aims to eradicate preconceived gender stereotypes from judicial discussions, especially those associated with women. The handbook, spanning 30 pages, provides a compilation of stereotypical terminology, offering alternate choices for use in legal dialogues and court pronouncements.

The guidebook stipulates

Cabinet OK's ₹13,000-crore PM Vishwakarma Yojana for craftsmen

PM-eBus Sewa to bring changes to urban mobility also approved

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, granted approval for two significant schemes on Wednesday, aimed at enhancing urban transportation and supporting traditional artisans. These schemes, namely "PM-eBus Sewa" and "PM Vishwakarma," are set to bring transformative changes to urban mobility and traditional skill livelihood.

The PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, with an estimated cost of ₹57,613 crore, received the Cabinet's green signal. Under this scheme, the augmentation of city bus operations will see the introduction of 10,000 electric buses (e-buses) on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The Central Government will contribute ₹20,000 crore to this initiative, aimed at supporting bus operations for a decade.

Cities with a population of three lakh and above, as per the 2011 census, including Union Territories' capital cities, the North Eastern Region, and Hill States, will benefit from this scheme. Notably, priority will be given to cities without an organised bus service.

This initiative is projected to generate 45,000 to 55,000 direct jobs through the deployment of approximately 10,000



Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Anurag Thakur brief the media on Cabinet decisions in New Delhi on Wednesday

e-buses in urban bus operations. The scheme comprises two segments:

Segment A — Augmenting City Bus Services (169 Cities): This segment focuses on enhancing city bus operations through the introduction of 10,000 e-buses under the PPP model. The scheme also includes provisions for associated infrastructure development or upgradation of depot infrastructure and the establishment of behind-the-meter power infrastructure for e-buses.

Segment B — Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (181 Cities): This segment aims at green initiatives such as bus priority infrastructure, multimodal interchange facilities, Automated Fare Collection Systems based on the National Common Mobility Card

(NMC), charging infrastructure, and more.

Under the scheme, the states and cities will be responsible for running bus services and making payments to bus operators, while the Central Government will provide subsidies as outlined in the scheme.

The PM-eBus Sewa Scheme is expected to encourage e-mobility by offering comprehensive support for behind-the-meter power infrastructure. It also emphasizes the development of charging infrastructure through the Green Urban Mobility Initiatives.

The scheme not only accelerates the adoption of energy-efficient electric buses but also fosters innovation in the e-mobility sector and promotes a resilient supply chain for electric vehicles. By transi-

tioning to electric mobility, noise and air pollution will be reduced, contributing to carbon emission reduction.

The Cabinet's approval also extended to the PM Vishwakarma scheme, designed to uplift livelihood opportunities for traditional skilled artisans.

Under the scheme's implementation, highlighting its focus on providing financial assistance and skill development for artisans.

Under the ₹13,000-crore Vishwakarma Yojana, craftsmen will receive subsidised loans up to ₹2 lakh. The first tranche will provide artisans and craftspeople with loans up to ₹1 lakh at a 5 per cent interest rate, while the second tranche will offer credit support of up to ₹2 lakh at the same concessional interest rate.

The scheme's key features include financial support for artisans, advanced skill training, a ₹500 stipend for skill development, and ₹1,500 for purchasing modern tools. Additionally, the scheme offers incentives for digital transactions, marketing support, and toolkit incentives, ensuring comprehensive support for traditional workers.

Nehru museum: Legacy razed, says Cong; BJP slams dynastic politics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A heated exchange has erupted between the BJP and the Opposition Congress over the renaming of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). The Congress claims that the renaming of this iconic institution aims to distort the legacy of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. In response, the BJP has hit back, alleging dynastic politics.

The NMML, located on Teen Murti Marg in central Delhi, has officially been renamed as the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. This decision was made in June.

The Congress asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's primary agenda has been to tarnish and defame the Nehruvian legacy. In a statement on social media, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh remarked, "Today marks the renaming of an iconic institution. The glob-



A view of the signage outside Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi on Wednesday. The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society housed at Teen Murti Bhavan premises has been renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society

ally acclaimed Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) is now PMML — Prime Ministers' Memorial Museum and Library."

Ramesh emphasised that Modi's agenda has revolved around denying, distorting, defaming, and dismantling Nehru and his legacy. "He has replaced 'N' with 'P', where 'P' symbolizes pettiness and

peeve," Ramesh articulated. However, Nehru's immense contributions to the freedom movement and his pivotal role in shaping the democratic, secular, scientific, and liberal foundations of India remain imperious to such attempts, even amidst the "relentless assault" by Modi and his supporters, Ramesh conveyed.

Continued on Page 2

Israeli city inaugurates Indian-Jewish Square as sign of bonhomie

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/EILAT (ISRAEL)

Underlining the ties between the two countries, an Indian-Jewish Cultural Square was inaugurated in Eilat city of Israel on the occasion of India's 77th Independence Day on Tuesday. The Square is dedicated to the strong "civilisational bond" between the two countries built on "centuries of shared heritage and values."

Eli Laneri, Mayor of Eilat, said the square symbolises love, friendship, mutual caring and deep connection between India and Israel. It also showcases the connection between the Indian-Jewish community and the city of Eilat, he said after inaugurating the square.

A message on the wall of the square read, "India-Israel friendship is a testimony to the civilisational bond of trust and friendship between the two nations that are built on the foundation of centuries of



shared heritage, values and aspirations of their people."

"May this friendship inspire future generations with the indomitable spirit of the peoples of India and Israel that transcends geographical boundaries, demonstrating the potential of the collaboration in shaping a brighter future," it added.

Symbols of the 'Malida' ceremony performed by the Bene Israel community from the Maharashtra region on most of their festive occasions, and especially on the Jewish festival of 'Tu B'Shvat', also called the new year of the trees, are painted on one side of the wall in the square with flags of India and Israel on the two corners.

Continued on Page 2

Cong to fight all 7 LS seats in Delhi? Ambiguity reigns

Party asked to prepare for all 7 seats: Lamba; Cong distances itself from its leader's remarks

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has sent conflicting signals regarding its participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Delhi in alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). On Wednesday, a high-level meeting, attended by prominent leaders, including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, discussed the Delhi polls scenario. After the meeting, Delhi Congress leader Alka Lamba claimed that the party's top leadership had instructed them to be prepared to contest all seven Lok Sabha constituencies in the Capital.

"The meeting, which lasted for four hours and included 40 leaders expressing their opinions, focused on strength-

ening Congress in Delhi. We've been directed to gear up for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, contesting all seven seats.

With seven months remaining, all party members have been tasked to prepare for this endeavour," Lamba said in the presence of AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and AICC Delhi Incharge Deepak Babaria.

However, Congress soon distanced itself from Lamba's statement, asserting that the meeting did not involve discussions about forming an alliance. Congress leader Anil Bhardwaj emphasised that Lamba was not authorized to speak on the matter, stating, "During today's meeting of Delhi leaders with the party's Central leadership, there was no dialogue regarding an alliance."

Reports suggest Rahul maintained during the meeting that exploring an alliance with AAP would be considered later. In the interim, he urged party

leaders to prepare for a solo campaign in the national Capital, according to party source

Delhi Congress President Anil Chaudhary and former Union Minister Ajay Maken, present at the meeting, talked about a potential alliance with the AAP, according to sources. Kharge, speaking after the meeting, noted, "Considering the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, consultations were held with Delhi Congress leaders. The revitalization of Delhi Congress, involving the participation of all leaders and workers, remains our priority. Our efforts to improve the lives of Delhi's people continue."

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkur responded to Congress, highlighting, "If Congress does not intend to forge an alliance in Delhi, then pursuing an INDIA alliance becomes irrelevant. It's a waste of time.

Continued on Page 2

Rain-battered HP toll climbs to 71

Mountain-like challenge before State, says CM

PTI ■ SHIMLA

At least 71 people have died in the past three days and 13 are still missing in Himachal Pradesh after devastating rains pounded the State, with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu terming the work of rebuilding infrastructure a "mountain-like challenge."

The death toll from landslides and flashfloods jumped on Wednesday as rescuers pulled out more bodies from the rubble of collapsed buildings, officials said.

Heavy rain has battered the hill State since Sunday, triggering landslides in several districts including Shimla

where three areas — Summer Hill, Fagli and Krishna Nagar — are badly hit by landslips.

"At least 71 people have died in the past three days and 13 are still missing. As many as 57 bodies have been recovered since Sunday night," Principal Secretary (Revenue) Onkar Chand Sharma said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Sukhu said that about 60 people have died since Sunday night.

In an interview with PTI, Sukhu said his state will take a year to rebuild the infrastructure wrecked by the heavy rains this monsoon and claimed that the estimated loss in the two devastating spells of heavy rains — this week and in July — is about ₹10,000 crore.

The Chief Minister said it takes time to rebuild roads and water projects.

Continued on Page 2



IAF personnel conduct rescue operation to save stranded residents in flood-affected areas of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday

No Union Ministry offer: Sharad

NCP chief tries to calm MVA nerves

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the growing strains between his party and its ally Congress over his recent meetings with Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday vehemently dismissed speculation that he had been offered the Union Agriculture Minister's post by the BJP through his nephew and that the latter had not accepted the offer, Sr Pawar said: "I have no idea what the former Chief Minister has said. No such discussion (about the offer made by the BJP) at the 'secret' meeting between me and Ajit Pawar. I am not denying that the meeting did not take place between me and my nephew. He had come to meet me."

Breaking his silence over former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan's claim that

he (Pawar) had been offered the Union Agriculture Minister's post by the BJP through his nephew and that the latter had not accepted the offer, Sr Pawar said: "I have no idea what the former Chief Minister has said. No such discussion (about the offer made by the BJP) at the 'secret' meeting between me and Ajit Pawar. I am not denying that the meeting did not take place between me and my nephew. He had come to meet me."

Talking to the media in Aurangabad, he said: "I am the head of the Pawar family. We have one tradition in our family. Whenever there is an issue in the family, the member concerned speaks to me and seeks my advice. There is no point in discussing more about now."

Sr Pawar also denied another media speculation that in view of the recent meetings



between him and Ajit, the Congress and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) were planning to float a separate alliance by excluding the NCP led by him. "There is no truth in the speculation. If you have read Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut has clarified the basis on which he has made statements in this regard."

Sr Pawar's categorical assertions about the speculation arising out of his meetings with Ajit came on a day when Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Nana Patole said that his party's senior leaders of Congress "are keeping an eye" on the devel-

opments involving Sharad and Ajit and they would discuss the matter with the NCP at the INDIA meeting to be held in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1.

Interacting with the media persons after his party's core group meeting held to discuss preparations for the forthcoming India alliance meeting in Mumbai, Patole said: "There is no confusion in the Congress about Sharad Pawar, but there is confusion among the people about his stand. Sharad Pawar is a big leader, he is capable of taking decisions and he has made his position clear on this visit. He has made it clear that he will stay with the INDIA alliance. Senior Congress are keeping an eye on all this... They will discuss with Sharad Pawar during the INDIA meeting in Mumbai."

Continued on Page 2

TMC may drop dozen MPs in 2024 polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After ruling for 12 years without interruption and much hurdle ever since it came to power dislodging the CPI(M)-led Left Front in 2011, the Trinamool Congress has been advised to drop about a dozen sitting MPs in the coming Lok Sabha elections.



I-PAC, a professional consultancy firm providing electoral assistance to the ruling outfit for the past several years, is known to have advised the Bengal ruling outfit to drop at least ten sitting MPs, sources in the company say. However not all the senior leaders in the TMC are convinced with the I-PAC report.

According to sources among the senior leaders who may get dropped this time around are Saugata Roy a former Union Minister and three-time MP and TMC leader in Lok Sabha Sudip Bandopadhyay --- a three-time MP from Kolkata North constituency.

National Flag guards 100 ft wall in Thrissur



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ THRISSUR

The 76th Independence Day of the nation turned out to be a memorable occasion for Rajmohan, a Thrissur based businessman. He has sent a message to the people of the country that the tricolor could be used to usher in dignity and cleanliness, an easy way to make the Swachh Bharat a reality.

For 58-year Rajmohan, who is a stickler for cleanliness and perfection, the 100 feet long and seven feet tall wall protecting his house from the highway was a headache all these years. Staring from cinema theatre owners o political parties, cultural organizations and vendors of commodities made use of Rajmohan's wall a favorite spot to paste their posters and campaign materials. Not without reasons. The wall which has a panoramic



CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohammad Abid Kasar, S/o. Mohammad Yameen Kasar, R/o. Gram Mandawali, Bijnor, UP-246749 have declared that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport as Mohammad Abid instead of Mohammad Abid Kasar.

NAME CHANGE
I, Bhavna Bhargava, W/o. Mr. Suneel Dutt Bhargava, D/o. Late Mr. Matru Mal R/o. 1/10103, Street No. 3K, West Gorakh Park, Shahdara, Delhi - 110032 have informed that I am legal wedded wife of Mr. Suneel Dutt Bhargava and residing with him at 1/11760 - A & B, Plot No. 3, Pancheel Garden, Navin Shahdara, Delhi- 110032. My date of birth is 05th September, 1969 inbsted of 25th June, 1969. Before marriage I was known as Anupama Bhargava and after my marriage I known as Bhavna Bhargava. I also obtained the Aadhar Card No. 403777070224 and Income Tax Permanent Account Number Card Bearing No. BFPVB1253B. Due to clerical mistake the spelling of my father's name was wrongly started as Mathura Mal Bhargava instead of Matru Mal. Therefore my father's correct name is Matru Mal instead of Mathura Mal. My correct name is Bhavna Bhargava instead of Anupama Bhargava. Bhavna Bhargava and Anupama Bhargava are same and one person. My correct Particular are BHAVNA BHARGAVA D/o MATRU MAL W/o SUNEEL DUTT BHARGAVA R/o 1/11760-A & B, PLOT NO. 3, PANCHEEL GARDEN, NAVIN SHAHDARA, DELHI - 110032. DATE OF BIRTH- 05-09-1969

Basirhat MP who has been reported against for his invisibility from parliament. Apart from this, her name recently got embroiled in an alleged housing scam. Her Tollywood colleague Mimi Chakrabarty an MP from Jadavpur seat south of Kolkata may also be dropped, sources said adding she was not only not politically active but also remained absent from Parliament.

The third and more senior MP Shatabdi Roy may also get dropped, adding more for political reasons than anything else, sources said. Roy, a three-time MP from Birbhum, has been close to senior TMC leader Subroto Mukherjee and has steadily been losing her relevance in the party ever since his demise in 2021.

Apart from the above MPs two other TMC parliamentarians who would definitely lose their nominations are Contai MP and former Union Minister Sisir Adhikari and his son Dibyendu Adhikari. Sisir is the father and Dibyendu is the brother of Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari, a former TMC leader and Man

Friday of Mamata Banerjee. Suvendu left the TMC just before the 2021 Assembly elections.

While it is not known what were the alternative names that have been suggested for replacing the MPs mentioned above, some senior leaders in the TMC said that Bandopadhyay and Saugata Roy could be saved at the last moment by a Mamata Banerjee veto.

In a lifetime performance the BJP had won 18 --- up from 2 seats in 2014 --- seats while the TMC had 22 --- a loss of 10 seats.

While the BJP has not been able to improve its situation from what it was four years ago the TMC too has suffered considerably in the wake of a series of recruitment and other scams related to hundreds days' work and PM housing scheme.

Both the Congress and the Left which suffered massively in the past elections have gained much ground giving the BJP a close chase with 21 percent of votes. BJP has gained 22 percent in the panchayat elections.

Court allows Jacqueline to leave country without prior consent

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



A city court has allowed Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez to leave the country without its prior permission, modifying the bail condition in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case lodged against her and alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekar.

The court directed her to intimate to it as well as the Enforcement Directorate at least three days before leaving the country instead of taking prior permission. Special Judge Shailendra Malik, who had granted bail to Fernandez on November 15 last year, observed that in order to grab professional opportunities, the actor requires to travel abroad at short notice and she has never misused the conditions of bail at any point in time.

The judge modified the condition in an order passed on August 10, noting that taking prior permission of the court before leaving the country "becomes cumbersome and may be a reason for losing

livelihood." While granting bail to Fernandez, the judge had directed her "not to leave the country without prior permission of the court". The court noted that while Fernandez was facing trial in the money laundering matter being probed by the ED, she was made a witness in a related case being investigated by the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police.

It was also undisputed that the accused never misused the conditions of bail at any point in time, the court observed. The judge said that the

purpose of putting conditions on the accused to take prior permission before leaving India was only to ensure that she must appear during the course of trial and there must be least possibility of her fleeing from the judicial process.

"In the present case, I find considering the fact that the accused being an actor in the Indian film industry and has to travel abroad frequently and in certain situations, in order to grab professional opportunities, she requires to leave the country with short notice.

"In such a situation, the condition of taking prior permission before leaving the country becomes cumbersome and may be a reason for losing livelihood," the judge said.

The judge further noted that Fernandez was a citizen of Sri Lanka but was living in India since 2009 and had been regularly paying income tax since 2009.

There has never been any instance of the accused violating any condition of bail, the judge observed.



Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCC) MD RK Jain organises a Naturopathy & Yoga based health camp at its headquarters in association with National Institute of Naturopathy supported by Peoples' Foundation and Sammati Wellbeing last week

Rain-battered HP...

From Page 1 But the government is speeding up the process. "We have to get the infrastructure fully restored within a year. I am working with this in mind."

"It's a big challenge, a mountain-like challenge," he said. According to the state emergency operation centre, in total 214 people have died in the rain-related incidents in the state since the onset of monsoon on June 24 while 38 are still missing. "Rescue operations are going on in Summer Hill and Krishna Nagar areas...One body was recovered from Summer Hill site," Shimla Deputy Commissioner Aditya Negi told PTI.

He said so far 13 bodies have been recovered from Summer Hill, five from Fagli and two from Krishna Nagar. Some bodies are still feared buried in the debris of the Shiva temple at Summer Hill that collapsed on Monday. About 15 houses in Krishna Nagar have been vacated and the families shifted to safer places. Several others have vacated their homes themselves fearing slides due to incessant rains.

The Education department had ordered closure of all schools and colleges in the state on Wednesday due to inclement weather and the Himachal Pradesh University has suspended teaching activities till August 19.

About 800 roads are blocked in the state and the losses suffered by the state since the onset of monsoon on June 24 have crossed Rs 7,480 crore, officials said, adding as many as 10,714 houses have been completely or partially damaged so far.

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri has urged the Centre to declare national calamity in Himachal Pradesh and release Rs 2,000 crore for restoration works. Meanwhile, 1,731 people have been rescued from flood-affected areas of Indora and Fatehpur sub-divisions of Kangra district in the last 24 hours, said Deputy Commissioner Nipun Jindal on Wednesday. Specifically, 1,344 people were

rescued from Indora and 387 from Fatehpur.

The operation to evacuate people from flood-affected areas is going on with the assistance of Air Force helicopters, Army personnel, and NDRF, Jindal said.

Chief Minister Sukhu conducted an aerial survey of Indora and Fatehpur and took stock of evacuation operations in the areas flooded downstream of Pong reservoir.

Himachal Pradesh has already received 742 mm of rainfall in 54 days of monsoon this year against a season's average of 730 mm it records between June 1 and September 30, a weather official here said.

The rainfall recorded in the state this July broke all records for the month in the last 50 years, Shimla Meteorological Centre Director Surinder Paul told PTI. The Army, Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force are engaged in the evacuation of people from the flood-affected areas, CM Sukhu said, adding police and Home Guard personnel have also been roped in for the process.

He said that this was the most devastating natural calamity the state has gone through in the last 50 years.

Meanwhile, Himachal Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla visited the landslide-hit Krishna Nagar locality in Shimla and interacted with the residents there, a statement issued here said.

Around 250 to 300 families have been affected in Krishna Nagar, it added.

Army officials said over 5,000 people have been rescued with deployment of eight columns in Himachal Pradesh.

The Indian Air Force has lent its support by deploying a Chinook helicopter, which executed a single sortie to airlift 18 army personnel and a three-ton mini dozer to the landslide-affected regions near Shimla on Tuesday. In July, heavy rain in the State, including in Mandi, Kullu and Shimla, claimed several lives and destroyed property worth crores of rupees.

Conducting SAR in HP, Punjab since Mon: NDRF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Wednesday said it has been conducting SAR (Search and Rescue) and Flood Water Rescue operations in the districts affected by flash floods in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab since Monday.

Due to excessive rainfall for the last few days over many districts of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, a flash flood hit Kangra, Shimla, Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh, and Rupnagar district of Punjab.

This led to several houses getting damaged and a number of people stranded at various places. From Monday, NDRF teams equipped with all necessary safety and rescue tools are engaged in rescue and relief operations.

No union Ministry offer...

From Page 1

Earlier, at a rally he addressed at Aurangabad, the NCP chief trained his guns at Modi for his remark made at his Independence day speech that he would return as Prime Minister after the 2024 Lok Sabha, by likening the statement to senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis' much-discussed statement "Me Punha Yain, Me Punha Yain" made repeatedly at public rallies in the run-up to the 2019 State Assembly polls that he would return as the Chief Minister of the State.

"The situation prevailing in the country is not favourable for Modi. Modi may say any number of times that he would return as the Prime Minister after the 2024 polls, but he would find himself in the situation like Fadnavis did after the 2019 State Assembly polls".

Cong to fight all 7 LS seats in Delhi...

From Page 1

The party's top leadership will decide whether to participate in the next alliance meeting with Opposition parties scheduled at the end of this month.

In response to AAP's comments and Alka Lamba's statement, AICC Delhi in-charge Deepak Babaria criticized the AAP, stating, "It seems there are immature individuals in the Aam Aadmi Party. If they're making significant decisions based on media reports, not even God can't help them."

In previous polls, the BJP secured victory in all seven seats in both 2014 and 2019, while the Congress performed poorly. The party's performance in subsequent Assembly and Municipal

Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls remained lackluster.

In the latest Assembly elections following the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, AAP secured 62 out of 70 seats with 54 per cent of the votes in the 2020 Assembly polls, while Congress received a mere 4.26 per cent. However, Congress improved its voting percentage to 11.68 in the 2022 municipal polls, compared to AAP's 43 per cent. In the last general elections, Congress achieved a better voting percentage at 22 per cent, with AAP securing 18 per cent.

Given Congress' current challenges in Delhi, its tentative plan to proceed independently is seen as a strategic move to strengthen its bargaining position with AAP.

Israeli city opens Indian-Jewish Square as sign...

From Page 1 Malida is now officially recognised as an official national holiday of the Hebrew Calendar in a major recognition to the Indian-Jewish community's traditions.

Tradition says the community's forefathers arrived in India in 175 BCE (before the current era), exactly on Tu B'Shvat. Their ship, sadly, is said to have sunk off the coast of India, but seven men and as many women were saved from the catastrophe.

Isaac Solomon, an Indian community leader in the city and the driving force behind the initiative, described the site as a "monument symbolising the long-standing friendship between India and Israel".

"Eilat is a pleasant and warm home for about 120 Indian-Jewish families and many other Indian families, and the Sitar Association is a centre that provides these families with the feeling of belonging to one happy family, the Sitar family," Solomon said at the ceremony.

Thanking the municipality of Eilat, he said "this great act of kindness will be remembered forever".

An Indian Embassy official present at the ceremony told PTI that the 85,000 strong Jewish community, with its achievements in diverse areas such as academics, scientific fields, busi-

Nehru museum: Legacy razed, says Cong; BJP...

From Page 1

On the other hand, BJP spokesperson Shehbaz Poonawalla retaliated through a video message, that for Congress, "P" represents Parivar (family) rather than the people. Poonawalla pointed out the contradiction in Congress's stance, highlighting that the renaming aims to honor the achievements of all Prime Ministers, from the first to the current, including Lal Bahadur Shastri, PV Narasimha Rao, HD Devegowda, and Inder Kumar Gujral. He questioned the Congress's objection to this comprehensive approach, insinuating that it underscores their priority of family over the greater populace. Congress MP Shashi

Tharoor also expressed his dismay at the renaming, believing that while the concept of expanding the museum's scope to encompass all Prime Ministers is commendable, the decision to remove Nehru's name demonstrates pettiness. He suggested that maintaining the name "Nehru Memorial Prime Ministers Museum and Library" would have been a more appropriate and inclusive choice.

Tharoor criticised the Government's move, implying that it reflects a lack of magnanimity that should be expected from a ruling party with a substantial majority. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the Government's actions betray

both political and ideological contradictions. She accused the government of defaming the Mahatma while making symbolic gestures towards him, indicating a conflicted stance.

She further said the name change seeks to undermine Nehru's legacy, revealing the government's insecurities and lack of substantial accomplishments. She contended that history cannot be altered, only created, and Nehru's contributions to India's development are undeniable.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore echoed the sentiment, criticising the Government's decision and asserting that the dislike for Nehru is well-embedded within certain political groups.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL
Garden Department
Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal
Bhopal, Dated - 11.08.2023

NIT No. 16/2023-24

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Online Lump-Sum Tender are invited from the appropriate firm that registered in Office of the Madhya Pradesh (Centralized PWD Registration Cell) for following work. The tender documents can be obtained online on the website <http://mptenders.gov.in> as per the Key Dates in the Notice published on the above website. The Notice published on the above website can also be seen on website www.bhopalmunicipal.com

S. No.	Details of Work	Earnest Money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Tender ID
1	RFP (Request For Proposal) for Setting up Amusement Facility in Park under Public-Private Partnership Model at Saryu Sarovar Park	₹ 100000/-	₹ 15000/-	18 Months	2023 UAD 288005_1

Qualification Criteria :-
The contractor must have :-

1. Authorised firm having certificate of same nature of work.
2. The bidder will have to submit it Active GST document.
3. Bidder have to submit Affidavit, duly signed and notarized as per enclosed Annexure-B and Organizational details, as per enclosed Annexure-H
4. The bidder will have to submit Affidavt EPF registration.
5. Bidders are advised to see the tender document before placing bid.

Parvesh Kumar (Advocate)
Sireshwari Vihar, Delhi-29
Chamber Address: 363, Saket Cantt., New Delhi
Cont. No.: 9992221813

T.N. 872/023/024

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subjecting to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Body in bed box: Woman killed boy to ease marriage to victim's father

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A woman has been arrested in a case involving the murder of an 11-year-old boy in West Delhi. The police said Pooja Kumari, 24, has confessed to killing Divyansh, considering him an obstruction to her marriage with his father. Pooja Kumari had an affair with the boy's father Jitender and the two had started living together in 2019.

According to police, CCTV footage of a camera outside a house in west Delhi's

Inderpuri where a woman allegedly strangled her live-in partner's 11-year-old son showed the accused entering the premises. The accused is a resident of Ranhola, who was on the run for several days and was finally arrested from Bakkarwala on Tuesday.

The purported CCTV footage shows the woman covering her face with a blue scarf and entering the house with a bag in her hand. In another footage, she was seen walking while trying to cover her face with the scarf. On August 10, Divyansh



was found dead inside a bed box in his Inderpuri home.

During the investigation, footage from a CCTV camera was examined. It

showed that the last person who visited the 11-year-old boy's house was Pooja, a senior police officer said.

Police checked the footage of more than 300 CCTV cameras, leading to her arrest, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said on Tuesday.

Pooja had strangled the child when he was sleeping and then concealed his body inside the bed box, police said, adding that the woman was in a live-in relationship with the boy's father

Jitender. Reportedly, Pooja and Jitender had married at a temple of the Arya Samaj on October 17, 2019, but a court marriage was not possible as the minor's father had not divorced his wife, police said.

According to police, Jitender had assured Pooja that they would get married in court after he gets a divorce from his wife and they started living together by renting a house.

They often quarrelled over Jitender's divorce and after some time, he moved out

of the rented house and started staying with his wife, police said.

He had moved out in December last year, and Pooja was furious about it. She assumed that Jitender left her because of his son, they said. On Thursday, she met her friend and asked him to take her to Jitender's house as she was not aware of the exact location.

The door of the house was open and she strangled Divyansh, who was sleeping. She took out clothes from the bed box and put the body inside it.

LG objects to 2-day Assembly Session

Deputy Speaker says Saxena's observations 'not correct'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The two-day Delhi Assembly session starting Wednesday has become another flashpoint between the Arvind Kejriwal government and Lt Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena after he wrote a letter to the Chief Minister stating that the current Assembly session has been called in violation of the rules.

Birla informed the Delhi Assembly that LG Saxena shot off a letter to the chief minister on August 11, raising objections to convening the Assembly session. Saxena's letter, AAP leader and deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla said his letter his observations are 'not correct' while the Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri supported the L-G's view point.

This is the first session of the Delhi Assembly since the GNCT (Amendment) Act, 2023, which puts the control of the city's administration in the hands of the Centre, was codified into law last week.

In his letter, Saxena pointed out that this re-convening or Third Part of Fourth Session (Budget Session) of the Seventh Legislative Assembly without a Cabinet Decision is not only inconsistent with the statutory provisions envisaged under the Transaction of Business Rules, but is also in violation of the spirit of Section 6 read with Clause (ix) of Sub-section (4) of Section 45 J of the Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance.



2023. "Therefore, the proposed Third Part of Fourth session being summoned without following the due procedure, should not be convened in this manner," reads the letter.

"Unfathomably, it is also noticed that there is no indication of any Legislative Business proposed to be taken up in the House as provided in Rule 15 (1), Rule 24 and 25 or the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi Rules, 1997. In the absence of prior notice of the business to be transacted in the I-house, I have no doubt that the members of the House are deprived of the opportunity to

come prepared for fruitful deliberations adversely affecting their rights enjoyed under section 18 of the GNCTD Act, 1991," reads the letter.

As special session of the Delhi Assembly began with Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla informing the House that Lt Governor Saxena shot off a letter to the chief minister on August 11, raising objections to convening the Assembly session. A copy of the said letter was also shared with the Assembly. This is the first session of the Delhi Assembly since the GNCT (Amendment) Act, 2023, which puts the control of the city's administration in the hands of the Centre, was

Proposal for creating 37 posts in consumer forum approved

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the proposal for creating 37 additional posts of the common people, something that the LG has been pioneering ever since he took over in May last year," the official said.

"The sanctioned strength of members at present is five, which includes the President and three courts, two division benches and one single-member bench.

The finance department had concurred with the proposal and will make financial provisions for the posts being created. It is to be noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 1, 1997, delegated powers to the Delhi government for the creation of posts on both plan as well as non-plan sides under Group - A, B, C and D.

As on March 1, 2020, the total number of cases pending for disposal in the State Commission was 7,760, which

comprised 5,848 complaints that included execution applications and 1,912 appeals and revision petitions.

"This will provide a major fillip to transparency and speedy redressal of grievances of the common people, something that the LG has been pioneering ever since he took over in May last year," the official said.

"Under rule 17, the Speaker can convene the House anytime if the session has not been prorogued anytime. I received a note on August 8 from the minister of law and justice with the approval of the CM to convene the House on August 16. Accordingly, I convened the House. Lok Sabha also has similar rules to call special sessions," Birla said.

"Many times since 1993, assembly sessions have been called to discuss important issues affecting the people of the Capital. LG has levelled serious allegations that the Speaker has violated the decision of the Cabinet by convening the third part of the fourth session rather than calling the fifth part of the session.

Since the cabinet had not recommended the prorogation of the session under Rule 17, the special session has been reconvened.

Budget, Monsoon, and winter sessions.

She further said: "Special sessions are called even in Parliament and other state Assemblies. Rules empower the Speaker to convene the House any time after adjourning the Assembly sessions sine die. If the Cabinet recommends the prorogation of the session, then the next session is called with the approval of the I.G. If the session is not prorogued, then the Assembly session can be convened under Rule 17 with the approval of the Speaker. The entire country has a similar convention."

"Under rule 17, the Speaker can convene the House anytime if the session has not been prorogued anytime. I received a note on August 8 from the minister of law and justice with the approval of the CM to convene the House on August 16. Accordingly, I convened the House. Lok Sabha also has similar rules to call special sessions," Birla said.

"Many times since 1993, assembly sessions have been called to discuss important issues affecting the people of the Capital. LG has levelled serious allegations that the Speaker has violated the decision of the Cabinet by convening the third part of the fourth session rather than calling the fifth part of the session.

Since the cabinet had not recommended the prorogation of the session under Rule 17, the special session has been reconvened.

AAP Govt to establish coordination among different departments: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Services and Vigilance Minister Atishi on Wednesday said the AAP dispensation has decided to establish coordination among different departments of the government and the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA). Following the enactment of the GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2023 on the control of services in the national capital, Atishi has issued directions giving a green signal to the initiation of NCCSA meetings regularly as per schedule.

There were several roadblocks due to which meetings of NCCSA were affected. The Delhi government has decided

to establish coordination among different departments and NCCSA. Respecting the GNCTD Amendment Act, we want that meetings of the Authority are held and work of Delhi people is not affected," she told reporters outside the Delhi Assembly.

In the order issued to the Chief Secretary, Atishi has clarified that for better functioning of the National Capital Civil Services Authority, the provisions of Sections 45H(1) and 45H(2) of the GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2023 should be followed.

She stated that while adhering to the provisions of the GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2023, proposals for the transfer and posting of officers



before the NCCSA officials should be placed only after the approval of the Services Minister.

Additionally, before sending cases related to vigilance and non-vigilance matters of officers to NCCSA, the Chief Vigilance Officer, in accordance with the Act, should obtain approval from the Vigilance Minister. Only after obtaining their approval, the

proposals should be sent to the Authority's Member Secretary. Under the GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2023, as per Section 45H(1), the NCCSA will be responsible for the transfer and posting of all Group-A and DANICS officers in Delhi.

"Under Section 45H(1), all proposals for transfers and postings should be placed before the National Capital Civil Services Authority only after obtaining the approval of the Services Minister. Only after receiving the approval of the Services Minister, the Secretary of Services should send the proposal to the Member Secretary of the Authority for presentation before the Authority," the order said.

I miss Manish, says Kejriwal on his birthday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday thanked people for their wishes on his birthday, but said he was missing his former Deputy Manish Sisodia.

"Today is my birthday. Many people are sending their wishes. Thank you so much! But I miss Manish. He is in jail in a false case. Let's all take a pledge today - that we will do everything within our means to provide best quality education to every child born in India," he said on X, formerly Twitter.

Kejriwal, who turned 55, also asked everyone to take a pledge to lay the foundation for a strong India. "... That will lay



new heights in his political life. The AAP also wished Kejriwal on his special day by calling him the 'man who invented zero electricity bills' and 'the champ who made us believe that Indian government schools can compete with top-notch private schools'.

Taking to X, the party said, "Happy Birthday to the leader who made basic necessities like education, healthcare, electricity, & water the pillars of our political discourse. Happy Birthday to the brave soul who ditched his comfortable job to change the Politics of India. Happy Birthday to the son of the soil who is always thinking of the last man in the queue."

Nuh violence: Cow vigilante Bittu sent to police remand

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM/NUH

Cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangti was remanded in police custody for a day by a Nuh court on Wednesday in connection with communal clashes that erupted in the district on July 31, and police said his associates will also be arrested soon.

Bajrangti alias Raj Kumar was arrested on Tuesday from Faridabad after a fresh FIR was registered against him at Nuh's Sadar police station based on a complaint by Assistant Superintendent of Police Usha Kundu, they said.

According to the FIR, Bajrangti, who was identified through social media posts, and some of his unidentified supporters had allegedly misbehaved with and threatened an ASP Kundu-led police team which had stopped them while they were carrying swords and trishuls to Nalhar temple.

Bajrangti had been arrested by Faridabad police two days after the violence in connection with another case related to the communal clashes but was released on bail after he joined the investigation. He was accused of making inflammatory speeches and brandishing weapons in public.

"Bajrangti was produced in a city court today and we have taken him on a one-day police remand for questioning. Further probe is underway and associates of Bajrangti will also be arrested as earliest possible," a Nuh police spokesperson said on Wednesday.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad, meanwhile, disassociated itself from Bajrangti and claimed he was never linked with Bajrang Dal.

DU freshers embark on new chapter on north campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University's north campus came alive with the vibrant presence of freshers on the inaugural day of the academic session that commenced on Wednesday. The new academic session for all programmes at the university began today with the academic calendar of the varsity back on track after being disrupted for the last three years due to the pandemic.

A mix of nervousness and excitement painted the faces of the freshers as they embarked on a new chapter of their college journey. The new academic session for undergraduate students kicked off with orientation programmes held across all colleges of Delhi University.

During these orientation sessions, first-year students were introduced to the academic curriculum and courses by their professors while seniors students took the opportunity to acquaint the freshers with the college rules, the anti-ragging policy and the code of conduct. The college societies set up



First year students enjoy on the first day of their new academic session, at Miranda House College, North Campus, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

stalls to entice freshers to join and actively participate in extracurricular activities.

Several students were accompanied by their parents on the first day of college. While pride radiated from parents for their children's admission into prestigious central university colleges, some were preoccupied with finding the right accommodation for their children that would provide a home away from home.

Numerous help desks were set up by student organisations such as The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), Student Federation of India (SFI), and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) to assist students in their accommodation endeavours.

On Wednesday, a stricter police presence was observed on the campus. Policemen were also seen lending a hand to guide the freshers to their respective colleges.

Throughout the campus, large banners of student political leaders welcomed the freshers. Student union bodies organised rallies and campaigns for the upcoming Delhi University Students' union election, marking a return to the political arena after the Covid-induced hiatus.

The freshers are brimming with anticipation and high expectations as they step into their new college lives. Their admissions into Delhi University colleges were secured through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), conducted at the national level.

DU is ragging free: VC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University is completely ragging free, Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh said on Wednesday as he welcomed the new batch of undergraduate students to the institution. The university's 2023-24 session began on Wednesday with the academic calendar returning on track after a three-year Covid-induced dis-

ruption. Singh on Wednesday extended best wishes to the new students of undergraduate programmes and called upon them to go to the campuses of their respective colleges without any worry, the university said.

It is a very pleasant experience for the students to come to their chosen colleges, he said. The VC informed that 64,288 students confirmed

their admission at the conclusion of the second round of the Common Seat Allocation System till August 15.

Seats were offered to 1,05,426 (1.05 lakh) students in the first and second rounds, he said. Assuring the freshers that the university is completely ragging free, Singh called upon the senior students to respect their juniors and treat them like younger siblings to avoid any untoward incident.

Congress asks PM to break silence on CAG revelations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Congress on Wednesday cornered the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sensational revelations made by the Comptroller General of India (CAG) which has exposed massive scandals worth thousands of crores taking place in the BJP government.

Addressing a Press conference at the AIICC headquarters, Congress Chairperson Social Media and Digital Platforms and Spokesperson Supriya Shrinete asked the Prime Minister whether he will break his silence on the scandals taking place under his nose. Shrinete pointed out the

CAG's exposing of the massive bunglings in the construction of the Dwarka Expressway. She said, against the original sanctioned expenditure of Rs 18 crore per kilometer, the cost of the project had been escalated to Rs 250 crore per kilometer, which is 14 times more than the original cost. She wondered what was being constructed and whether it was the "eighth wonder of the world?"

Congress also referred to the massive embezzlement in the Bharatmala project under which about 26,316 kilometers of national highways were constructed, again at far inflated cost than originally approved. She said, while the original estimate was Rs 15.37 crores per kilometer, it was later raised to



Rs 32.17 crores per kilometer, which means the cost were more than doubled.

Quoting the CAG report, Shrinete disclosed that a random audit of only five toll plazas revealed that Rs 132 crores were charged extra from those driving on highways. Imagine the amount of money looted from the people driving on roads, if the audit is carried

out in all toll plazas across the country, she asked, while pointing out, it is the common man who is being robbed.

Referring to yet another scandal, the Congress leader revealed that under Ayushman Bharat, 7.5 lakh beneficiaries were registered with a single mobile phone number. Besides, she added, according to the CAG report tabled in the parliament, insurance claims for fresh treatment were paid against 88,670 already dead persons. Who has pocketed the money as it has not been paid to the beneficiaries, she asked.

Shrinete disclosed that after there was massive scandal in selling and purchasing of land around Ayodhya by the BJP leaders and other offi-

cial, now it has been revealed that there is another scandal worth crores of rupees involving the Ayodhya Development Project where about Rs 20 crore payments have been made to the contractors who were not eligible for the project and did not even have the GST number.

She also taunted the media and reminded it about pre-2014 reporting when the CAG report, which though later was dumped as baseless by the courts, was so much played up. "But such things are possible only in a democracy and as there is no democracy anymore, such things like media discussion on CAG report, cannot take place anymore," she remarked with sharp sarcasm.

BJP CEC takes stock of election preparations in MP, Chhattisgarh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's Central Election Committee took stock of the poll preparations in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on Wednesday during a meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders.

Sources said the CEC members reviewed the party's preparedness in the upcoming assembly elections as the state leadership gave them feedback.

The party's decision to hold the meeting so early — the CEC usually meets only after poll dates are announced — underlines the significance it has attached to the five state elections, the last round of assembly contest before the all-important Lok Sabha polls.

Besides Modi, other CEC members including party pres-



ident J P Nadda, and Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah were among those present at the meeting. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and former Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh were among the state leaders who participated in the deliberations.

It also indicates a greater involvement of the central leadership in overseeing the state poll campaign, sources noted.

The party is focussing on seats where it faces strong opposition but believes it can turn things around with a deft strategy, including a selection of strong candidates.

Five states — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram — are expected to go to the polls in November-December.

Similar CEC meetings can also be held for other states, sources said.

IAF postpones mega air exercise with six other nations to next year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The IAF will host a mega exercise involving air forces of several countries next year instead of staging it this year in October. The decision to postpone the drill till next year was taken after some countries expressed inability to take part in it this year.

The exercise named 'Tarang Shakti' is now likely to be held in the middle of 2024 as a number of participating air forces conveyed to the IAF that they will not be able to join the war game if it is held this year, sources in the defence and military establishment said on Wednesday.

The exercise is expected to witness participation of around 12 air forces and the focus of the war game will be to improve military cooperation and enhance interoperability,



they said. It will be the biggest air exercise being organised in India.

Air forces of France, the UK, Australia, the US and Japan will participate in the exercise. Six countries will participate in the Tarang Shakti with their aerial assets like fighter jets, military transport aircraft and mid-air refuellers while six other nations were invited as observers, the sources said.

In the last few months, the Indian Air Force has partici-

pated in a number of major overseas exercises. In April, the Indian Air Force sent four Rafale jets, two C-17 aircraft and two IL-78 mid-air refuellers for a nearly three-week multinational air exercise at France's Mont-de-Marsan military base.

Four Rafale fighter aircraft carried out a "strategic" mission last month over the Indian Ocean region for more than six hours, in a significant demonstration of their long-range combat capabilities.

Cabinet nod for 7 multi-tracking projects to boost efficiency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved seven multi-tracking projects of Indian Railways at an estimated cost of around ₹32,500 crore and these will bring down the travel time for passengers, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The proposed projects, which will be fully funded by the Centre, will help increase the existing line capacity, smoothen train operations, reduce congestion and facilitate ease of travelling and transportation.

The projects covering 35 districts in nine states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal — will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by 2,339 km



and provide employment of an estimated 7.06 crore man-days to the people of the states.

The projects include doubling of the existing Gorakhpur-Cantt-Valmiki Nagar line, the Son Nagar-Andal multi-tracking project, third line between Nergundi-Barang and Khurda Road-Vizianagaram and between Mukhed-Medchal and Mahbubnagar-Dhone, doubling of existing line between Guntur-Bibinagar, doubling of existing line between Chopan-Chunar and the quadrupling between Samakhiali-Gandhidham. Vaishnaw said these are essential routes for transportation of varied basket

of commodities such as food-grains, fertilizers, coal, cement, fly-ash, iron and finished steel, clinkers, crude oil, lime stone, edible oil etc.

The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and for reducing logistics cost of the country, the ministry said in a statement.

Highlighting the strategic significance of these initiatives, he emphasised that the projects are intricately inter-connected and should be viewed holistically, as they collectively contribute to the modernisation of Indian Railways.

Rahul nominated to Parliamentary standing committee on Defence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Days after his Lok Sabha membership was restored, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was on Wednesday nominated to the parliamentary standing committee on defence.

Congress MP Amar Singh too has been nominated to the committee, according to a Lok Sabha bulletin.

Newly elected Aam Aadmi Party member of Lok Sabha Sushil Kumar Rinku has been nominated to the committee on agriculture, animal husbandry and food processing. Rinku had recently won the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll and is the sole AAP member in the Lower House of Parliament.

NCP's Faizal P P Mohammed, whose Lok Sabha membership was restored in March, has been nominated to the committee on consumer affairs, food and public distribution.



Before being disqualified in March, Gandhi was a member of the parliamentary panel on defence.

On August 7, the Lok Sabha membership of Gandhi was restored, days after the Supreme Court stayed his conviction in a 2019 defamation case over his "Modi surname" remarks.

Gandhi was disqualified as a Lok Sabha member on March 24, with effect from March 23, after a Gujarat court convicted him in the case and sentenced him to two years in jail.

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550
Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com

ANNEXURE I

Format for publishing financial results in newspapers
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended	For the Quarter ended	For the Year ended
		30.06.2023	30.06.2022	31.03.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2.50	0.90	26.19
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(20.22)	(55.85)	(427.77)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(20.22)	(55.85)	(427.77)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(10.53)	(39.04)	(280.79)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(10.53)	(39.04)	(280.79)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(2,750.28)	(2,497.99)	(2,739.74)
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
9	Net worth	(2,749.28)	(2,496.99)	(2,738.74)
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	1,92,152.85	2,17,471.80	1,95,977.59
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	(69.89)	(87.09)	(71.56)
13	Debt Equity Ratio (including unpaid matured debentures)	(81.17)	(87.09)	(79.77)
14	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic:	(105.37)	(390.40)	(2,807.90)
	2. Diluted:	(105.37)	(390.40)	(2,807.90)
15	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
16	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
17	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.012)
18	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (including unpaid matured debentures)	(0.000)	(0.001)	(0.007)
19	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(0.014)	(0.017)	(0.030)

Note
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.

b) For the other line items referred in the Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).

c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

Getamber Anand

SD/-
Director
Date: 14-08-2023
Place: Noida

Rajesh Raizada

SD/-
Director
Date: 14-08-2023
Place: Noida

Plan to divert forest land for golf course in Manipur deferred

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With peace eluding in the strife-torn Manipur, the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) has deferred the proposal to divert 82.54 hectares of forest land to build a golf course (42.14 ha) and a resort (40.40 ha) within the eco-sensitive zone of the Keibul Lamjao National Park and Khongjaingamba Ching Sanctuary for the proposed Loktak Lake eco-tourism project of the State Government.

The NBWL members noted that the meeting to discuss the proposed with the officials from the State Government was to be held in Manipur could not be conducted 'due to unforeseen circumstances'.

Hence keeping in view such a situation, the Committee decided to defer the proposal till the meeting is convened in Manipur to discuss the proposal with officials of the State Forest Department, Loktak Development Authority and other stakeholders. This decision was taken at a NBWL meeting held on August 7.

Loktak, one of the two largest freshwater lakes in Southeast Asia is not only the natural habitat of rare Sangai deer but also the lifeline of people of the state. The people of Manipur referring Loktak to as Ema (mother) itself indicated how much the freshwater lake is important. It plays an important role in providing ecological and economic security to the region. A large population living around the lake depends on it for fish and flora and has been designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1990.

The Keibul Lamjao National Park in the southern part of the lake is a unique floating wildlife reserve, the refuge of the highly endangered brow-antlered deer, locally called Sangai, according to the Loktak Development Authority (LDA).

Musk takeover of Twitter proves repulsive for green advocates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Twitter, now renamed X, is losing its green flavour, said a team of researchers after they found that half of green tweeters regularly posting about the climate and nature crises abandoned the media platform after it was taken over by Elon Musk. The analysis is published in the journal Trends in Ecology & Evolution.

The researchers had analysed the 380,000 users who tweeted regularly about global heating and biodiversity and found that 47.5 per cent had become inactive six months after the final takeover. Terming the decline as 'troubling', they said the "exodus of environmental users on Twitter is an existential threat" to a main way of informing people who want to take climate action.

"The incredible power of Twitter was that it was this open forum where people could share ideas and opinions



and influence other people," said Prof Charlotte Chang, of Pomona College in the US, who led the research. "We have this immense challenge of empowering stakeholders across all sectors of society to take action to halt the loss of biodiversity and to combat catastrophic climate change. We were pretty disheartened to find that after the sale, our environmental Twitter community has really declined."

The report analysed the Twitter use of the groups in 15-day intervals from July 2019 to April 2023. A user was deemed to be active if they tweeted at least once about their topic in a 15-day window.

Chang said it was uncertain where the environmental

discourse now missing from Twitter might be moving to, with Mastodon, Threads and Instagram yet to replicate the past success of Twitter in this area. She said the decline on Twitter could well continue, with previous research on social networks noting a snowball effect where users leaving leads to others following.

"This snowball may have been kicked off too much to really halt the ongoing trend," Chang said. The researchers highlighted initiatives such as the Coalition for Independent Technology Research as a way of raising coordinated concerns to Twitter and policy-makers.

Chang said plans to start charging significant sums for access to large numbers of tweets via the platform's API would damage research. "It would make it impossible to access and understand what's happening on these platforms, to document their positive contributions to society as well as some of the harms," she said.

Army unveils 'Battle of Minds: Indian Army Quiz 2023'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to honour the soldiers who fought during the Kargil war and to mark the 25th year of Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army on Wednesday unveiled 'Battle of Minds-Indian Army Quiz 2023' here to foster knowledge among the youth.

This landmark initiative, symbolized by the newly revealed logo, underscores Army's commitment to nurturing intellectual growth and inspiring young minds across the nation. The event celebrates the past and aims to ignite a spirit of curiosity and learning among the youth, shaping the leaders of tomorrow, officials said.

The event was attended by Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Param Vir Chakra Awardees Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retired) and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar were also present along with Principals from schools across 36 states and Union Territories of India.

The initiative reaches out to approximately 1.5 lakh schools across the country with rep-



resentation from all districts of India. It aims at registration by approximately 15000 schools. Thus, the competition is expected to engage approximately 1.5 crore students across the nation. Schools will participate with teams of three students plus one reserve.

Teams from co-educational schools will have at least one female student. Participants will be in the age group 10 to 16 years (that is broadly standard six to ten). The contest will be conducted in a hybrid i.e. online and offline mode. Beginning at the regional Command level, the competition will then progress to the Inter-Command and finally culminate at the national level.

India will become a developed nation by 2047, says Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Labour and Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar said that India will become a developed nation by 2047. Inaugurating the development exhibition of the state government on the theme 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas' and 'Mati Ko Naman Veero Ko Vandan' programme at Shaheed Udayan (Sgra) here on Tuesday by cutting the ribbon, he said that the direction and condition of the country has changed due to the foresight of the PM, it will change even more in the coming days. District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal and others were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Minister also inaugurated a development exhibition at Circuit House. On the occasion of Independence Day, Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma hoisted the national flag at the divisional office, DM at Collectorate, CDO at Vikas Bhavan and Vice-Chairman Abhishek Goyal at Varanasi Development Authority (VDA). On the occasion, the officers administered the pledge of Panch Pran to the officers and employees. While inaugurating the exhibition, Anil Rajbhar honoured freedom fighters, personnel of armed and paramilitary forces, police, dependents of martyrs and ex-servicemen.



UP Minister Anil Rajbhar inaugurating a development exhibition in Varanasi on Tuesday.

In Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain hoisted the flag at Malviya Bhavan. After this, the VC hoisted the flag at Amphi-theatre grounds where he was given guard of honour by NCC cadets. The students of Central Hindu Girls School enthralled everyone by presenting a colourful cultural programme filled with patriotism. In his speech, Prof Jain said that after attaining independence, we should consider where we have reached on the path of development. The V-C also hoisted the flag at the International Hostel. The flag was hoisted on all the institutes, faculties, departments, hostels and major buildings including

the Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH) and Trauma Centre located in the university. The main function was also attended by Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh. Finance Officer Dr Abhay Kumar Thakur, Controller of Examinations Prof NK Mishra, Joint Registrar (Finance) Dr Sanjay Kumar and many others.

The V-C Prof Anand Kumar Tyagi hoisted the flag in front of the historic main building in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. He also hoisted the flag at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV). Speaking at the SSU, he said, "India has been the land of knowledge, the most powerful medium of this knowledge has been embedded in the divine language

Sanskrit." At 95 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) here, a padyatra was taken out under the leadership of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of CRPF Surendra Chaudhary which was attended by Commandant Anil Kumar Braksh and others. After reading out the names of the awarded officers, subordinate officers and personnel by the DIG, sweets were distributed. Nitindra Kumar, Second Commanding Officer, Umakant Ojha, Navneet Kumar, Deputy Commandant, Abhishek Kumar Singh, Vinod Kumar Singh, Sujay Yadav Assistant Commandant and other CRPF personnel attended the programme.

22 railway personnel awarded for outstanding performance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 77th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and at North Central Railway (NCR) headquarters office here. The program started with flag hoisting by General Manager Satish Kumar. He inspected the parade of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Bharat Scout and Guides and St John Ambulance Brigade. The GM also awarded 22 railway personnel for outstanding performance. The awardees included Shaileendra Kumar Pal-Senior Section Engineer (SSE), Engg./Bridge Line Agra, Amit Kumar-Sr. Engg./IT, Ashish Kumar - Reservation Supervisor, Information Technology Cell, Satpal Singh - Office Superintendent/ Personnel, Vidyabhushan Shah - Senior Section Officer/ Mechanical, Gagan Upadhyay - Junior Engineer /Signal & Telecom, Harish Kumar Baghel - Senior Technician/Mechanical, Umesh Chandra - Track Maintainer/Engineering, Mahesh Chandra - Pointsman, Dheeraj - Sub-Inspector/RPF, Prem Chandra Agarwal - SSE/Electrical General, Nitesh Asthana - Junior Engineer/Electrical, Raju Lal Meena - Track Maintainer, Rakesh Saroj - SSE /Engineering, Manoj Kumar Yadav- Head Constable /RPF, Vikram Singh - Head Constable/RPF, Karamveer Singh Chahar - Traffic Inspector, Raj Kumar - Ch. Office Superintendent/Stores, Ashok Kumar Meena - SSE/Signal & Telecom, Kedar Prabhakar Bhujang - SSE/ Mechanical, Ashutosh Meena -



Junior Engineer/ CMLR Jhansi, Narendra Kumar Jain - SSE/Workshop Jhansi.

GM Satish Kumar and president, North Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, Ruby Rani Singh released tricolour balloons in the air. The GM flagged off 14 vehicles provided for 14 RPF posts in Prayagraj division. The dog squad of RPF demonstrated its efficiency by performing various demonstrations.

Cultural performances were presented by the members of NCR's cultural team. The GM gave extended greetings to all employees, officers of NCR and their families on Independence Day.

The GM said "our undeterred efforts towards excellence in NCR are yielding results as we clocked a very impressive growth of around 13 per cent (pc) in gross originating earning up to June in current financial year. We have also registered a growth of 17.85 pc in passenger earnings by carrying 35.51 pc more passengers in comparison to first quarter of last year. Our Sunday earning has also pegged up by 147.8 pc in comparison to last year."

NCR is on the path to revamp its stations and developing them as the face of the

ducted seven safety drives during current financial year. It has also felicitated 22 staff for showing exemplary alertness towards safety during working uptill July during 2023-24. Besides 22 employees who had contributed in protection of lives, innovation and improvement in working besides safety and security etc were given award on Independence Day. To enhance fire safety, 17 stations/locations have been provisioned with fire alarm system. Besides, 475 coaches and 50 power cars of NCR have been fitted with fire smoke detection and suppression system and remaining coaches will be equipped with this system by end of current year.

Security of passenger is also of prime importance and security personnel are always alert towards passenger security and safety of Railway property. The RPF team rescued 219 kids under Operation 'Nanha Farishta' and under Operation 'Narcos' caught 57 drug pedlars and nabbed 83 unauthorised ticket agents under operation 'Uplabdh' to curb blackmarketing of tickets.

A senior Citizen Waiting Room facility has been provided in Central Hospital, Prayagraj. The Health department has also conducted special health check-up camps.

The NCR work study cell is also conducting MDP programmes for supervisors and during its recently conducted 125th programme it has trained 30 participants.

Yogi, Anurag to attend Y20 Summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Y20 Summit under G-20 will be organised in the city from August 17 to 20. The summit will bring together leading experts, decision makers, national and international delegates/representatives from G-20 countries, knowledge partner (IIM Raipur), academic partners (universities / institutions) to negotiate, finalise and signing the Y20 Communique created from the conclusions of discussions from past few months.

Giving this information while talking to the reporters here on Wednesday, Director, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Pankaj Kumar Singh said that the Y20 Summit will be graced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and other dignitaries.

"The Y20 Summit will provide opportunities for collaboration and networking with other stakeholders and contribute to the development of young people," he said, urging all relevant stakeholders to take



Youth Affairs Ministry officers, DM S Rajalingam talking about Y20 Summit in Varanasi on Wednesday.

advantage of this opportunity to learn, network and engage with one another.

He further said that the Y20 Communique will showcase the substance of our common vision across the five identified themes and will make sure that the voices of young people are heard by those who make the highest-level decisions on policy. "The Y20 is one of the official engagement groups of the G-20 for organising discussions pan-India," he said.

"Y20 provides a platform for youth to express their voices and ideas on G-20 priorities," he said,

adding that the five identified themes of Y20 are future of work (industry 4.0, innovation and 21st century skills), peace building and reconciliation (ushering in an era of no war), climate change and disaster risk reduction (making sustainability a way of life), shared future (youth in democracy and governance) and health wellbeing and sports (agenda for youth).

According to him, the Summit will also provide youth a global perspective on current themes to become aware of new opportunities, build self-confidence and self-esteem,

allow an opportunity to interact with Indian policy-makers and make suggestions, encourage youth to think constructively about local problems, build perception that youth are active agents not passive recipients of knowledge and interaction with mixed group to build networks. Further, it will provide Indian knowledge institutions a perspective on the value of international consultations and force them to be aware that the world outside can affect us, and gives them hands-on experience for organizing consultations," Singh said.

Village adopted as a part of social initiative drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 24 Equipment Depot, Air Force Station Manauri has adopted Akbarpur Sallahapur village as a part of its social initiative drive. Air Commodore Angshuk Pal, Air Office Commanding 24 Equipment Depot and Roma Sinha Pal, President AFFWA(L) celebrated Independence Day with students, teachers and staff of the primary school Sallahapur. Books and school furniture were gifted to the school.

IIIT-A: To mark the Independence Day at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, Director Prof Mukul Sharad Sutawane hoisted the national flag at the administrative building on Tuesday.

In his address he emphasised that it is the duty of all of us to serve the country. He said that from 1947 to 2023 our country was progressing in

every field. Every day, a new chapter is being written in the history of our country in various fields including sports, education, technology and military prowess.

He appealed to all that the doors of new progress in technology, science, space exploration and economic development have to be opened. At the same time, we all have to take the institute to a new height by working sincerely towards our duty so that the institute can make its proper contribution to the nation and the society. He also hoisted the tricolor at NCC Bhavan and took salute from the cadets.

BHS: The 77th Independence Day programme was cel-

ebrated with enthusiasm at the Boys' High School (BHS) and College. Principal DA Luke hoisted the tricolour amidst the singing of the national anthem and the salute was given by NCC cadets and all students present. College Captain Ansh Mishra led the students to take the pledge. It was followed by a cultural programme put up by students of various classes. The students of classes playway, nursery and prep put up a beautiful dance performance 'thaan liya'. The students of classes I, II and III performed a dance 'We love our India'. Advaya Rai of class XII delivered a speech in English where he stressed on what our new India is all about. The students of classes IV and V

showed us 'Naya Bharat - a nation of possibilities' where they highlighted the women achievers of free India first and foremost being President Draupadi Murmu.

The classes VI and VII portrayed the life of a soldier in their programme titled 'Janbaaz hum Hindustan ke'. Kartik Raj of class XII delivered a speech in Hindi which was much appreciated by the audience. The students of classes VIII to X performed a mime where they showed that India is all about unity in diversity 'Hues of Harmony'.

The school choir sang the beautiful song 'Lehra Do'. The college band performed a patriotic number.

28 pc rise in passengers' flow



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

During the last four months during the current financial year, Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) has registered a rise of 28.60 per cent in passengers' flow around 1.59 crore people travelled by trains in this period, informed the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava while addressing the Independence Day programme at Railway Stadium here on Tuesday. Srivastava said that during this period this NER division has earned Rs 387.87 crore from passenger traffic, which is 21.77 per cent more than the same period last year.

Similarly, the division has earned 4.25 crore from other sources, a rise of 4.67 per cent, he said, adding that by July last, total railway revenue of Rs 15.09 crore has been received from the passengers travelling in trains caught without tickets and irregular tickets apart from carrying without booked luggage.

"Till July in the current financial year,

Rs 428.07 crore has been received as gross revenue, including Rs 409.59 crore from coaching, Rs 14.22 crore from goods traffic and Rs 4.25 crore from sundry income," said Srivastava.

According to him, in order to hoist the national flag at 75 busiest stations of Indian Railways to express loyalty to the unity and integrity of the country, so far 100 feet high national flags have been hoisted at 12 stations of Varanasi Division (NER).

"It is a matter of pride for us that under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 stations of Indian Railways including five stations of Varanasi Division was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through remote video conferencing recently," he said, adding that prior to that the PM had laid the foundation stone of railway projects worth more than Rs 8,200 crore at a function organised in Wajidpur in Varanasi.

The DRM said that by changing the terminal of seven pairs of trains from Varanasi Junction (Cantt) railway station of Northern Railway (NR), these trains are now being run from Banaras City and two pairs of trains from Varanasi Station of NER. In the recent months, LHB rakes have been added to three pairs of trains and with this, a total of 21 mail/express and superfast trains equipped with modern technology with provision of rakers LHB coaches in this division of NER, he added.

KVB Karur Vysya Bank						
Asset Recovery Branch, No.6, 3rd Floor, Opp: Metro Pillar No: 80, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005						
Ph: 011-35008283 Mob: 7823919520 Email: arbdelhi@kvbmail.com						
E-AUCTION NOTICE - E-AUCTION ON 05.09.2023						
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002						
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) along with 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 property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., symbolic possession has been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "without recourse", and "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse" as per given details below:						
S. No.	Name of Borrower	Lending Branch	Location of property	Nature of property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	EMD amount (in Rs.)
1	M/s Charul Enterprises	Kamla Nagar	Entire residential properties built up at No. 284 and No. 285 Block-B, Pocket-9, Sector-5, Rohini - 110 085, Delhi measuring approximately 25.90 Sq. Meters each.	Residential	1,22,10,000	12,25,000
Details of borrower: Kamla Nagar Branch Name of Borrower - M/s Charul Enterprises Represented by its proprietor Mr Himanshu Malik. S/o Mr. Baljeet Singh Malik. R/O B-6/102, Block-6, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 (2) Mr. Shaileender Singh, S/o Mr. Attar Singh R/O B-6-102, Block-6, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 The Total due: As on 13.08.2023 is Rs. 1,20,94,663.43 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Three and Paise Forty Three Only) as on 13.08.2023 with further interest, Costs, other charges and expenses thereon.						
Mortgage Assets: Residential flat built up at No. 284 and No. 285 Block-B, Pocket-9, Sector-5, Rohini - 110 085, Delhi measuring approximately 25.90 Sq. Meters each. East: Road West: Others Property North: Plot No-9/286 South: Plot No-9/283 Reserve Price - Rs. 1,22,10,000.00 EMD - Rs. 12,25,000.00						
Inspection of the Asset: All working days - From 17.08.2023 to 02.09.2023 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm						
Last date and time for submitting online Tender & Application Forms: Date: 02.09.2023 Time: by 5 pm						
Date and Time of E-Auction: The E-Auction will take place through portal on 05.09.2023 between 11.00 am to 11.30 a.m. with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each till sale is concluded.						
Nodal Bank account Name: The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. Central office in favour of above accounts Account No: 110135100000973, IFSC Code : KVB0001101.						
Contact Person & Phone No: As mentioned above						
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction and also at the web portal https://bankauctions.in of our e auction service provider M/s 4Closure.						
Prior Encumbrance - NIL (Brought to the knowledge of Bank)						
Statutory 15 days' Notice under Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002						
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.						
Place: Delhi						
Date: 17.08.2023						
FOR THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD AUTHORIZED OFFICER						

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE				
ICICI Bank				
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005				
Whereas				
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.				
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sarvesh Prasad/ Vijeta Rani/ LBMRT00002440050	House No. 116, Min Kharsa No 514, Global City, Revenue Village Abdullapur, Pargana Tehsil and District Meerut Uttar Pradesh Meerut- 250001/ August 11, 2023	January 02, 2023 Rs. 21,02,000/-	Meerut/ Delhi
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.				
Date: August 17, 2023				
Place: Delhi				
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited				

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE				
ICICI Bank				
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Shal Tower, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005				
Whereas				
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.				
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN))	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Kumar/ Renu Sharma/ (28300000737/ QZROH00005004074)	Khewat No. 784 Khotani No. 830, Kila No. 152/1/1 6-12 10 Moja Meham Meham Rohtak, Haryana/ August 11, 2023	June 03, 2021 Rs. 18,40,842/-	Faridabad/ Rohtak
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.				
Date: August 17, 2023				
Place: Faridabad & Rohtak				
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited				



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Irregularities

CAG report points at lapses in Ayushman Bharat and expressway projects

In a democracy, transparency, accountability and effective governance are the cornerstones of a thriving society. However, recent revelations from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report have once again brought to the fore some glaring irregularities plaguing flagship government initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat and major infrastructure projects like expressways. These irregularities not only cast doubts on the efficient utilisation of public funds but also highlight the dire need for robust oversight mechanisms to ensure their successful implementation. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, launched with the noble intention of providing universal health care access to millions of Indians, has been marred by allegations of mismanagement and irregularities. The CAG report red flags inflated the project cost of the Dwarka Expressway, which went up 14 times from the sanctioned Rs18 crore/km to Rs 250 crore/km. A performance audit by the CAG also found several discrepancies in India's public health assurance scheme Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) that led to crores of rupees in expenditure on ineligible beneficiaries. The faults in the database of AB-PMJAY include invalid names, unrealistic dates of birth, duplicate health IDs and unrealistic family sizes. CAG has raised similar questions on irregularities in the Ayodhya Development Project and the diversion of old-age pension funds under the National Social Assistance Programme for publicity of the Modi government's schemes.



Similarly, the CAG report's scrutiny of expressway projects brings to light discrepancies in project execution and financial management. Expressways are

critical arteries for economic growth, connecting remote regions and facilitating faster movement of goods and people. However, the report's revelations of cost overruns, delays and questionable contract awarding processes showcase a lack of due diligence in project planning and implementation. The implications of these irregularities are far-reaching. First and foremost, they erode public confidence in the government's commitment to its promises. The failure to ensure transparency and accountability not only threatens these initiatives' success but also perpetuates scepticism regarding the effectiveness of government policies. Secondly, financial mismanagement and irregularities result in wastage of taxpayer money, diverting resources away from more pressing needs. In a country where basic amenities and social services often remain inadequate, every rupee misspent on inflated claims or inefficient project execution represents a lost opportunity to uplift lives and enhance public welfare. Such financial missteps can have long-lasting repercussions, hindering the nation's progress. Furthermore, the media, civil society and citizens have a pivotal role to play in holding the government accountable for its actions. Public awareness, open discussions and informed debates can push authorities to rectify irregularities and instil a culture of responsiveness.

PICTALK



Dark clouds above the Mahatma Gandhi statue at the Delhi Legislative Assembly building in New Delhi

Japanification of China: Is it on the cards?



UMANG KOHLI

Congress should work with its allies to consolidate the Opposition unity and focus on the future instead of dwelling on its past accomplishments

There is some compelling argument, that China may be on track for a new wave of 'Japanification', a term being used by economists around the world to compare China's present-day economic condition with that of Japan in the 1990s. Some similarities are striking for eg Beijing's property market two years ago was as bubbly as Tokyo's property market two decades ago, however within a few months in the late 1990s Japan lost 60% of its property value. China has lost 50% of its property value in the last two years, so is it a detonation of a time bomb set ticking by a property bubble in the case of China too?

The 1990s had pitched Japan off a trajectory on which it once seemed capable of overtaking the US. China too looked like overtaking the US three years ago and now looks off track with a sluggish growth outlook.

Both countries entered extended phases of strong GDP growth via investment in infrastructure and the encouragement of exports. Between 2010 and 2020, there was 43 per cent of Chinese GDP growth and when the Japanese bubble burst in 1990, the capital formation proportion was at roughly 36 per cent.

Japan and China also similarly financed their growth. Not only are there similarities between demography and the property bubble there is also a parallel between the two nations concerning their relationships with the US. As Japan's trade surplus grew, competitive friction with America escalated to an outright trade war in the 1990s. In the same way now certain sections of the West are talking about decoupling from China because of its expansionist policies. These similarities may not be exact equivalents, but many economists feel the effect could be.

An overall analysis of the situation however shows that most economists may be wrong. China is not like Japan politically, culturally or even geographically. While Japan has been



always dependent on the US for its defence, China has the ambition to make its military might formidable, even strong enough to counter NATO. China has been trying to find ways to fuel growth much beyond its borders in the form of the 'One Belt One Road Project', spreading across more than 70 countries, something Japan never tried to do.

Why China may never be susceptible to 'Japanification' is a fact that it has built a capacity on land and on the sea to generate infrastructure demand at will. It's an effort to make ports and create artificial islands pointing in that direction.

The other reason is that China has developed its research and technology infrastructure alongside its manufacturing sector, which gives it an edge in innovation which is a currency of the future. China's economy is diversified and apart from manufacturing a lot of investment has been done in



THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF INFLUENCE OF CHINA IS QUITE LARGE AND IT SPREADS ACROSS ALL CONTINENTS WHICH ACTS AS A DETERRENT TOWARDS ANY DRASTIC FALL IN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH

research and innovation. It has made itself very strong in the Semiconductor industry and the bulk of its sectors are technology driven. China has also been supplying liquidity through various channels like cyber extortion and this corrupt underbelly may also help fight deflation.

The geographical area of influence of China is quite large and it spreads across all continents which acts as a deterrent towards any drastic fall in the economic growth. China's expansionist tendencies are also likely to aid them economically. One of the major reasons why China wants complete control over Taiwan is economic.

Quoting from the Chinese white paper, "Taiwan boasts a high level of economic growth and robust foreign trade. Its economy is highly complementary with that of the mainland." These lines establish the intent of China to mix its geo-political ambitions with economic dividends.

In a nutshell, China is not dependent on the West for its growth to sustain where Japan was. China has in the last two decades made several economies partially or dependent on itself. Major economies of Europe including Germany are dependent on China for critical raw materials, which are needed for the transition to cleaner energy and transport.

Australia too is largely dependent on China for its sustenance, with twenty-five per cent of its manufactured imports coming from it.

In Asia, countries like Pakistan and Iran are dependent on China for their survival and are a major market for Chinese goods. Hence, no matter what most economists may say, 'Japanification' of the People's Republic of China is a far cry and their analysis looks far from reality.

(The writer is expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA'S ECONOMIC JOURNEY

Sir — India celebrates its 77th Independence Day, reflecting on its remarkable economic journey since gaining freedom. The nation's economic history unfolds through distinct phases. Pre-independence: Enduring British colonial rule for two centuries, India grappled with resource exploitation and limited industrialization. Despite an agrarian economy, indigenous handicrafts rivaled British products, yet India's global income share dwindled from 22.6% (1700) to 3.8% (1952). Post-independence: Embracing a mixed economy, India combined public and regulated private sectors. Strategies like import-substitution industrialization, land reforms, and 3.5% annual GDP growth (1950-1980) played crucial roles.

Transformation: The 1970s brought a green revolution and Gulf migration, propelling GDP growth to 5.4% (1980-1990). The pivotal reforms of 1991 initiated trade and investment liberalization, leading to IT growth and a 6.7% GDP rise (1990-2010). India's narrative reveals progress and obstacles. The 2000s showcased high growth at 8.4% (2003-2011), though challenges like inequality and corruption persisted. India, currently the fifth-largest economy by PPP GDP at \$11.33 trillion in 2020, is set to surpass Japan and Germany by 2028 (\$19.59 trillion), with 6.2% average annual growth. Driven by factors like a young population, competitive industries, global integration, and reforms, challenges such as poverty, inequality, governance, environment, Covid-19, and climate remain. There is potential for India to become the third-largest economy by 2028 if its strengths are leveraged. India's future success hinges on addressing challenges while sustaining balanced growth.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

SHANTI SWAROOP BHATNAGAR AWARDS

Sir — The cessation of the coveted Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar awards for emerging young scientists is a major setback for scientific temper, which the Government is

CM vs Governor in Tamil Nadu



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and his state government boycotted the customary 'At Home' reception at Raj Bhavan hosted by Governor R.N. Ravi on the evening of Independence Day. The boycott is over the alleged "confusion" created in higher education and universities, as well as the refusal of the Governor to give assent to bills adopted by the state legislature. The controversial statements of the Tamil Nadu Governor are also cited as another reason for the state government's boycott of the reception. Chief Minister Stalin charged that the

Governor has been making unkind statements in public forums. The Governor has publicly stated that, left to him, he would never give assent to the Bill seeking exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET for undergraduate medical admissions. Stalin said, "The Governor refuses to understand that students and their parents from poor, downtrodden, and the middle class are losing their dreams and opportunities." The Chief Minister also said that the statements of the Governor have come as a shock to the students and said that R.N. Ravi has made irresponsible statements insulting the anti-NEET protests that have been ongoing in Tamil Nadu for several months. The Chief Minister also said that he would write a letter to the President on August 14, reiterating the request for her assent to the NEET exemption Bill re-adopted by the Tamil Nadu state Legislative Assembly. With this, the President of India must remove the TN governor immediately.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

duty-bound to inculcate for a nation's progress. Instituted in 1958, the awards are given every year in seven scientific disciplines: Physics, Biology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Chemistry, and Earth Sciences. These awards have had a formidable track record in terms of identifying future scientists. Over 25 awardees have become fellows of the Royal Society, 15 of them foreign associates of the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S., and many more are fellows of the World Academy of Sciences. Additionally, others have received Padma Awards, indicating that they have gone on to achieve great things in life. The Government must reconsider its decision, as it sends a wrong signal to the scientific fraternity, in particular, and aspiring youngsters, in general.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Almor

ALL-PARTY MEET ON MANIPUR

Sir — Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's brainchild of holding an all-party peace rally in ethnically vio-

lence-torn Manipur is not only worth mature reflection but will also be pragmatic if implemented. Hearteningly, Mr. Chowdhury has also urged PM Narendra Modi to lead an all-party delegation to this northeastern state and hold a 'peace rally' there with a view to putting an end to the unabated violence and bringing back peace. He added that the delegation will also join the India TV show "Aap Ki Adalat." On the face of it, right-thinking and impartial people will find no locus standi to oppose the idea of restoring peace by ending violence in Manipur or elsewhere in the country. When it comes to maintaining the country's 'Unity in Diversity' global image, all leaders, regardless of their political or ideological differences, are expected to stand by each other for the country's sake, as the country comes first of all.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Libraries are repositories of knowledge, must be revived

Library is the temple of knowledge and even in this digital era, thousands of people depend solely on public libraries for knowledge gathering



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Libraries symbolize the progress of civilization," Droupadi Murmu, President of India. Every year National Librarian's Day is celebrated commemorating the birth anniversary of Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India. He was the doyen of library science in India who developed the systematic classification of books, the colon classification and also penned the five laws of library science. The five laws he developed - Books are for use, Every reader, his book, Every book, its reader, Save the time of the reader; and A library is a growing organism, form the fundamental tenet of a library. Very often most of our librarians forget these principles and behave in an unwelcoming manner towards the readers.

They often forget that books are for the use of readers. This is more evident in libraries managed by schools, colleges and research institutions. The culture being followed in most of our schools and colleges is how to make students keep away from the



readers. The books are locked safely in shelves and many poor books are awaiting a reader to touch its pages. Even in colleges accredited with very high ranks students are not allowed free usage of the library. In libraries managed by research institutions, the situation is more pathetic. They will not entertain the public to utilize their facility or even if they allow there will be several do's and don'ts, as if the reader is in a high-security area. Once there is a restriction no youngster will enter that zone further in his lifetime.

Reading is a skill that can be nurtured only through active reading and librarians have a larger role to play. A good librarian is as good as a good encyclopaedia. A

good librarian can bring attitudinal change in our youngsters. There are a few good librarians who keep interacting with the readers and inspiring them to read the new books available in the library. He should act as an agent for knowledge dissemination.

The library is a growing organism and its growth is possible only with the help of a good librarian. A good librarian should bring changes in the library culture that suites the present time. Even though the culture of silence should be maintained in the library, there should be allocated spaces for readers to make active discussions within the library. In some good libraries like IIM Trichy, there are even spaces where readers can lie down relax and read. Similarly in many libraries usage of laptops is restricted. Present day generation is more convenient in taking notes on their electronic devices rather than on paper. In most of the publicly supported libraries digital resources are also available, but in many cases, the users have to pay extra to use the comput-

er system, even if they have a valid membership. The digital resources available in the library should be made accessible to all members even from their homes, as the British Council libraries are doing.

Library is the temple of knowledge and even in this digital era, thousands of people depend solely on public libraries for knowledge gathering. For students from economically marginalized sections, they are the sole resource material for the preparation of competitive examinations. Even though there are differences of opinion regarding the need for a physical library, the fact is that no digital library can replace the physical library in its role and function. Information in this era can indeed be gathered from our smartphones, but progress in human culture and civilization can happen only through libraries. The librarians of this generation should not only act as facilitators in locating appropriate books but also act as facilitators in finding authentic resources from digital platforms.



FIRST COLUMN

LOGISTICS MARKETING CAN MAKE YOU WINNER

Adapting to latest marketing strategies is crucial to get a competitive edge



RACHIT MISHRA

The logistics industry is undergoing constant transformation, driven by changing consumer expectations, advancements in technology, and global market dynamics. These shifts present both challenges and opportunities for businesses operating in this sector. To maintain a competitive edge and surpass competitors, companies must adapt their marketing strategies to the ever-evolving logistics environment. In this article, **Understanding the Changing Dynamics of the Logistics Industry**

In recent years, the logistics industry has experienced significant transformations. The exponential growth of e-commerce has created a surge in demand for efficient and reliable delivery services. Consumers now expect quick shipping, transparent tracking, and hassle-free return processes. Additionally, globalization has expanded supply chains, requiring streamlined logistics operations on a global scale. To effectively navigate these changes, businesses must possess a profound understanding of the new dynamics at play.

Embracing Technological Innovations

Technology is revolutionizing the logistics industry, providing innovative solutions to long-standing challenges. Autonomous vehicles, drones, artificial intelligence, and blockchain are reshaping every aspect of the supply chain. By leveraging technology, businesses can optimize their marketing efforts. Data analytics and machine learning algorithms enable companies to identify patterns and trends in consumer behaviour, allowing for targeted and personalized marketing campaigns. Smart logistics solutions offer real-time tracking and visibility, enhancing the customer experience and building trust.



Personalization and Customer-Centric Marketing

In today's information-saturated world, personalized experiences hold great value for consumers. Generic mass marketing approaches no longer capture their attention effectively. Instead, businesses need to adopt customer-centric marketing strategies that focus on delivering tailored experiences. By utilizing customer data, companies can understand preferences, shopping habits, and pain points. Armed with this information, they can create targeted content, personalized recommendations, and customized promotions. Such personalized approaches not only increase customer engagement but also foster brand loyalty and advocacy.

Content Marketing and Thought Leadership

Content marketing has emerged as a powerful tool for businesses to establish thought leadership and engage with their target audience. By creating valuable and informative content, companies can position themselves as industry experts and build trust among potential customers. In the logistics industry, businesses can develop a content strategy that addresses the pain points and challenges faced by their target audience. Consistently producing high-quality content and sharing it through various channels such as websites, social media platforms, and industry forums allows businesses to attract a loyal following and establish themselves as trusted sources of information.

Leveraging social media and Influencer Marketing

Social media platforms have become integral to marketing strategies across industries, including the logistics sector. Businesses can utilize social media channels to engage with their target audience, showcase their expertise, and raise brand awareness. Compelling social media content that highlights the value proposition of a logistics company can attract followers and drive engagement. By understanding the changing dynamics, embracing technological innovations, adopting personalization and customer-centric approaches, leveraging content marketing, and thought leadership, and utilizing social media and influencer marketing, companies can stay ahead of the competition and effectively reach their target audience. By remaining agile, innovative, and customer-focused, companies can navigate the changing logistics landscape and drive growth in an increasingly competitive market.

(The writer is DGM and Head Brand Marketing & Communications -CJ Darcl Logistics)

Impact of climate change on tribals

There is an urgent need for structured financial mechanisms to curb the tribal community's reliance on unregulated and predatory lending practices



BKP SINHA



ARVIND KUMAR JHA

Indigenous populations worldwide are highly sensitive to climatic shifts, mainly due to their prominent dependence on natural resources and environment for livelihood. The tribal communities predominantly rely on agriculture and forest resources for both their economic needs and socio-cultural practices. Amidst the uncertainties surrounding agricultural outputs and forest resource availability due to climate change, they have to move into newer economic territories, each with its set of transactional risks. They have no option but to navigate their economic activities through a blend of both formal and informal institutional mechanisms while their transactional risks are continuously aggravated by environmental as well as policy-induced changes.

The global scenario indicates that for native tribes like the Navajo and Hopi, the climate change impacts have disrupted their traditional farming cycles, increased their economic vulnerabilities, and pushed them towards alternative livelihoods and financial transactions. For aboriginals in Australia, with land and sea integral to their culture and economy, rising sea levels and temperature fluctuations are creating problems altering their fishing and hunting patterns, thereby affecting their traditional barter systems and pushing them into unknown domains of mainstream economic structures. The indigenous communities in the Amazon basin dependent on the forest and river ecosystems face threats from unpredictable rainfall and deforestation which not only impact their daily sustenance but also introduce new financial transactions as they seek alternative income sources. The increasing occurrences of natural disasters and expanse as well as the severity of wildfires coupled with the devastation of biodiversity and ecosystems are affecting the lives and livelihoods of all including the global economy.

The tribal communities of northeast India are grappling with changing monsoon patterns altering their cultivation patterns and age-old economic transactions pushing them towards newer financial systems. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, irregular rainfall patterns are disturbing the agricultural cycles, thereby influencing their economic choices and behaviours. In central India too the tribal economy, characterized by its reliance on agriculture and forestry resources, is experiencing exacerbated vulnerabilities in terms of transactional risks due to climate change. A study by the authors including concerned specialists into transactional risks and adaptive strategies of indigenous communities of selected districts of Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra states of India has resulted in significant learnings and lessons.

The attempt at examining a century's worth of temperature and rainfall data to discern climate change's fingerprints and its potential effects uncovered significant shifts. Although monthly temperatures, when averaged over 100 years, seemed consistent; there was a pronounced increase of 0.5 to 1 degree Celsius in November and December temperatures across all studied districts. Furthermore, a detailed assessment indicated altered rainfall patterns in most districts, particularly during October and November, which experienced heightened precipitation.

The study utilized thirteen distinct parameters to delve into the intricate relationship between economic dynamics and transactional behaviours, potentially influ-



THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTHEAST ARE GRAPPLING WITH CHANGING MONSOON PATTERNS ALTERING THEIR CULTIVATION PATTERNS AND AGE-OLD ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS, PUSHING THEM TOWARDS NEWER FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

(The writers are Former Principal Chief Conservators of Forests, UP and Maharashtra)

enced by climate change. Notably, the three states showcased a diverse array of variations, illuminating both the different levels of developmental strategies in place and the unique socio-economic conditions of the tribal communities there.

Banks for savings and credit facilities are more prominently utilized in Odisha and Maharashtra than in Jharkhand. Over time, the dependence on money lenders has decreased in all three states. However, their presence remains significant in Odisha and Jharkhand, unlike Maharashtra where Cooperative Banks are a favoured go-to for credit requirements. A significant portion of the respondents across these states engage in agriculture and daily wage labour. Vegetable cultivation, as supplementary to Rabi and Kharif crops, is notably lesser in Odisha compared to Maharashtra and Jharkhand, indicating weaker development in the concerned sectors. Odisha's agricultural challenges stem from fluctuating temperatures, erratic rainfall, insufficient governmental aid, and issues in post-harvest and irrigation.

Maharashtra's primary agricultural concerns are financial, accompanied by unpredictable rainfall and prominently stated inadequate technological guidance and government assistance. Jharkhand's agriculture faces hardships primarily due to climatic variations, pest control, post-harvest challenges, and irrigation deficits. A common sentiment across the states revolves around increasing temperatures; dwindling water, forest, and agricultural resources; and shifting rainfall patterns. Despite feeling the effects, many respondents don't attribute

these changes to the broader concept of climate change, often dismissing them as mere weather anomalies. This lack of awareness is compounded by the absence of effective coping strategies, with many resorting to short-term solutions like decreasing consumption, selling assets, taking loans, or using up savings.

The study brought out the need for strategies that enhance agricultural yields with duly addressed regional differences and the synergy of farming techniques with particular environmental and societal conditions. There's a call for the revival of native crop types, safeguarding germplasm biodiversity, and the promotion of crops that can withstand climate-induced challenges. Advocacy for traditional methods such as diverse cropping systems, crop rotation, organic fertilization, and the cultivation of reliable seed varieties that can weather climate change is evident. With site-quality dependent poor agricultural productivity areas recognized under forest right of cultivation under the Forest Rights Act 2006, the importance of advanced studies aimed at boosting yields in such historically marginalized areas through agro-forestry, medicinal plants cultivation, and integrated farming approaches to bolster resilience against climate change becomes a priority. Simultaneously, proper execution of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 and the Forest Rights Act 2006 in the scheduled and earmarked areas needs to be underscored, emphasizing the balance between conservation responsibilities and the resource rights of the people.

There is an urgent need for structured financial mechanisms to curb the tribal community's reliance on unregulated and potentially predatory lending practices that trap them in debt cycles. It requires an in-depth exploration of the tribal community's transactional behaviours to help banks and insurers in devising tailored financial solutions. Although state-specific variations are found to exist, states need to collaborate to share best practices, resources, and technological know-how to assist indigenous communities tackle the challenges of climate change. Collaborative effort amongst governmental agencies, communities, and civil societies to address gaps in technology and knowledge in related sectors; institutionalization of robust awareness campaigns; public education; and streamlined agricultural advisory services to guide local communities equipping them with appropriate tools to help navigate both financial and market-driven challenges efficiently perhaps have no alternative.

Leveraging community solidarity and collaboration is needed to strengthen the overall approach, drawing upon the deeply rooted values of unity and support inherent in tribal traditions. A special purpose vehicle needs to be created to identify specific measures to foster the sustainable growth of the tribal economy based on natural resources while merging traditional knowledge with modern technological advancements, enhancement of climate-aware governance, and empowerment of tribal communities with effective transactional behaviour risk averting strategies for both adaptation and resilience.

Meditation techniques for restful awareness and inner silence

There are many meditation techniques to choose from to get on the path of holistic living and perfect health

Embarking on the journey of meditation entails finding comfort in a poised posture, disconnecting from external distractions by silencing the phone and closing the door. Ensuring a tranquil environment devoid of pets, one gently shuts their eyes, settles into a comfortable stance, and begins the practice. Repeating the chosen mantra for approximately half an hour and then gradually opening the eyes bestows the gift of serene alertness. It is paramount to practice this technique for thirty minutes before breakfast and dinner, refraining from engaging in it immediately after meals. Let not meditation be misconstrued as a mere soporific aid.



HK CHOPRA

(The writer is Chief Cardiologist, at Medanta Moolchand Heart Institute)

ed by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, is a gateway to profound relaxation and wakeful awareness in the annals of human understanding. It takes the form of mantra meditation, a method that holds immense potential. Substantial evidence attests that consistent engagement in meditation, devoting twenty minutes in both morning and evening, can effectively regulate adrenaline, noradrenaline, and cortisol levels in the bloodstream. This regulation subsequently leads to a substantial reduction in heart rate, blood pressure, and metabolism, concurrently fostering coherence in brainwave patterns.

Raj Yoga Meditation, a practice involving open-eyed concentration on a focal point, along with Japa meditation,

Sahaj Yoga meditation, and mindfulness meditation (focusing on breath awareness), are just a few among the numerous techniques available. Despite the diversity in methods, the ultimate objective remains singular: to delve into the realm of internal silence.

Realms of Consciousness

In our existence, we often traverse through three levels of consciousness: Waking, Dreaming, and Sleeping. These states, though prevalent, are constructs of the mind and temporal. Yet, beyond these, lie deeper dimensions of awareness waiting to be explored.

Atma Darshan or

Thuria: Here, the direct experience of the soul and spirit unfolds. The encounter with pure silence, the thinking of

thoughts, and the embodiment of pure potentiality and eternity bestow a touch of reality.

● **Cosmic Consciousness:** Within this realm, both local and non-local spirits converge in the lives of others, forming a state of witnessing. This level is achieved through repeated experiences of the soul.

● **Divine Consciousness:** This stage envelops the practitioner in a non-local spirit pervasive throughout creation. One senses inhabitation in a celestial world surrounded by divinity.

● **Unified Consciousness:** At the pinnacle, non-local spirit encompasses the entire universe, epitomizing the concept of "Vasudev Kutumbkam." Miracles man-

ifest in cosmic consciousness, the ability to create miracles in divine consciousness, and everything becoming miraculous in unified consciousness.

Neurochemical Symphony of Meditation's Benefits
Consciousness establishes a link through the autonomic nervous system, encompassing the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems, both intertwined with the physical and subtle body through chemical mediation. Adopting a tranquil mindset from the realms of consciousness stimulates parasympathetic activity, liberating an array of joy-inducing molecules like serotonin, acetylcholine, dopamine, oxytocin, and endorphins. In parallel, it quiets sympathetic activity, diminishing the presence of stress-inducing mole-

cules such as epinephrine, norepinephrine, and steroids.

Elevated parasympathetic activity orchestrates a decrease in heart rate, blood pressure, blood clotting propensity, ulceration, and plaque rupture, and safeguards endothelial integrity and vascular health. Additionally, it mitigates cholesterol oxidation, collectively fostering heart health.

A Spiritual Perspective

Meditation also ushers us into realms of profound spiritual insight. As Jallaudin Rumi, the renowned Sufi poet, aptly stated, "You and me are unconditional spirits trapped into conditions." This realization leads us to transcend the confines of limitations, exploring our non-local, spaceless, timeless, and dimensionless nature.

The revelations of quantum physics resonate with this perspective, depicting pure potentiality as a ceaselessly flowing quantum soup, the very essence of reality.

Through meditation, we embark on a path towards unity and oneness with consciousness, a journey exemplified by spiritual masters, philosophers, scientists, and luminaries from diverse traditions.

By incorporating meditation into your routine, you can promote a healthy heart, prevent palpitations, and even halt or reverse the progression of coronary artery disease. It's a practice that harmonizes blood pressure and cholesterol levels, reducing the risk of stroke or paralysis.

Concluded.

Churches vandalised in Pak over blasphemy allegations

PTI LAHORE

At least five churches were vandalised and ransacked by an angry mob in Pakistan's Punjab province on Wednesday over allegations of desecration of Islam's holy book...



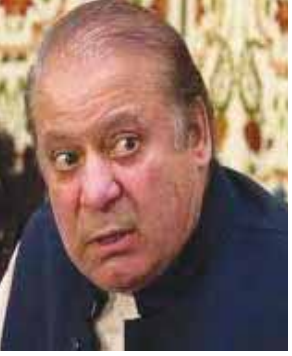
The incidents took place after a Christian man and his sister allegedly desecrated the Quran and made objectionable comments, police said. The incident took place in Jaranwala tehsil of Faisalabad district of Punjab...

Commissioner Faisalabad sent a SoS to the Pakistan Rangers to rush to the area to control the law-and-order situation. "Despite the best efforts of police, the law-and-order situation stands still too sensitive and vulnerable..."

PML-N leaders divided on Sharif's return to Pak

PTI ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leaders have failed to reach a consensus on the return of party supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from London to Pakistan ahead of the general elections...



return to Pakistan in September to face his pending court cases and lead the party's campaign for the general election. Some of the PML-N leaders participating in Tuesday's meeting suggested that Nawaz Sharif should return to the country by September...

gested that Nawaz Sharif should return only after eliminating the obstacles in his way. Some leaders said that they wanted the party supremo to come back to the country and face the law but they did not want to take any risk on his return. Quoting party insiders, the report said Shehbaz Sharif was also acquiring final suggestions from political and legal experts about Nawaz Sharif's return to the country...

ICC should prosecute Taliban: UN

United Nations (AP): The International Criminal Court should prosecute Taliban leaders for a crime against humanity for denying education and employment to Afghan women, the UN special envoy for global education said. Gordon Brown told a virtual UN press conference on the second anniversary of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on Tuesday that its rulers are responsible for "the most egregious, vicious and indefensible violation of women's rights and girls' rights in the world today..."

Imran Khan's Toshakhana case appeal hearing on August 22

Islamabad (PTI): The Islamabad High Court will hear an appeal by jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan against his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case, it emerged on Wednesday. Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in jail by a sessions court on August 5 for hiding proceeds from the sale of state gifts (Toshakhana)...

Court clears way for Thai Parl to pick new PM 3 months after elections

Bangkok (AP): Thailand's Constitutional Court cleared the way Wednesday for Parliament to vote for a new prime minister more than three months after national elections by declining to rule on a complaint over the rejection of the winning party's leader. The court had been asked to decide whether Parliament had violated the constitution by refusing to allow the leader of the progressive Move Forward Party to be nominated for a second time as a prime ministerial candidate. Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat had assembled an eight-party coalition with a majority in Parliament's lower house. But under the military-implemented constitution, a new prime minister must receive a majority of votes from both the elected House and the conservative appointed Senate...

Czechs Ratify US defense treaty allowing easier troop deployment Prague (AP): The Czech Republic on Wednesday completed the ratification of a defence treaty with the United States that deepens military cooperation and makes it easier to deploy US troops in Czech territory. Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala's signature was the final step in the ratification process of the Defence Cooperation Agreement, which had been endorsed by both houses of Parliament in July and by President Petr Pavel on August 1. The document sets a legal framework for possible deployment of US troops in the country at a time of Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Office of the Superintending Engineer 2nd Circle, Public Works Department, Nainital-263002. Letter No.: 3405/41-M-2/22-23 Dated: 16/08/2023. NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering). Restoration of Sinking Zone of Lower Mall Road, Nainital and Strengthening Measures for restoration of damaged portion.

SC AGROTECH LIMITED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SHEEL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED). EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 30.06.2023. Table with columns for Particulars, Quarter ended, and For the year.

बिजापुर को-ऑपरेटिव शुगर फैक्ट्री लि., बाजपुर, उज्जयिनी नगर (उत्तराखण्ड). ई-निविदा सूचना. सत्र 2023-24 हेतु चीनी मिश्रण सामग्री की आपूर्ति एवं सेवाओं हेतु जीएसटीडीसी में पंजीकृत अधिकृत विक्रेताओं/प्रतिष्ठित आपूर्तिकर्ताओं एवं अनुमोदित ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 17.08.2023 सायं 4.00 बजे से 16.09.2023 सायं 4.00 बजे तक चरणबद्ध तरीके से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

PUBLIC NOTICE. My Client, SMT. NEELAM W/o Late Sh. Sarvagya Sujan Rao P.O. No. 26, Block-50, Prabhkar Road, Ramnagar Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110056 is the registered owner of built-up first floor property bearing no. U-49, out of Khara no. 330, situated in area of village Bindapur...

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR. Ph.D Admission- August, 2023. Online applications are invited for admission to Ph.D-2023-24 in various courses latest by 26-08-2023. For details consult University website www.gndu.ac.in

PUBLIC NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that my client Rajul Singh is in process to purchase the (javalving loan from TCHFL) Property No. 8923/14-B measuring 130 Sq. Yards, situated at Shidigra, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 from Dumki Singh Sahni, who acquired the said property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 27.04.2023 (document no. 4070) executed by Davinder Kaur Sahani, Jasmeet Kaur Anand and Navpreet Kaur Sethi...

PUBLIC NOTICE. It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Gautam Kumar Bhatnaya & Mr. Milosh who are purchasing the Residential House No.253, area measuring 40 Sq. Yds. i.e. 34 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Village Nasapur, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.) from Mr. Lal Bahadur & Mrs. Suman, who are owners of the aforesaid property upon demise of their mother Mrs. Nirmala Devi and they are only legal heirs of the aforesaid deceased vide Legal Heirs Certificate dated 06.04.2015 issued by SDM, Ghaziabad...

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA) KURUKSHETRA-136119. Advt. No.:20/2023. NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI). NIT Kurukshetra invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Central Government Organizations/ Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) to provide "Project Management Consultancy" for the establishment of Campus Wide Network, and other ICT (Information and Communication Technology) equipments & Associated Services.

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED. Registered Office: Behrampur Road, Khandas Village, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, India. Tel: +91 (0124) 4809755. STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023. Table with columns for Particulars, For the Quarter Ended, and For the Year Ended.

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66. Notice Inviting Tender. www.verka.coop. Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items: 1. For Verka Head Office Providing and laying of interlocking tiles on existing Asphalt Roads at Verka Mohali Dairy. 2. For Verka Mohali Dairy Supply of a) Lifting Loader/sling b) Ventilation Fan (1.5 HP Motor) 100 No's 100 No's...

WITH JITESH HOT-ON-HEELS, TIME COULD BE RUNNING OUT FOR SAMSON

PTI ■ DUBLIN

The national selection committee's patience with the profligate Sanju Samson could be soon running out as Jitesh Sharma's presence in the 15-member squad for Ireland T20s puts the Rajasthan Royals skipper's place in the side under scanner.

The Indian squad for the series, save skipper Jasprit Bumrah, who is treating this event as a fitness test for the ODI World Cup, comprises Asian Games-bound players mostly and that in turn creates a slightly tricky situation.

With scores of 12, 7 and 13 in the three games that he batted in the five-match T20 series against West Indies, Samson has himself invited trouble and one shouldn't be surprised if Jitesh dons the big gloves and plays as a designated finisher during the Ireland series beginning on Friday.

The 29-year-old from Maharashtra is likely to be India's first-choice keeper ahead of Prabhshir Singh in the upcoming Asian Games and before an important event, it is only fair that he gets to play a few international games to settle his nerves.



Jitesh performs the tough role of a finisher for Punjab Kings at No 5 or 6 in IPL and it is not an easy job to mentally condition yourself to play only 15 to 20 balls per game.

While Samson is still best-placed to become a reserve keeper in ODI World Cup, in case KL Rahul can't make it

eventually, but his inconsistency for years now despite immense potential does keep the selectors worried.

It is imperative that Samson

gets a few more chances to make a case for 50-over World Cup selection (though different format) but will the team think-tank be able to fit in both the

glovesmen in the playing XI? A look at the squad will make one feel that it would be a tight case.

With Rituraj Gaikwad and Yashasvi Jaiswal set to open and Tilak Varma after a fine debut series in the West Indies settled at No. 4, the slot that may be up for grabs is No. 3 in the absence of the brilliant Suryakumar Yadav.

Samson, who has batted at No. 3 slot for Rajasthan Royals on occasions during IPL, could be tried in that position but there is Shivam Dube, the big-hitting giant, who has also been a floater and used successfully at that position by Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni during the IPL final.

On top of it, Dube is the team's seam bowling all-rounder although he is not even close to Hardik Pandya when it comes to rolling his arms over. But his sheer power-hitting skills could make him a contender.

Also in case Samson plays all the games, one among Jitesh and the equally exciting Rinku Singh will miss out.

Indian T20 team as well as the ODI squad need good middle-order finishers and captain Bumrah and stand-in coach Sitanshu Kota wouldn't want to lose out on that chance.



Bumrah bowls at India nets after 11 months

PTI ■ DUBLIN

After a hiatus of 11 months, top pacer Jasprit Bumrah returned to India nets on Wednesday and bowled with intensity and skill that made him a fearsome opponent for batsmen.

The 29-year-old last played for India against Australia in T20I match at Hyderabad on September 25, 2022. Since then he was sidelined with a back injury that required him to undergo a surgery.

However, Bumrah made his much-awaited return to India colours when he was named captain of the national side on July 31 for the away T20I series against Ireland starting on Friday in Dublin.

The Indian team made its touchdown in Ireland on Tuesday and wasted little time in hitting the ground a day later.

In a video shared by BCCI on X, formerly Twitter, Bumrah was seen bowling at full tilt, a comforting sight ahead of the upcoming Asia Cup and the ODI World Cup.

Bumrah rattled a right-hand batter with a whizzing bouncer, forcing him to duck under the ball. He zoomed in on the toes of a left-handed batsman with a spot-on yorker, eliciting some appreciative nods from others at India nets.

The net session could be viewed as a sum total of his recovery process at the NCA, where he gradually increased the workload and followed a designer fitness regime.

The India squad also includes pacer Prasad Krishna, who is also making a comeback to the India side after a lengthy injury lay-off, forced by surgery to treat a lumbar stress fracture.

Playing K L in Asia Cup would be asking for too much from him: Shastri

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri would not include K L Rahul in the playing eleven for the Asia Cup as it would be asking for "too much" from a player who has not played competitive cricket for close to four months.

Both Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who are undergoing injury rehabilitation at the NCA in Bengaluru, are expected to regain full fitness before the Asia Cup starting August 31.

"When you are talking of a player who has not played and is recovering from injury. To think of him in the playing eleven of Asia Cup, you are asking little too much of the player himself."

"And then you are talking keeping when the guy has come from a knee injury, the range of movement, things like (that). That is a no, no straight," Shastri told Star Sports in a panel discussion referring to Rahul.

He also warned against rushing back players from injuries. "You can't rush players back from injuries. You did that with Jasprit Bumrah, not once, twice but thrice and he has been out for 14 months now."

In place of Rahul, Shastri would like to see rookie batter Tilak Varma in the middle order. He wants to see three left-handers in the top-seven, including Ravindra Jadeja.

"There are three other positions where I think two left-handers have to come in. Now, this is where the selectors' role comes in because they are watching. They know who's the guy who's hot. If Tilak Varma is hot, bring him in. If you think (Yashasvi) Jaiswal is hot, bring him in."



"I am very impressed with Tilak and if I want a left-hander, I would look in that direction. The way he has got his runs over the last three months, whether in the IPL or India, he has ticked all the boxes," said Shastri.

Shastri also backed Ishan Kishan to come good. "Including Jaddu (Jadeja), there should be three left-handers in the top seven. Ishan Kishan has been keeping for the last 15 months. Why go somewhere else?"

"If you have persisted with Ishan Kishan for the last six to eight months, and he's going to

keep wickets, he comes in, in any case. But, get two left-handers," he said.

Justifying his point further, Shastri remembered the 2019 World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand.

"People don't give credit what Shikhar Dhawan deserves. That guy was an amazing player. When we lost that World Cup semifinal, he was missed. A left-hander at the top of the order, as opposed to three right-handers, makes a huge difference when the ball is swinging away (swinging in for the right handers)," he added.



Knee injury ends Shaw's Northamptonshire stint

PTI ■ LONDON

Prithvi Shaw on Wednesday was ruled out of the remainder of his stint with Northamptonshire, owing to a knee injury he suffered while fielding against Durham.

Shaw had made an unbeaten 125 off 76 balls in that match on August 13 as Northamptonshire cruised to a six-wicket win.

"Prithvi injured his knee while fielding in the fixture against Durham and subsequent scan results received this morning have revealed the injury is worse than initially expected," the Northamptonshire stated in a media release.

The 23-year-old Shaw made a fine impression during his short stint with the Steelbacks during the One-Day Cup 2023, amassing 429 runs in four innings.

His run-making spree included a mammoth 244 off 153 balls against Somerset on August 9, leading Northants to an 87-run victory.

John Sadler, the head coach of Northamptonshire, said it was a massive disappointment to let go of a player like Shaw.

"In his short stint Prithvi has made a huge impact on us as a club. It's a huge shame he won't be with us for the remainder of this competition," said Sadler.

Sadler said Shaw made a huge impact in the Northamptonshire dressing room as well. "As well as his performances on the field he had a huge impact in our dressing room. Nobody wanted to win games more than him and he contributed to us doing so."

"We wish him well and hope to see him scoring runs again soon," he added.

Akram asks PCB to delete commemorative video clip without Imran



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Legendary fast bowler Wasim Akram on Wednesday asked Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to delete and apologise to fans for making a commemorative video clip without featuring Imran Khan, the 1992 World Cup winning captain.

On August 14, the PCB shared a video clip celebrating the best moments of Pakistan cricket and the crowning moment was understandably the World Cup victory 31 years ago.

But Imran, who led that team, was not to be seen anywhere in that clip which ran for 2 minutes and 21 seconds.

Akram, who played a vital role in that triumph, expressed his dismay over omitting his fast bowling mentor from the video.

"After long flights and hours of transit before reaching Sri Lanka, I got the shock of my life when I watched PCB's short clip on the history of Pakistan cricket minus the great Imran Khan."

"Political differences apart but Imran Khan is an icon of world cricket and developed Pakistan into a strong unit in his time and gave us a pathway... PCB should delete the video and apologise," Akram wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Under Imran, Pakistan made a remarkable charge to the victory from the brink and defeated England in the final at MCG by 22 runs, till date their only 50-over World Cup win.

After his playing career, Imran turned to politics and formed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party in 1996.

The 70-year-old former all-rounder rose to be Pakistan's Prime Minister in 2018, a post he held until April last year before getting evicted from office following a no-confidence motion. Imran was arrested on August 5, and is currently serving a jail term in the Toshakhana case.

Stokes in Eng's provisional squad for ODI World Cup

PTI ■ LONDON

England Test skipper Ben Stokes on Wednesday came out of ODI retirement to be included in the provisional squad for the 50-over World Cup while talented batter Harry Brook and tearaway pace bowler Jofra Archer were the notable omissions.

The World Cup will commence in India on October 5.

Stokes, who quit ODIs last year saying playing in all three formats was "unsustainable", has reversed his retirement decision and national selector Luke Wright said the all-rounder's return will add to England's "match-winning ability".

Stokes, 32, will return for next month's four-match ODI series against New Zealand. Wright confirmed that the 15 named for the New Zealand series also formed the provisional World Cup squad.

Wright revealed that the injury-prone Archer would only be included in England's World Cup plans as a travelling reserve.

"The return of Ben Stokes only adds to that quality with his match-winning ability and leadership. I am certain that every fan will enjoy seeing him back in an England ODI shirt again," said Wright in a statement



issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Gus Atkinson, the 25-year-old right-arm quick, has also been given his maiden international call-up.

Brook, who became the fastest player to compete 1,000 Test runs on a per-ball basis — he took 1,058 balls to achieve the feat — has failed to find a place in the provisional squad and Wright said it showed the depth of England cricket.

Brook, 24, had also played a match-winning knock of 75 runs off 93 deliveries in the second innings of the third Ashes Test recently.

"It's incredibly hard on some players that are going to miss out. It shows the strength and depth we have in English cricket and there are other names who are knocking on the door as well," said Wright.

"With the balance of the squad, and with only fifteen that you can name it's incredibly tough."

Teams have time until September 5 to formally submit their provisional World Cup squads to the ICC, and further changes can be made until September 28.

England's provisional World Cup squad: Jos Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes.

Riaz announces international retirement



PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz on Wednesday announced his retirement from interna-

tional cricket to focus on playing T20 leagues around the world.

The 38-year-old left-arm pacer played 27 Tests, 91 ODIs

and 36 T20 Internationals from 2008-2020, claiming 83, 120 and 34 wickets respectively.

"After an incredible journey, I've decided to retire from inter-

national cricket. Big thank you to PCB, my family, coaches, mentors, teammates, fans, and everyone who supported me. Exciting times ahead in the world of franchise cricket!" he said in a statement posted on social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

"As I bid farewell to this chapter, I am thrilled to embark on a new adventure in franchise cricket, where I hope to entertain and inspire audiences while competing against some of the best talents in the world," added the fast bowler.

Riaz is the ninth bowler in history of Pakistan to take a five-for on debut, recorded against England as he took 5/63 at The Oval. Riaz also took a famous five-wicket haul against arch rivals India in the semifinal of 2011 World Cup in Mohali, albeit in a losing cause.

But for many, the most famous spell from Riaz came in the quarterfinal of the 2015 World Cup when he rattled Australia batters, particularly Shane Watson, with a barrage of short-pitch bowling.