**OPINION 6** 

INDEPENDENCE DAY #77:

TIME TO PONDER

**WORLD 9** 

PAK COURT TO TAKE UP IMRAN'S

PLEA AGAINST CONVICTION

**MONEY 10** 

SENSEX REBOUNDS 267 PTS ON

GAINS IN INFOSYS, ITC

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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## RAHUL MAKES

ASIA CUP CUT WITH A RIDER

## NEW DELHI, TUESDAY AUGUST 22, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



www.dailypioneer.com

# Chandrayaan on track, communicates: ISR0

earlier mission sends message to Ch-3; no contingencies anticipated: ISRO

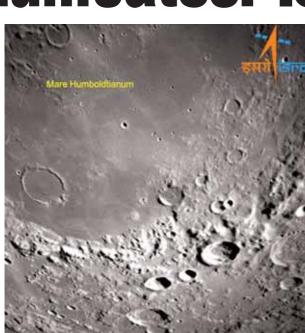
PNS/PTI BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

 $P_{ ext{down at the untouched}}^{ ext{rior to its scheduled touch-}}$ southern pole of the moon on August 23, the lander module of Chandrayaan-3 has established a two-way communication link with Chandrayaan-2's orbiter. The Indian Space Research Organisation (IŜRO) announced all systems are operating flawlessly, and there are no expected contingencies.

The two-way contact potentially offers ground controllers more channels for communication with Chandravaan-"Welcome, buddy!' Ch-2 orbiter formally welcomed Ch-3 LM (Lander Module). Twoway communication between the two is established. MOX has now more routes to reach the LM," the national space agency said in a post on "X". The MOX (Mission Operations Complex) is located at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)

in Bengaluru. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the LM Vikram with rover Pragyan in its belly is expected to touch down on the surface of the Moon around 6.04 pm on August 23. It also said the live telecast of the historic landing event will begin

at 5.20 pm on that day. The Chandrayaan-2 space-



craft comprising orbiter, lander and rover was launched in 2019. The lander with a rover inside crashed into the moon's surface, failing in its mission to achieve a soft-landing. The ISRO had said that due to the precise launch and orbital manoeuvres, the mission life of the Ch-2 orbiter is increased to seven years.

The ISRO also released images of the lunar far side area captured by the Lander Hazard Detection and Avoidance Camera (LHDAC). The camera assists in locating a safe landing area — without boulders or deep trenches — during the lander's descent.

The photos come a day after Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the moon after spinning out of control, in

working perfectly and no contingencies are anticipated on Wednesday, according to an official release.

In the next two days, the health of Chandrayaan-3 will be continuously monitored, he said, adding the final sequence of landing will be loaded two days ahead and tested out. The mission life of the lander and rover is one lunar day or 14 earth davs.

Referring to the expected touchdown, former ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair said it's a very complex manoeuvre and one has to be cautious as all systems have to work in unison for its success.

Nair, who headed the space agency when Chandravaan-1 mission was launched in 2008 said a successful landing would herald a big beginning for ISRO's next phase of planetary

exploration.

"It's a very complex manoeuvre. We narrowly missed it (soft-landing on the Moon in Chandrayaan-2 mission) in the last two kilometres (above the lunar surface)," he told PTI.

"So, there are a host of things that have to work in unison...Thrusters, sensors, altimeters, computer software and all those things. Any glitch happening anywhere...We can be in trouble," Nair said. "We have to be really cau-tious and watch. Of course, I

understand that ISRO has done enough simulations and also redundancies have been built in so that chances of such failure are remote. Still, we have to keep our fingers crossed."

Continued on Page 2

## Can't force rape survivor to undergo pregnancy: SC

Apex court slams HC for rejecting victim's plea, allows to abort 27-week foetus

PTI NEW DELHI

Observing that pregnancy in cases of sexual assault is a cause of stress and trauma to the victims, the Supreme Court on Monday allowed a rape survivor to undergo medical termination of her over 27week foetus after noting she is clinically fit for the procedure which will not adversely affect

her child bearing capacity.
Under the Medical
Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, the upper limit for termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for married women, special categories including survivors of rape and other vulnerable women such as those differently-abled and minors.

Taking note of the survivor's medical report, a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said the Gujarat High Court was not right in rejecting her prayer for MTP. The SC said in Indian soci-

ety within the institution of marriage, pregnancy is a reason for joy and celebration not only for the couple but also for their family and friends.

"In contrast, pregnancy outside marriage is injurious, particularly in cases of sexual assault or abuse and is a cause of stress and trauma affecting the physical and mental health of pregnant women. Sexual assault of a woman is itself distressing and sexual abuse resulting in pregnancy compounds the injury. This is because such a pregnancy is not voluntary or mindful.



cussion and the medical report, we permit the appellant to terminate her pregnancy. We direct her to be present in hospital tomorrow so that procedure for termination of pregnancy can be carried out," the bench said.

The SC said if the foetus is found to be alive, the hospital shall extend all necessary medical assistance, including incubation, to ensure the foetus survives. If it survives, the State shall take steps to ensure the child is adopted in accordance with the law, it said.

In a special sitting, the top court had on Saturday expressed displeasure over the Gujarat High Court adjourning the survivor's plea for medical termination of her pregnancy, and said "valuable time" has been lost during the pendency of the matter.

Later on Saturday, the single bench of the high court had rejected the plea for abortion.

Responding to the HC order, the apex court on Monday said, "We do not appreciate the High Court passing an order as a counterblast to SC order. Thank you for bringing it to our notice, but are you supporting? What is happening in High Court of Gujarat? Do judges retort like this to a superior court order?"

The top court wanted to

know what was the need for the high court to pass an order in a matter disposed of by a supe-

These kinds of attempts

rior court.

are being made by the high courts to circumvent our order. No court in India can pass an order like this on a Saturday against a superior court order without giving notice to the other side," the bench said, adding the view taken by the high court is against the constitutional philosophy Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the Gujarat Government, said there may be some confusion on assisting the court and requested the bench not to pass any adverse observations against the HC order. Senior advocate Sanjay

Parikh, appearing for the vic-

tim, urged the bench for

preservation of tissue drawn

from the foetus which may be used as evidence in the trial. The bench said the court is not a medical expert and can only direct the medical experts concerned to have regard to feasibility of such a procedure

being done. Needless to observe that it (tissue) will be handed over to the investigating agency for the purpose of DNA test by the hospital concerned, the bench

Continued on Page 2

### **CAPSULE**

DEFAMATION: KEJRIWAL SEEKS EARLY HEARING Ahmedabad: Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Monday moved a plea before the sessions court here for expeditious hearing of their revision application challenging the summons issued to them by the trial court in a criminal defamation case.

JUSTICE GITA COMMITTEE FILES MANIPUR REPORT New Delhi: The Supreme Court-appointed Justice Gita Mittal committee, set up to oversee relief and rehabilitation of the victims of ethnic violence in Manipur, Monday submitted three reports highlighting the need for reconstruction of

to facilitate its functioning. SC TO FORM BENCH TO HEAR CAUVERY DISPUTE

identity documents, upgradation

appointment of domain experts

of compensation and

New Delhi: A SC bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on Monday said it will form a bench to hear the Cauvery river water sharing dispute.

GUIDELINES ON BABU'S SUMMONS SOON

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it will lay down broad guidelines for courts across the country to deal with the issue of summoning officials in cases involving the government and their officials

UK BABY KILLER NURSE **GETS LIFE BEHIND BARS** 

**London:** Neonatal nurse Lucy Letby, convicted as the most prolific child serial killer in modern British history, was on Monday sentenced to a wholelife term by a UK court for killing seven babies and attempting to murder at least six others while working at a hospital in northern England

## Era of graft, scams that prevailed | Modi may meet XI on | Opp bloc INDIA likely to before 2014 has ended, says PM

Now every penny goes into bank accounts of the poor, says Modi

PNS BHOPAL

 $T^{\text{he}}$  era of "corruption and scams" prevailed before 2014 when the rights of the poor and their money were robbed, but now every penny is directly reaching their bank accounts, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

While virtually addressing the training-cum-orientation programme of newly appointed teachers at the CM Rise Government Mahatma Gandhi Higher Secondary School in Madhya Pradesh



capital Bhopal, the PM cited a NITI Aayog report, and said 13.50 crore Indians have come out of BPL (below poverty line) category in five years.

The data shows an increasing number of people are paying taxes, which shows their trust that the government is putting their money to good use, he said.

Modi said positive news started coming up in the first year of "Amrit Kaal" itself, which shows the increasing prosperity and decreasing

a setback to Russia's space

success Chandrayaan-3 would make

India only the fourth country

to successfully land on the

moon, after the former USSR,

the United States and China

and the first to land on the

treacherous lunar south pole.

India's third lunar mission was

launched on July 14 embarking

on a more complicated 41-day

voyage to the moon.

ISRO Chairman S

Somanath called on the Union

Minister of State (Independent

Technology Dr Jitendra Singh

in New Delhi and apprised him

of the health status and readi-

ness of Chandrayaan-3 for the

Somanath informed the

and

Charge) Science

moon landing.

ambitions.

poverty.
"The NITI Aayog report said 13.50 crore Indians have come out of BPL (below poverty line) category in five years. The number of Income Tax returns shows that the average income of Indians has increased during the past nine years to Rs 13 lakh from Rs 4 ĺakh in 2014," Modi said.

People are moving from lower income group to upper-income group, he added.

Modi said data shows all sectors are gaining strength and generating employment oppor-

"The faith of citizens has been increasing. They are coming up to deposit their tax with the faith that their every penny will be spent on the country's development," he said.

Continued on Page 2

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave for Johannesburg on Tuesday to take part in the 15th Brazil, India, Russia, China, South Africa (BRICS) summit there from August 22-24. Thereafter, he will visit Greece before returning home. This will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40

Giving details of his schedule, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here during a news conference on Monday that this will be the first in-person BRICS Summit after three consecutive years of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also said India has a "positive intent" and an "open mind" for the expansion of the five-nation grouping. Russian President Vladimir Putin is not participating in the

Rapist officer held; wife arrested



high-profile event.

The BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade.

Asked whether Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Kwatra only said the schedule of the Prime Minister's bilateral meetings is being finalised.

Modi may hold bilateral meetings with other heads of States on the sidelines of the summit, it was learnt.

Continued on Page 2

# BRICS talks sidelines unveil logo at Mumbai meet

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

The logo of the new Opposition coalition INDIA is expected to be unveiled at the Mumbai gathering planned for August 31 and September 1, alongside the introduction of various other coordinating committees.

Sources said the logo of INDIA bloc may be unveiled on September 1 before the beginning of the day-long deliberations. Additionally, there are plans to announce the lineup of committees dedicated to tasks like communication and preparations for the 2024 general elections.

A joint secretariat for better coordination among the parties will also be announced oon, said the sources

Approximately 80 leaders from more than 26 political parties are expected to attend the third meeting of the



At present, 26 parties are part of the grouping and a few more are set to join the alliance during the two-day meeting, sources added. This Opposition bloc's first

meeting was held in Patna in June and the second in Bengaluru last month. The Indian National

Developmental Inclusive Alliance, known by its abbreviation INDIA, is an Opposition front announced by

the leaders of 26 parties to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to challenge the incumbent BJP-led National

Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The leaders of the INDIA front with Chief Ministers of five States, including West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin, as well as former Congress president Sonia Gandhi are expected to reach Mumbai on August

Continued on Page 2

## 9 MPs sworn in as RS members



xternal Affairs Minister S External Attairs Minister 5

Jaishankar was among nine MPs who took the oath as members of the Rajya Sabha on Monday

The oath was administered by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Rajva Sabha chamber in Parliament House Besides Jaishankar, the the oath are Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai (Gujarat), Kesridevsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala (Gujarat), and Nagendra Ray (West Bengal). Five Trinamool Congress MPs -Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik and Samirul Islam

 also took the oath. Continued on Page 2 | Arvind Kejriwal.

other BIP members who took



tioned him and his wife and recording the statement of the His wife has also been charged with giving the girl medicine to terminate her

minor several times and impregnated her, was arrested on Monday after police ques-

pregnancy, they said. Shortly before he was arrested in the case which was registered on August 13, Premoday Khakha was suspended from his post as deputy director in Women and Child Development (WCD) Department following a direction from Chief Minister



Rani are residents of Shakti Enclave in Burari, the police said, adding the girl was stay ing at the residence of the accused, a family friend whom she calls 'mama', after her father passed away on October 1,

The accused, an ex-cadre officer, had allegedly raped the

2020, the police said.

'Both Khakha and his wife

have been arrested in connection with the case. The case was registered on August 13," Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh

### Bihar caste survey intact as SC says no case made out against consequences

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday told the petitioners challenging the Patna High Court order giving the go-ahead to the Bihar Government for a caste survey that it will not stay the exercise unless they made out a prima facie case against it.

The top court also allowed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, to file its response on the issue within seven days after he said the survey could have some consequences.

We are not this way or that way. But this exercise may have some consequences and Continued on Page 2 hence we would like to file our



the contentious exercise could possibly have

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti, which is hearing a batch of pleas filed by various NGOs and individuals challenging the August 1 verdict of the high court, adjourned the proceedings at Mehta's request.

Continued on Page 2

### plea against HC order for CBI-ED probe in job scam PTI = NEW DELHI

**SC** rejects Bengal

The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain an appeal of the West Bengal government challenging the June 15 order of the Calcutta High Court asking the CBI and ED to probe alleged irregularities in the recruitment of staff in in the recruitment of staff in various municipal bodies.

A bench of Chief Justice

DY Chandrachud and justices IB Pardiwala, and Justice Mano Misra, while junking the appeal of the State Government, said prima facie the alleged municipality recruitment scam appeared to be linked to the teachers recruitment case which is being probed by the CBI and the ED.

Continued on Page 2

## **Prevent split of Muslim** vote: Mamata to clerics

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Apparently sensing alienation in her minority vote base, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday returned to her old ways of showering endowments on Muslim clerics before giving out a clarion call to oust Prime Minister Narendra Modi from

Speaking at a meeting of the Muslim clerics, Mamata said that though her Government was facing financial crisis due to non-clearance of central dues to the tune of Rs 1.15 lakh crore she had decided to provide a monthly increment on the stipends paid to the Muezzims and Imams.

"They (Centre) have stopped all the grants and have not been paying out legitimate Rs 1.15 lakh crore ... still we have decided to give an increment of Rs 500 to the Muezzims and Imams ... and also along with this a matching increment will be given to the (Hindu) priests," Mamata said.

Digging out the old bogey of National Citizenship Register and Citizenship Amendment Act, Banerjee said



"like she had prevented NRC and CAA she would also prevent Uniform Civil Code at any

She said, "we have unleashed a whole lot of projects for the Muslim youth by including them in the OBC category ... now we are increasing the stipends paid to the Imams and Muezzims ... besides we are also declaring a business loan of Rs 5 lakh for the youth of the minority community." Saying that Modi's rule would not last beyond 2024 general elections, the Chief Minister said "I have only one hunger ... and that hunger is to oust Narendra Modi from power," giving out a "Modi Hatao Desh Bachao (oust Modi to save India)" call.

Citing examples of violence in many parts of the country including Haryana and Manipur Banerjee said "attempts are being made to impose one religion, one faith, one language and one caste in India ... but till I am there I will not allow this to happen ... I

will always be by your side like

your sister, your daughter and

Asking the Muslim clerics to prevent splitting of votes at a time when the BJP was engineering riots to polarize the electorate Banerjee said, "there is a conscious attempt to help the BJP by splitting the minority votes in order to help Modi . so I ask you not to let that happen and prevent division of

**Maha Min lands** 

## 2 heavily armed infiltrators killed by Army in Poonch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

wo heavily armed terrorists were reportedly killed by the alert troops of the Indian Army while they were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory in the Balakote sector of Poonch on Monday.

The Indian troops could not recover the dead bodies of the slain terrorists as they managed to rush back by crossing the line of control taking advantage of the inclement weather and undulating terrain in the forward area.

According to a Jammubased Defence PRO Lt-Col Suneel Bartwal, "based on credible inputs received from multiple intelligence agencies about the presence of infiltrators close to the line of control the jawans of the Indian army were kept in a state of high alert and multiple ambushes were laid to prevent any infiltration by the group of terrorists".

Defence PRO said, "on August 21, the movement of two terrorists was detected by the alert troops in the Hamirpur area of the Balakote sector in Poonch.



The terrorists taking advantage of the inclement weather conditions attempted to sneak inside the Indian ter-

Responding swiftly, the alert troops challenged them leading to an exchange of fire"

Lt-Col Suneel Bartwal in a written statement said, "One of the terrorists injured in the firing was seen falling down near the line of control

Additional troops were then moved into the area and search operations commenced in the afternoon after the improvement of weather conditions and visibility. The search of the area led

to the recovery of an AK 47 rifle with two magazines, 30 rounds, two grenades and Pakorigin medicines".

During the search blood trails leading towards LC were also detected.

### Raut likely to contest as Opp bloc candidate from Mumbai North East

### No formal decision taken by Opp alliance as of now

TN RAGHUNATHA

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and four-time Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut is likely to contest as the joint Opposition INDIA bloc candidate from Mumbai north-east con-stituency, a seat currently held by the ruling BJP.

Raut, who was re-elected to Rajya Sabha for his fourth term in June last year, has gone on record saying that his party had asked him to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai north-east constituency which is currently represented by Manoj Kotak of the BJP.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha olls which the Shiv Sena and BJP had contested as an alliance, Kotak had defeated NCP's Sanjay Dina Patil by a margin of 3,06, 486. Mumbai north-east seat had gone to the BJP in the seat-sharing formula worked out between the two saffron alliance parties then.

Though no decision has been taken yet by the joint Opposition alliance on the

sions of the POCSO Act and

Indian Penal Code sections

376(2)(f) (being a relative,

guardian or teacher of, or a

person in a position of trust or

authority towards the woman,

commits rape on such woman) and 509 (word, ges-

ture or act intended to outrage

nal intimidation), 323 (vol-

untarily causing hurt), 313

(causing miscarriage without

woman's consent) and 120B

(criminal conspiracy) have

ly became pregnant, she

informed the wife of the

accused who later asked her

son to get medicines for preg-nancy termination and gave

When the minor alleged-

also been invoked.

IPC sections 506 (crimi-

the modesty of a woman).

choice of its candidate for not be averse to supporting Mumbai north-east, Raut Raut's candidature. stands a good chance of being the joint candidate of the

Shiv Sena (UBT). The factors that will weigh in favour of Raut are that in the six Assembly segments falling under the Mulund north-east seat, the Shiv Sena holds two seats, while the one seat is held by the Opposition Samajwadi Party, while the three remaining Assembly seats are held by

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)

comprising the Congress,

Sharad Pawar-led NCP and

Secondly, given that Raut is very close to NCP chief Sharad Pawar, the latter would

Raut, who has been spokesperson of the Shiv Sena for more than two and half decades now, is the executive editor of the Shiv Sena's official mouth-piece "Saamana". He was first elected to Rajya Sabha in 2004.

After that he was elected to the Upper House for three more consecutive terms.

On his part, Raut has said that since he has five years to complete in his fourth term of Rajya Sabha, he is not keen to contest the Lok Sabha polls. 'But if my party insists on me contesting the Lok Sabha polls, I would definitely contest," Raut has said.

## Fadnavis rides bullet train in Japan, pushes PM Modi's pet project

T N RAGHUNATHA

In an apparent attempt to push the much-delayed Mumbai-Ahmedabad project, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis - currently on a five-day official trip to Japan — travelled on a Shinkansen bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto.

"Travelled by the iconic Shinkansen bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto.. Experienced speed, precision & discipline! And of course the scenic beauty too!," Fadnavis said on his twitter handle where he posted photographs and a video of his travel by bullet train in

Fadnavis, who is on a visit to Japan as a state guest -- left Mumbai on Sunday evening.

To be known to all that my client, Smt. Harpreet Kaur W/o Sh. Virender Singh Kochar R/o Flat No.201-C,Second Floor,Block-WP, Pitampura,Delhi.Purchaser/owner of DDA LIG Flat No. 201-C, Second Floor, Block-WP,

mpura, Delhi, Vide File No.F. 36(300) 89/

Demand Letter,Possession Letter,Site Possession Slip, NOC Water & Electricity, All

Original Documents I.e. Orig



TN RAGHUNATHA

Maharashtra minister and senior state BJP leader Vijaykumar Gavit has landed in an unseemly controversy over his statement that consumption of fish daily would result in people, particularly women, having beautiful eyes like that of Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai.

In a development that revived the memories of then Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav's famous statement that he would make Bihar's roads as smooth as Hema Malini's cheeks, the six-time MLA and State Tribal Development Minister Dr Gavit unwittingly stirred up a hornet's nest through his statement made

## Bihar caste survey intact

as SC says...
From Page 1

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for one of the petitioners, sought the court's direction restraining the state government from publishing the data.

"You see, there are two things. One is collection of data, the exercise which is over, and the second is analysis of data, which has been collected during the survey. The second part is more difficult and problematic. Unless you (petitioners) are able to make out a prima facie case, we are not going to stay anything," the bench said.

It added that the Bihar government had assured during the last hearing that it is not going to publish the data.

When Rohatgi insisted on

a restraining order to the Bihar government, the bench said There is already a judgement in favour of the state. It's not that easy. Unless a prima facie case is made out, we are not going to stay it."

Divan, appearing for the Bihar government, pleaded that nothing should be recorded in the order and there should not be any restraint on the state.

"The matter was listed today for hearing further arguadvocate said, and posted the matter for resumed hearing on August 28, after Solicitor General Mehta sought time to file the Centre's

## Rapist officer held...

From Page 1

The couple was detained for questioning earlier in the day. They were arrested after the victim recorded her statement before a magistrate at a hospital. During the day, a police team visited the house of the accused.

While Seema Rani was produced in court after her arrest, Khakha will be produced on Tuesday, the police WCD Minister Atishi told

PTI that the charges against the officer were "worrisome and shocking" because he had the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of women and children. "I want to request the

against the accused as soon as possible," she said. The police said the case was registered under provi-

Delhi Police and the judicia-

ry to take the strictest action them to the girl.

The girl returned home with her mother in January 2021 when she came to meet

### 9 MPs sworn...

From Page 1

Jaishankar took the oath in English. This is his second term as a Rajya Sabha MP. He was first elected in 2019. O'Brien, Sen, Islam and Ray took the oath in Bengali.

Of the nine members who took oath on Monday, five are newly elected - Nagendra Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik, Samirul Islam, Kesridevsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala and Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai.

Four members took the oath in Bengali, three in Hindi and two in English, a statement from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said. Leader of the House and Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha PC Mody and other senior officials of the secretariat were also present on the occa-

### Opp bloc INDIA...

From Page 1

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will host dinner for the visiting dignitaries at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on August 31 while the lunch on the day of meeting is to be hosted by the Mumbai unit of the Congress. Uddhav led Shiv Sena and Congress are Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition partners along with the Sharad Pawar-led NCP. Sources said the MVA

leaders, including Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and Ashok Chavan, are engaged in micro-level planning to ensure that the meeting is a success. In this regard a meeting was held on Sunday which was attended by Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Aaditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut, Congress leaders Varsha Gaikwad, Milind Deora and Naseem Khan, NCP leaders Narendra Verma, among oth-

The top court had, while voicing displeasure over the delay the Gujarat High Court in deciding the rape survivor's plea, observed that there should be a sense of urgency in such cases, and slammed the "lackadaisical attitude" of the HC in treating

informed by the counsel for the 25-year-old woman that she had approached the high court on August 7 and the matter was taken

Possession Slip, NOC Water & Electricity, All DDA Documents of the above said Flat has been lost. An F.I.R./DDR No.I.R No.:801278/202 3 dated 21/08/2023, to this effect has been lodged in Delhi Crime Branch. If Any Person(s) Claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no. 6393050858 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, internet, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director Housing or Director Housing, DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi. PUBLIC NOTICE

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् शिवपुरी ( म.प्र. )

email: cmoshivpuri@mpurban.gov.in

निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदायें

प्रामंत्रित की जाती हैं । निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट https://mptenders.gov.in

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It is to inform to the public at largethat Mr. Chetan who has purchased theResidential Freehold Vacant Plot ofland area measuring 100 Sq. Yards, outof Khasra No. 1576min, Situated in theVillage Rajapur, Pargana Dasna Tehsil& Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. from Mr.Santram S/o Late Horam., who isrecorded owner Original Wil dated24.04.2006 executed by Mr MamchandS/o Late Mr. Horam in favour o Mr.Santram S/o Late Mr. Horam in respecto House, area measuring 100 sq. yd.(83.61 sq. mtr.) out of Khasra No.1576Min. and same to be financed byUmmeed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd Ifany Person having any type ofclaim/right/ title/ interest over the saidproperty, may inform in writing, at theaddress mentioned below, about hisobjections, with in 7 days from today,failing which it shall be presumed that thesaid propert is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.LUCEM LEGAL LLPB-93B, SECOND UP-201301Contact#0120-4130438

क्रमांक/न.पा.प./निविदा/23/4570

क्रमांक

2023

UAD\_

299168

पर देखी जा सकती है। टेण्डर परचेस ऑनलाईन कर सकते हैं।

निविदा जारी कार्य का नाम/आमंत्रित दर

## Can't force rape...

Tokyo International Airport

on Monday, where he was

received by Indian Ambassador

to Japan, Śibi George and Joice

Sibi. After a welcome at the air-

port, Fadnavis said: "Learning

a lot from the Japanese. The

public transport and infra-

structure is obviously robust,

but it is fascinating to witness

the people following every rule

religiously; lane discipline,

automated quick ticketing sys-

tems, platform safety, queue,

it as any normal case and adjourning the hearing. During the hearing on Saturday, the apex court was

up the next day.

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Smt. Vandana acquired the Built-up Second Floor with Roof Rights "Said Floor" area measuring 150 Sq Yds. Built-up Property no H-32, Situated in Vill Bassai Darapur, Colony Known as Bail Nagar, Block-H, Najafgarh Road, Delhi-110015 vide Sale Ded dated 18,05.2013, Doc no. 10602.Above said owners have misplaced the Original Sale Ded dated 25,05.1979 Doc. No. 2140, SRC Delhi and Original Will dated 21.03.2002 executed by Mr. Chaman Lal Dhai in favour of Mrs. Bimla Devi. Anyone who finds the above said documents, kindiy handover the same to the Manager of indusind Bank. Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi Now, Smt. Vandana is mortgaging the said property with Indusind Bank. Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi & In case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhip Jain (Advocates). Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place. Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-TIL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172 9818228636 (M).

शिवपुरी, दिनांक 14.08.2023

1. कार्य की लागत निविदा प्रपत्र कार्य की

खरीदने की समयावि

2. धरोहर राशि

3. निविदा प्रपत्र

की राशि

3. 20.000.00

14/08/2023 MULTI LEVEL PARKING | 1. 4,93,16,468.00 | 15.09.2023 | 12 माह

CONSTRUCTION WORK 2. 2,46,582.00

Be it known to all that I, H. P. MITTAL 5/O KHUBI RAM GUPTA R/O- A-306, ANAND LOK CGHS LTD, MAYUR VIHAR-I, DELHI-11.0091 I am the legal owner of A-306, ANAND LOK CGHS LTD, MAYUR VIHAR-I, DELHI-FILE NO.F-5/269)1996 which is allotted by the DDA. Original SHABE CERTIFICATE of the above Flat has been lost. An FIR/NCR to this effect has lodged in P. S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 803496/2023, Dated-21-08-2023. Any person (s)claiming any right, interest, heaving and objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone 98997-37770 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any person claiming

publication of this notice. Any person clair any right, interest, or having any object with respect to this property can personally inform/contact me. E AUCTION NOTICE WATER AFFECTED VARIOUS GARMENTS, RAW FABRIC, PACKAGING MATERIALS AND ACCESSORIES ETC.

Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Water Affected Various Garments, Raw Fabric, Packaging Materials and Accessories etc." on "Lump Sum" Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where is", Whatever there is" and "No Complaint" Basis and belongs to M/s. Cutecumber Designs Private Limited. The subject materials can be inspected at E-91 & E-92, Sector A-5/6, Tronica City between 22-08-23 to 04-09-23 between 10 AM to 5 PM only. Kindly contact Mr. Deendayal Jaiswal at 8860141042 for

E-AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON 05-09-23 Kindly contact Mr. Atul Halarnkar at 7738164069 to obtain the form containing erms & conditions of e-Auction or download from website https://www.sealthedeal.co.in/. Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at Shop No. 148, Pocket C2, Sector 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085.

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी Rohini, Delhi - 110085.

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF FORM

& EMD DEMAND DRAFT IS 04-09-23 नगर पालिका परिषद् शिवपुरी

#### ments. We have already heard Vaidyanathan for nearly 20 minutes on Friday," the bench

### Modi may meet XI...

From Page 1

He may meet Chinese President Jingping. This interaction holds significance in the backdrop of ongoing military level talks at the Major General level to finds ways to ease tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

The two sides on May 14 had held Corps Commander level talks involving Lt Generals of the two armies at the LAC in

an effort to fast forward the disengagement process from the flashpoints at Depsang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh.

by Major General level talks on May 18 and over the subsequent days. The parleys were held in an apparent bid to ensure peace and tranquility at the LAC

Modi will also participate in a special event "BRICS --Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue" being organised after the summit of the fivenation grouping.
Expansion of BRICS is a

major agenda item of the summit. Around 23 countries have submitted their applications

for membership of the grouping.
The Foreign Secretary said the modalities for inclusion of

> are being discussed among the Sherpas of the grouping. "I would not want to prejudge the outcome of the discussions," he said.

Asked whether the BRICS is contemplating having a common currency, the Kwatra said there are several prerequisites for such a common currency framework. He said the discussion in BRICS has focussed on trade in the nation-

al currency. The Foreign Secretary also said a business delegation from

India will also be travelling to South Africa to attend the Business Tracks meetings and also the meetings of the BRICS Women Business Alliance and

the BRICS Business Forum.

"Prime Minister will depart tomorrow morning for Johannesburg where he would be participating in the 15th BRICS Summit that starts tomorrow and concludes on 24th August..," Kwatra said.

He said the theme of the BRICS Summit this year is BRICS and Africa: Partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilater-

### Chandrayaan on track, Era of graft, scams... communicates...

From Page 1 Another former ISRO

chief K Sivan said the failure of Russia's Luna-25 moon mission will have no impact on the Chandrayaan-3 venture. "It will not have any impact," Sivan, who was heading the ISRO when the Chandrayaan-2 mission was launched in 2019, told PTI when asked if the Indian space agency would be under more pressure ahead of the soft landing, following the Russian setback.

Days ahead Chandrayaan-3's launch, Somanath had said it is loaded with more fuel, a slew of safety measures and a bigger landing site, adding ISRO has opted for a "failure-based design" to ensure that the rover successfully lands on the moon even if some things go wrong.

success-based design in

Chandrayaan-2, the space

agency opted for a failure-

based design in Chandrayaan-3. focused on what all can fail and how to protect it and ensure a successful landing. "We looked at very many

failures - sensor failure, engine failure, algorithm failure, calculation failure. So, whatever the failure we want it to land at the required speed and rate. So, there are different failure scenarios calculated and programmed The primary objectives of

Chandrayaan-3 mission are threefold, (a) to demonstrate safe and soft Landing on lunar surface; (b) to demonstrate Rover roving on the moon, and (c) to conduct insitu scientific experiments. Scientists from several

space agencies have detected frozen water in the south pole craters. Somanath said instead of

This ice could potentially serve as a reservoir for fuel, oxygen, and drinking water, them a new direction," he said. thereby bolstering future lunar habitation endeavours.

## From Page 1

The country's economy has now reached the 5th spot in the world from the 10th position in 2014, he said. 'The rights of the poor and

their money were being looted even before reaching their accounts before 2014 in the era of corruption and scams. Now, every penny is reaching their accounts directly," the PM said. He said the plugging of

"leakage in the system" means

more money being spent on the

welfare of the poor. The PM said investment has generated employment, and after 2014, five lakh new common service centres have been set up in India, providing

employment to several people. The teachers getting their appointment letters today are joining the important responsibility of teaching in this historic period. They will hold the responsibility of moulding the future generations of India. modernising them and giving

Modi said the new teachers will play a key role in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) as they will make a huge contribution to fulfilling the resolve to make a developed India.

An equal importance has been given to traditional knowledge as well as future technology in the NEP, said Modi, adding a new curriculum has been prepared in the field of primary education while progress has been made regarding (providing) education in the mother tongue.

He said great injustice was caused by not imparting education in the mother tongue to students who did not know English. Modi said his Government emphasises books in regional languages in the syllabi which will become the basis of a big change in the education system of the country.

"When decisions are made with positive thinking, right intention, and full integrity, the whole environment gets filled with positivity and the announcement of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana is a reflection of this vision," he said.

#### **SC** rejects Bengal's plea... From Page 1

"No, sorry. Dismissed," the hench said

The bench also did not agree with the contention of senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, appearing for the State Government, that let it be said that the order of the Calcutta High Court asking the CBI and ED to probe this case also will not be treated as a "precedent".

The senior lawyer referred to several judgments to highlight the point that the State Government's power to deal with such cases will be diminished if probe by central agencies is allowed in this manner. Sibal said the high court

had erred in its decision of transferring the matter to the central agencies as there was no material to prove that the state could not investigate the alleged scam. He said the ED had no

urisdiction and it was just "targeting" officers at this point. Which other states is this happening in? There is no jurisdiction of ED here," Sibal said.

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 of 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 subject 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

### NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | AUGUST 22, 2023

## All temporary staff of MCD will be regularised: Kejriwal

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said all temporary employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) would be regularised.

Addressing an MCD programme at the Thyagaraj Stadium where he handed over appointment letters to 317 newly regularised employees, the chief minister said employees of Delhi's municipal corporation received salaries on the first date of the month "after 13 years".

"God is with us and with His blessings and the blessings of you all, I am optimistic that we will make MCD the best municipal corporation in the world," he asserted. MCD employees are getting salaries on time for the last two months and the civic body's tax collection has also increased because it is being led by an "honest dispensation", Kejriwal said.

He said MCD employees and its officers will make Delhi the cleanest city in the country in the next two to three years. Mayor Shelly Oberoi and Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj were also present at the event.

"I met with all the employees, everyone is extremely



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during distribution of appointment letters and celebration of the clearance of the dues and timely salary of MCD workers at Thyagaraj Stadium, in New Delhi on Monday Ranjan Dimri I Pioneei

happy... We will also make sure that the remaining employees are made permanent. This is my guarantee. We will fulfil every promise," Kejriwal said. The chief minister said that before the civic elections, he had given the guarantee of making temporary MCD employees permanent and "I will fulfil it at any cost".

"It may take some time... But everyone will get their has now become "efficient" with "good governance" in place."It is the same MCD, same employees and same officials. So, what has changed? Only the dispensation has changed.

An honest dispensation has now taken charge." Kejriwal said, "Now that tax evasion has been reduced since the corruption in MCD has been curbed, people have realised permanent appointment letters," he said, adding the MCD utilised for the public good."

When the AAP formed government in Delhi, it used to be in deficit. It took a year or two but now the government is in revenue surplus, the chief minister said.

"We have provided free electricity, water, free bus travel for women, constructed schools and hospitals, free pilgrimage and still the Delhi Government's budget is not in deficit. I want to assure you that with these same officials and the same employees, the same

MCD will be self-sufficient within a year or two," he added.

People say that Indore is the cleanest city in the country. Within two to three years, "you will make Delhi the cleanest city", Kejriwal said. The chief minister said an excellent cleanliness drive — 'Ab Delhi Hogoi Saaf' — is being run. "The whole of Delhi will be cleaned. The mega cleanlines

drive has been started and all employees, MLAs, councillors and officials are working on it. We will seek to increase people's participation gradually," Kejriwal said.

At the event in Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "In our society, we don't express our gratitude towards employees and officials.""Our councillors will start this custom of gratitude. I request the councillors to invite sanitation work ers to their houses every month to express gratitude," he said. Mayor Oberoi said "a better model" has also been initiated in the municipal corporation.

Under the mega cleanliness campaign, teams have been formed for all 250 wards. All councillors, MLAs, and officials are working to clean every corner of Delhi. Credit for this also goes to the sanitation

# 'Not allowed to meet girl raped by WCD officer'

DCW chief Swati Maliwal sat on a dharna at a hospital on Monday, claiming that she was prevented from meeting the minor girl allegedly raped by a Delhi government official.

Premoday Khakha — a deputy director in the city government's women and child development department allegedly raped the girl several times between November 2020 and January 2021, a senior police officer had said. His wife allegedly gave the girl medicine to terminate her pregnancy.

Khakha and his wife were after questioning on Monday. The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson alleged that the hospital authorities did not allow her to meet the survivor. The director of the hos-

pital came to meet the DCW chief and informed her that DCP (deputy commissioner of police) and ACP (assistant commissioner of police) of the Delhi Police are inside the hospital and had asked them to not allow her to meet the victim," the women's panel said in a statement. The commission also sent a notice to the Delhi Police and the city government's women and child devel-



opment and services departments, seeking action in the

Maliwal said it was "shocking" that the Delhi police did not arrest the accused even eight days after registration of FIR. "Even I was not allowed to meet the survivor on behest of the Delhi Police. I will meet the survivor and provide all possible support," she said.

The women's panel has also asked the Delhi Police to provide a copy of the FIR along with the details of arrests. It has also sought the details of action taken by the city government against the officer.

The commission further sought details of complaints made against the officer in the past and action taken in that connection.

The Delhi Police and the city government have been directed to provide their reports by Wednesday.

### Will attend INDIA bloc meeting in Mumbai, says Kejriwal

PTI NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said he will attend the meeting of the opposition alliance scheduled to be held by the end of this month in Mumbai.

"Will go to Mumbai. Will share with you the outcome," Kejriwal told reporters on the sidelines of an event when asked if he would join the upcoming meeting of the opposition parties in Mumbai.

The meeting of the oppo-sition bloc INDIA is scheduled to be held on August 31 and September 1 in Mumbai. This will be the third meeting of the bloc forged to take on the BJPled NDA in the upcoming general election.

According to sources, the Mumbai meeting would be held in format of the Bengaluru meeting with leaders first conversing in an informal setting on August 31 before the main meeting the next day.

During the meeting, the parties are expected to iron out their differences as much as possible, especially in states where they are in a direct poll battle. The meeting is being hosted jointly by the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP's Sharad Pawar faction, with support from Congress — three constituents of Maha Vikas Aghadi

## SC refuses to interfere with Delhi HC order permitting St Stephen's | Father rejects Shraddha told him College to hold interviews for admissions on minority seats

institution, therefore, 50 per

cent of seats are filled by minor-

ity students. No difficulty with

that. The question is how 50

per cent reserved seats are

filled - first, strictly as per all-

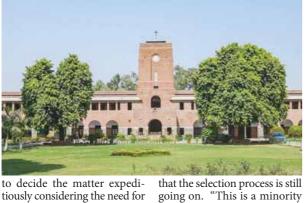
per cent seats, DU directed

**STAFF REPORTER** ■NEW DELH

¬he Supreme Court on The Supreme Source Monday refused to interfere with the Delhi High Court interim order allowing St Stephen's College to conduct interviews for granting admission to students under the minority quota besides taking into consideration their common university entrance test (CUET) scores

A bench of Justices A S Bopanna and P S Narasimha said any interference at this stage will create further confusion and uncertainty in the admission process. "Taking note that the

impugned order is an interim order passed by the high court in a pending writ petition, at this stage, we see no reason to order," the bench said. The apex



tiously considering the need for certainty in the matter. The top court was hearing a plea filed by Delhi University and University Grants Commission challenging the July 21 order of the high court. Solicitor General Tushar India merit list, i.É., CUET.

sity, sought a stay on the Delhi keep interviews for filling 50 court also asked the high court High Court order, contending

always a subjective thing. Because of the HC order, meritorious students are being left Senior advocate Mariarputham, appearing for St Stephen's College, stated that there is an interim order,

> the classes have already com-The bench said at this stage, it was not inclined to interfere with the interim order. "At this stage, there will be more confusion for students,"

students have been selected and

this 50 per cent seats through

interviews. Interviews are

the bench said. Mehta submitted in case the high court comes to a conclusion that the interim order was wrong and every admisbasis of the merit list, then what

torious students who were not selected because of this interview process. The law officer claimed seats filled on the basis of interviews have virtually become 'payment seats'. The bench said the high court passed the order on July 21 and admission process has already taken place.

"It may be really late now. There will be more uncertainty. Once matter is fully settled by high court, students will know what the situation is," the bench said.

On July 21, the high court had permitted the college to conduct interviews for granting admission to students under the minority quota besides taking into consideration their CUET scores. It had also permitted the Jesus and Mary the seats reserved for minori-

## about her 'serious anger issues' examination. "Is it correct that

**STAFF REPORTER** ■NEW DELHI

The father of Shraddha The father of Silfacone Walkar told a Delhi court on Monday that his daughter never spoke to him about her "serious anger issues" or getting "abusive first" with Aaftab Amin Poonawala, her live-in partner, accused of killing her and chopping the body into

He also denied having been told by her daughter that she felt guilty about not defending her mother properly against her father's aggressive or abusive behaviour. Vikas Madan Walkar was being cross-examined as a prosecution witness by Poonawala's counsel before Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar.

killing Shraddha Walkar on May 18 last year. Defence posed several questions to Vikas Madan Walkar after playing some video clips where the deceased was speaking to a psychologist or counsellor. "Is it correct that in the

said videos your daughter is telling the counsellor that you used to beat your wife? Is it correct that your daughter is also saying that she feels guilty that she did not defend her mother properly against your aggressive, abusive behaviour? Is it correct what your daughter is saying that (when) she tried to defend her mother once you scared her off?' Bhandari asked.

"It is correct that she has stated so in the videos. However, she never said the same to me," Walkar respondplayed in the open court, Bhandari resumed the cross-

in the video your daughter is stating she has anger issues and she gets abusive first (with Poonawala)?" the defence counsel asked Walkar. "Is it correct that your daughter is stating that the accused used to be very supportive of her and never stopped her from doing anything? Is it correct that the counsellor is heard saying that the deceased has very serious anger issues...?" Bhandari continued with a flurry of questions.

Walkar's response to every question was his daughter never told him about any of these issues. Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad objected to questions on the ground that video clips did not pertain to Walkar's examinavictim's father was not present when videos were made.

## Wanted gangster held after gunfight with Noida Police

arrested after he was injured in a gunfight with the police in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh on Monday, while two of his partners managed to escape during cross-firing, officials said. Anil is a member of the "Singhraj Bhati" gang of western Uttar Pradesh involved in extortion and other crimes, they said.

The gangster and his partners were travelling in an SUV when they were intercepted by the officials of the Ecotech 1 police station and the SWAT team on the basis of a tip-off, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan said.

"His (Anil's) name had come to light in connection with a firing on a man in Imliaka village in Ecotech 1 police station area on July 17. Prior to that, he was booked by the Phase 2 police over a murder case (IPC 302).

He, along with Singhraj Bhati, was also booked in a case lodged at the Kasna police station. A reward of Rs 25,000 was announced on his arrest," Khan said. During the gunfight, two of his partners managed to escape but they have been identified and efforts are underway to arrest them as well, the officer said.

Anil, who suffered bullet injuries in the gunfight, has been taken to a hospital, police said. The accused has also been involved in similar incidents in Delhi, where he and his accomplices engaged in firing during a scrap work, they



said. Multiple cases of murder and attempted-murder have been registered against Anil, amounting to more than half a dozen cases, the police added.

A pistol, along with some ammunition, was seized from his possession after the gunfight. His car has been impounded, while further legal proceedings are underway, they Staff Reporter



Murals and decorations around Delhi ahead of the G20 Summit at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Monday

### Toolkit case: Disha Ravi urges court to modify bail condition

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Climate activist Disha Ravi, facing prosecution for her alleged involvement in sharing a toolkit backing the farmers' protest in 2021, urged the Delhi High Court on Monday to modify a bail condition of seeking prior permission of the trial court before travelling abroad.

The plea came up for hearing before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma who, after hearing submissions for the counsel of Ravi and police, said an order will be passed at 4 PM.

Ravi was arrested by the Delhi Police on February 13, 2021 for allegedly being involved in sharing on social media a toolkit related to the farmers' protest which was

then going on against the Centre's three farm laws, and was granted bail by a trial court here on February 23,

While granting bail, the trial court had imposed various conditions on her, including that she shall not leave the country without prior permission of the court.

Ravi, in her plea before the high court, has sought modification of the bail condition that she should take prior permission of the trial court to travel abroad. Her counsel urged the high court to modify the condition to the extent that she shall intimate the trial court before going abroad. "I need to travel abroad frequently and on short notices

snakes from their possession and handed them over to the Wildlife Department. Rohit Nath, 22, and Shakib Nath, 26, were produced in a

city court and sent to judicial custody on Saturday, they added. The matter came to light

approached Sector 53 Police Station saying two people dressed as 'sadhus' let loose snakes on her and robbed her of Rs 2,000.

According to her com-plaint, the incident happened around 10.30 Friday when she was travelling in an auto-rick-

approached her in the garb of sadhu' and asked for money near Sushant Estates in Sector 52 when the auto-rickshaw was waiting at a traffic signal it

from my purse which I had taken out to give them a coin. They fled immediately but I was left terrorised by the incident and approached the police," Wani, a resident of Ansal Sushant Estates, said in her complaint.

## CM nod to free sugar for National Food Security cardholders in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vational Food Security cardholders in Delhi representing some of the most marginalised segments of society — will now have access to free sugar after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal approved on Monday a Cabinet decision in this regard.

The Delhi Cabinet endorsed the proposal for free sugar distribution among families facing economic hard-ships in July. The beneficiary families will get the free sugar in addition to their existing entitlements of wheat and rice. The decision is set to benefit



cardholders and a total 2,80,290 individuals in Delhi. The financial allocation for the initiative

chief minister's office said in a statement. The objective of the initiative, it said, is two-fold —

by economically disadvantaged families and to ensure a higher degree of food security for all citizens. By extending essential support to those most in need, the Delhi government is affirming its commitment to fostering a more equitable soci-

The beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be entitled to free sugar as part of the subsidy scheme. This benefit is slated to extend for a one-year period from January 2023 to December 2023, ensuring sustained support to those who require it the most, the statement said.

### Driver held for staging robbery to loot his bizman boss

A<sup>36</sup>-year-old man was arrested in Delhi for to mitigate the challenges faced allegedly staging a robbery in an attempt to decamp with his employer's money after becoming disgruntled with his behaviour, police said on Monday.

The arrested accused was identified as Sandeep Kumar, a resident of Ashok Vihar. He worked as a driver for Sumit Gupta, who ran a business at Shastri Nagar, they said. Around 2.15 pm on August 18, Kumar left the residence of his employer on Gupta's twowheeler with Rs 2.5 lakh for Shastri Nagar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

When he reached 56 Bigha Park, Kumar claimed that his two-wheeler lost balance and hit a motorcycle parked nearby. He alleged that three people standing near the motor-cycle started assaulting him.

Kumar also claimed that the trio snatched his mobile phone, wallet and documents.

They then took the keys to the two-wheeler, opened the storage box and decamped with Gupta's money, Kalsi said. When the police ques-

tioned Kumar, he was not able to provide information about the accused. When the police analysed footage from ĈCTV cameras installed in the area, they discovered that the robbery had not occurred.

### charmers arrested for robbing people at traffic signals **PTI** ■ GURUGRAM

G'gram snake

Two snake charmers were arrested for allegedly posing as 'sadhus' and robbing people by scaring them with snakes, police said on Monday. The two men robbed several commuters travelling in

cars or auto rickshaws by let-

ting loose snakes on them at traffic signals, they said. Police recovered two

when a 36-year-old Sadya Wani

The two men had

"The two men set snakes on me and pulled Rs 2,000

## 'Cong gave TN water under DMK pressure'

As the Cauvery river water intensified in Karnataka, the BJP on Monday accused Congress-led-govern-ment in the State of coming under the pressure of the DMK, an ally of the Opposition alliance, for releasing water to Tamil Nadu"without an allparty meet or a direction from

Addressing a press conference here, Union Minister Rajiv Chandrasekhar said during last two months, 50 farmers in the State have committed suicide and 16 districts are facing drought-like conditions"made worse by load shed-

He accused the Deputy-Chief Minister DK Shiv Kumar of allowing release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu "without



tions". Taking a swipe at the Congress, Chandrasekhar said Congress has" a history of responding under the distress conditions?"Why under distress conditions?", he asked."A simple answer is they have eased water under the pressure coming from the DMK, a partner of 'Ghamandia' opposition alliance..", he said.

"To save the coalition, the Congress-government in Karnataka have released the Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu", said the Minister." It is in history that the DMK always pressurized the Congress and the latter responded to that pressure like it did now by releasing the

leader. Chandrasekhar said large parts of Karnataka have been hit by drought and the Congress government's decision to release the water without consultation with other parties will lead to farmers'

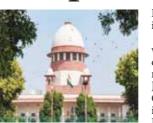
The Congress government in Karnataka is characterised by misgovernance, lack of development and corruption, he charged. Chandrasekhar also slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his claim that China has encroached on Indian territory in Ladakh.

He is an"icon of hypocrisy, the BJP leader said."If there is a government in the history of India which has taken unwavering tough decision on the issue of national security and integrity, it is the one led by Prime Minister Narendra

## Panel on Manipur riots submits 3 reports to SC

Apanel headed by former judge Gital Mittal to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims of violence in Manipur on Monday submitted three reports to the Supreme Court, including one on the need to upgrade the compensation scheme for the strife-torn people of the State. The Supreme Court said it will pass orders on Friday to facilitate functioning of the three-member panel.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the copy of the three reports be given to all lawyers concerned and directed advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for one of the victims, to collate suggestions for the panel. The bench said the Justice Mittal-led committee has filed three reports on issues such as loss of documents and the need for



sation scheme on the lines of the National Legal Services Authority policy.

The reports submitted by the Justice Mittal-led committee shows essential documents need to be re-issued and the Manipur victim compensation scheme needs an upgrade and a nodal administration expert appointed," the bench said.

On August 7, the top court ordered setting up of a committee of three former women high court judges to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims and compensation to them besides asking former Maharashtra police chief itor the probe in criminal cases. The court said the panel

will be submitting reports to it directly. A bench said the committee will be headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Mittal and include Justices (retd) Shalini P Joshi, a former judge of the Bombay High Court, and Asha Menon, an ex-judge of the Delhi High Court. The Bench is hearing

around 10 petitions related to the spiralling violence, including those seeking court-monitored probe into cases, besides measures for relief and rehabilitation. More than 160 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence first broke out in the state on May 3 when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for



Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker CP Joshi at

## Birla voices concern over falling standards of debate in legislatures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE UDAIPUR/NEW DELHI

ok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Lon Monday voiced concern over the falling standards of debate in legislatures and said in only when voters start questioning the conduct of their elected representatives in the

Inaugurating the ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA's) India Region Conference here, Birla also made a strong pitch to embrace digitisation of the proceedings of legislatures to ensure efficiency and transparency."Disruptions, sloganeering and unparliamentary behaviour in legislatures can be curbed only when voters start questioning the conduct of their elected representatives, Birla said.

The inaugural session of the CPA's India Region Conference was attended by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C P Joshi, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, presiding officers of legislative assemblies and councils from across the country and CPA chairman Ian Liddel-Grainger.

Birla observed that constructive and meaningful debates on citizen-centric governance must be at the heart of legislative functioning. He

## EPIC response framework to manage climate change pilot project in Assam

Afirst-of-its kind World Bank supported EPIC Response framework to better manage climate extremes,' is being piloted in flood-prone Assam, along with a new tool developed by Netherlandbased research institute to improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting. The project will benefit around 6 million people and is part of a larger \$500 million WB investment program for Assam.

The framework enables various agencies in the Northeastern State to assess the status of their flood and drought protection programs, identify where collaboration can be enhanced, and track progress over time," said the World Bank in a statement here. With the climate-induced

erratic and unpredictable, bringing extreme rainfall on the one hand and sudden drought on the other.

India's Worryingly, drought-prone area has increased by 57 percent since 19971, while instances of heavy rainfall have risen by almost 85 percent since 2012. This can have far-reaching impacts, affecting several generations. Given the urgency of stay-

ing ahead of the changing climate, the World Bank, with support from Deltares, a Netherlands-based research institute, has put forward the EPIC Response framework (Enable, Plan, Invest, Control) to mitigate the climate threats.

The program seeks to reduce the vulnerability of Assam's people to climate-related disasters and help the state resources in an integrated and sustainable manner.

Chief Bhaskar Das, Technical Officer, Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) pointed out:"The Water Resources Department and the State Disaster Management authorities are working in close coordination and in an integrated manner."

As per experts, while states like Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha - face many common challenges, they have different climatic, economic, and social conditions. In Karnataka, for instance, around 20,000 water bodies have dried up and, in many districts, groundwater is depleting by the day. In Assam, on the other hand, where the mighty Brahmaputra flows, floods,

encroachment of riverine areas are the major challenges, in Bihar where many rivers flow down from the mountains of Nepal carrying large sediment loads, more than 70 percent of the land is flood-prone.

The Netherland firm developed tool is a decision support system that enables various agencies to assess the status of their hydro-climatic risk management systems, identify areas where program components can be strengthened, ascertain where collaboration can be enhanced, and track progress over time. The results can facilitate a policy dialogue to generate a common understanding of their programs' status, as well as the challenges and opportunities for enhancing flood and drought risk management sys-

Malabar series of maritime exer-

cise concluded on the East Coast

ticipation of ships, submarines

and aircraft from the Indian

Navy, Royal Australian Navy

(RAN), Japan Maritime Self

Defence Force (JMSDF) and

profile exercise, Navy officials

said here MALABAR 23 was

conducted in two phases, which

included a harbour phase from

August 11-15 and a sea phase

Giving details of the high-

the US Navy (USN).

from August 16-21.

## SC to lay norms on summoning of Govt officials to courts

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will lay down broad guidelines for courts across the country to deal with the issue of summoning officials in cases involving the government and their officials.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said there must be different set of procedures to deal with contempt proceedings arising out of non-compliance of final judgements and the interim orders passed in pending cases.

In pending cases, the affidavits of officials may serve the purpose and in contempt cases, arising out of non-compliance of court orders, the presence of government officials concerned

may be necessary, the bench said."We will lay down some guidelines for summoning of government officers.

There must be bifurcation of matters pending and the ones in which adjudication is complete. For pending (cases), summoning officers is not needed but once adjudication is complete then contempt steps in," it said.

The court was hearing a case relating to summoning of two government official by the Allahabad High Court for con-

On April 20, the top court had ordered forthwith release of two secretaries of the Uttar Pradesh finance department, who were taken into custody on the orders of the Allahabad High Court in a contempt case. The matter was mentioned for urgent hearing then

by Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government.

He had said an"unprecedented order" was passed by the high court by which the finance secretary and special secretary (finance) have been taken into custody in a contempt matter in a case related to facilities for retired high court judges.

Nataraj had said the high court also issued bailable warrants to the chief secretary of the state in the matter. The Allahabad High Court, on April 4, had said the officers present in the court - Shahid Manzar Abbas Rizvi, Secretary (Finance) UP and Sarayu Prasad Mishra, Special Secretary (Finance) taken into custody and they shall be produced before court for framing of charges.

### said people's representatives must maintain exemplary conduct and etiquette that enhance the prestige and dignity of the House and strengthen faith in legislative institutions.

## NIA makes 4th arrest in ISIS Jabalpur module case

gled more threads in the ISIS Jabalpur module case with the arrest of the fourth accused in the conspiracy to unleash terror in the country." The accused, identified as

Kasif Khan, is a resident of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, and had been inspired and motivated by the ideology of the banned terrorist organisation ISIS to spread mayhem in the country. Khan had been working closely with his three associates, Syed Mamoor Ali, Mohammad Adil Khan and Mohammad Shahid, who were

arrested by the NIA earlier in establishing an Islamic State. May this year. Khan along NIA investigations had The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday with others, was involved in organising Dawah programs to been conducting gullible Muslim youth to work for the ISIS, a transnational militant Islamist group, which has been involved in carrying out major terror attacks across

The NIA had registered the ISIS Jabalpur module case on May 24, 2023 after it learnt that the accused persons were actively disseminating ISIS propaganda through the social media and on-ground Dawah activities."The accused had conspired to carry out violent terror attacks in India on behalf of ISIS with the ultimate aim of

conducting etings/Dars to pian terroi

They had also been engaged in motivating and recruiting youth, procuring deadly weapons, collecting funds and disseminating ISIS propaganda material," the agency said in a statement.

spiracy was being planned and ISIS propaganda was being spread by the accused through various social media platforms." ISIS has been trying to spread its wings across India by establishing localised terror modules," it said.

# The NIA alleged the con-

The Indian Navy was represented by indigenously built Destroyer INS Kolkata, frigate INS Sahyadri and P- 8 I long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft. Other participating units included RAN ships HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane, USS Raphael Peralta, JS Shiranui, along with submarines, fighter aircraft, maritime patrol aircraft and ship-borne helicopters.

While the ships sailed out for the sea phase from Sydney harbour, the Air assets operated from RAAF Amberley Brisbane, where the P-8I Dets involving

Though nearly 9.59 crore LPG connections have been

issued as of March 2023 under

the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala

Yojana (PMUY), high "refill

costs, complex application

process, absence of doorstep

delivery and poor grievance

redressal mechanisms have

proved barriers hindering the

access, adoption and sustained

use of the green fuel among low-

income households in India, a

study supported by the USAID

ject of Cleaner Air and Better

Health (CABH), a consortium

headed by independent think

tank Council on Energy,

Environment and Water. It aims

at identifying the challenges

impeding a shift away from

unclean biomass fuels, guiding

The study is a part of a pro-

has said.

PNS NEW DELHI

maritime exercise ends

27th edition of Malabar

The sea phase of Malabar of Australia off Sydney on drill witnessed complex and surface and undersea domains, weapon firings and cross deck helicopter operations. The joint exercises at sea honed the warfighting skills and enhanced interoperability between the four navies to undertake advanced maritime operations.

The seamless integration of air assets also showcased the exceptional coordination and interoperability between the Indian, Australian and US maritime patrol aircraft units. The exercise not only reaffirmed the ability of the four navies to operate together as an integrated force but also highlighted their shared commitment to maritime security and regional stability through collaborative training and mutual understanding. At the culmination of five days of multifarious exercises, Exercise Malabar vividly showcased the strong cooperation, shared values and the collective ability of the four participating nations to ensure a free, open Indo-Pacific.

## Opp questions BoB withdrawal of auction notice to Sunny Deol

PTI NEW DELHI

Bank of Baroda withdrawing the e-auction notice for the Juhu bungalow of BJP MP Sunny Deol, asking who triggered the"technical reasons" for the withdrawal.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said,"Yesterday afternoon the nation got to know that Bank of Baroda had put up the Juhu residence of BJP MP Sunny Deol for e-auction since he has not paid up Rs 56 crore owed to the Bank. This morning, in less than 24 hours, the nation has got to know that the Bank of Baroda has withdrawn the auction notice due to 'technical reasons'.

"Wonder who triggered these 'technical reasons'?" he said. The Bank of Baroda on Monday said the process is withdrawn due to technical

BRS leader and Telangana state renewable energy development corporation (TSRED- CO) chairman Y Sathish Reddy also reacted the bank's move.

Bank of Baroda issued an auction notice against BJP MP #SunnyDeol's bungalow, alleging non-payment of dues worth Rs55 crore. Astonishingly, the bank promptly retracted the notice, conveniently attributing it to 'Technical Reasons," he tweeted.

In a public notice on Sunday, the state-owned bank had said it would e-auction 'Sunny Villa' in the Juhu area of the city on September 25.

But in a similar notice on Monday, Bank of Baroda said the e-auction notice published on August 20"stands withdrawn due to technical reason".

When contacted, the bank did not offer any reason for the withdrawal of the notice.

While Sunny Deol's team had confirmed the auction notice on Sunday, they said that the amount mentioned was not correct and also mentioned that the actor would be clearing the dues in a day or



The Gurdaspur MP, whose latest movie"Gadar 2" is a box office success having already grossed over Rs 300 crore since the release last week, has been in default on a Rs 55.99 crore loan from the bank and interest and penalty, since December 2022, the second largest state-owned lender said

in a public tender on Sunday.

The actor is officially known as Ajay Singh Dharmendra Deol and has been representing the ruling BJP from the Punjab seat since 2019 when he won the seat with a big margin defeating the then Congress member Sunil Jhakhar.

## ED attaches properties worth ₹3.1 cr in Raj paper leak case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has pro-Enforcement visionally attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs 3.11 crore belonging to accused persons in the paper leak case of Rajasthan on money laundering charges.

The agency attached the properties of Babulal Katara, Suresh Kumar alias Suresh Bishnoi, Suresh Dhaka, Bhupendra Saran, Anil Meena alias Sher Singh Meena and others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on August 18.

The ED initiated investigation under PMLA on the basis of FIRs registered by Raiasthan Police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Suresh Kumar alias Suresh Bishnoi, Suresh Dhaka, Bhupendra Saran and other related per-

The ED said investigation under PMLA revealed that the accused persons leaked the question paper of General Knowledge of Senior Teacher Grade II Competitive Examination, 2022 to be conducted by Rajasthan Public Service Commission on December 21, 2022, December 22, 2022 and December 24 last year at various places in

Investigation further revealed that Babulal Katara, RPSC member leaked the said question paper and sold it to Anil Meena alias Sher Singh Meena who further supplied the said leaked papers to Bhupendra Saran and Suresh Dhaka and other agents, the ED said in a statement. The leaked paper was pro-

vided to candidates for a consideration of Rs 8 to 10 lakh per candidate. The leaked paper was provided to approximately 150 influentia candidates in Udaipur and 30 the State.

candidates in Jaipur, the agency The probe further revealed

that these accused persons are involved in various malpractices such as paper leak racket and setting of dummy candidates in competitive exams among others. Further investigation is under progress, it

#### Searches conducted at multiple locations in school job scam

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted searches at multiple locations in Kolkata and neighbouring areas in connection with its investigation into the school jobs scam.

The premises searched by the agency are an office building in New Alipore and a Bhabanipur apartment linked to Sujoy Krishna Bhadra, who was arrested in connection with the scam, officials said. The building in New Alipore houses the office of a private company connected to an influential political family of

Officials said the agency is looking for some specific documents in connection with a fictitious transfer of funds made through this company. The ED is probing money laundering aspect of scam, in which several education department functionaries and senior TMC leaders were policy interventions and driving behavioral change.

'LPG refill cost, application process barrier for PMUY'

The study examined multiple dimensions, including women's attitudes towards biomass usage, the adoption and sustained use of LPG, perceptions of household air pollution (HAP), and awareness about the health risks linked to HAP. Implemented in 2016, the

PMUY scheme aims to provide LPG connections, a gas stove and a 14.2 kg cylinder to deprived households.

However, it is facing several challenges, with affordability being a major concern as volatile household incomes often collide with the high cost of LPG refills. A significant portion of households, around 41 per cent according to the National Family Health Survey, still rely on solid fuels, primarily due to economic constraints.

Gender norms, systemic factors and a lack of awareness around LPG benefits compound these challenges. Women above the age of 18, who are the primary fuel users, participated in 10 focus group discussions and nine in-depth interviews in the selected regions.

The contrasting states of Jharkhand, where 67.8 percent of households use solid fuel, and Delhi, with only 0.8 per cent of such households, were chosen to provide a comprehensive view of the issue.

One of the central findings is that the ease of access to fuel sources determines the choice of cooking fuel among low-income households.

The study also found that most participants were unfamiliar with the concept of household air pollution, highlighting the need for extensive

awareness campaigns. complexity of the application process and the lack of customer-centric distribution further amplify the challenge. The study noted a heavy reliance on community networks for information dissemination, indicating the need for targeted communication strategies.

"This study will enable us to

frame policies and programs to match the needs of target populations, with a focus on gender inclusion," USAID/India's Environmental Advisor, Soumitri Das, said while Neha Saigal, Head of the Gender and Climate Programme at Asar Social Impact Advisors, was of the view that even though women are at risk of mild to severe health impacts due to the toxic fumes from biomass burn-

ing. they are often unaware of

### group shares inspiring stories PNS NEW DELHI

Army wives

The Army Wives Welfare

Association (AWWA) on Monday organised the second season of Asmita- Inspiring Stories by Army Wives' here. The forum was organised to share inspiring stories of wives of Army personnel who have created a niche for themselves in various fields, with their perseverance and resilience, after overcoming numerous challenges. President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest. The other dignitaries

included Dr Sudesh Ďhankhar, wife of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, Archana Pande, president AWWA was the Chief Host.

## Religious fervour grips Kashi Devotees throng temples to



The long queues of devotees to offer prayer in Kashi Vishwanath Temple on the seventh Monday of auspicious month of Shravan.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The religious fervour gripped this entire city of Lord Shiva on the occasion of seventh Monday as this year, due to 'adhimas' (extra month), the auspicious Shravan is of two months long in which there will be eight Mondays. Amidst tight security arrangements in view of ongoing archaeological survey in Gyanvapi premises on the court's order, lakhs of devotees including thousands of saffron-clad kanwariyas offered jalabhishek as one of the Dwadasa Jyotirlingas Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT). Besides, a good number of devotees also went to Panchkoshi Parikarma Yatra as due to 'adhimas', its religious importance has been increased. A heavy rush of devotees was seen at all the Shiva temples located on Panchkoshi Marg

Karmdeshwar temples, rush of devotees was including Mahadev, Bhim Chandi, Rameshwar Mahadev, Panch Pandava and Kapildhara.

Not only this, the entire city and its outskirts were echoed with the slogans of 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Bol Bom'. Heavy rush of devotees was also seen at Markandey Mahadev Temple located near Mahamritunjya Mahadev (Daranagar), Kedareshwar (Kedar Ghat), Mahadev (Ishwargangi), Omkleshwar Mahadev (Chittanpura), Teel Bhandeshwar (Pandey Haveli), Sarangnath Mahadev (Sarnath)

and many others in the city

areas. Apart from these famous

also seen at Vishwanath temple in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) premises and Shool Tankeshwar Mahadev and scores of all others as the city is famous for having the repli-cas of all the Dwadasa

Ivotirlingas

On this Monday, the devotees saw the shringar of Lord venience to take holy dip as the river is still flowing above the normal level. In view of the heavy rush

elaborate security arrangements were made and no vehicles were allowed to move between Godowlia and Maidagin throughout the day. To maintain law and order, the devotees were checked at many places through metal detectors Senior administrative and police officers were present there to keep watch on the stock of situation in KVC

All the activities were also watched through various CCTV cameras. To avoid congregation the devotees were asked to move towards Gyanvapi only through barricading and Rapid Action Force (RAF), para-military and PAC jawans were deployed both inside and outside of the

#### Varanasi-Ghazipur highway Vishanath in form of Ardhnarishwar at KVT as in about 25 kms from here near the confluence of rivers Ganga the last six Mondays, the and Gomti at Kaithi village Almighty was decorated in apart from all famous Shiva Chal Pratima, Gauri Shankar, including Amrit Varsha, Bhagirathi,

Parvati and Shankar Parvati Ganesh Swaroop (form). Right from the wee hours, there were long lines of devotees from Dashaswamedh ghat via Godowlia side and Maidagin. Though the lever of Ganga started receding but despite this, the devotees faced incon-

# seek blessings of Lord Shiva

he 'Har Har Mahadev' L chant and sounds of bell resonated across the city as thousands of devotees thronged temples to seek blessings of Lord Shiva on the seventh Monday of the auspicious Shravan month.

Due to Naag Panchami on Monday, a sea of devotees was witnessed in the Mankameshwar Temple, Nagwasuki Temple Daraganj and Padila Mahadeo temple at Phaphamau.

Queues that stretched up to several metres were seen around Mankameshwar Temple. Men and women came in large numbers carrying holy water to conduct 'Jal Ábhishek' of Lord Shiva. Temples were decked up with colourful lights and flowers. The devotees waited in long queues since early morning to offer prayers to the deity and sung 'bhajans'. Inside the temples, the fragrance of agarbattis, sandalwood and flowers gave a pious feel. A large number of kanwariyas also gathered at Shiva temples to offer holy water. In the temples devotees poured milk, curd, honey, ghee and bael (bilwa) leaves on shivlings and prayed for the well-being and prosperity of the family. People also offered prasad (sweets) to the deity along with flowers which were later distributed among devotees. "Lord Shiva is the one who removes all hindrances in the way of his devotee's life. During the month of Shravan, we visit temple every Monday," said Shubhra Shukla.



Naresh Tripathi said it is said that Lord Shiva showers blessings on all those who remember him with true heart.

In comparison to the first

Monday, when a sea of saffron clad Kanwariyas and pilgrims flooded the city, the turnout was high on the seventh Monday. The crowd queued up

Pandeshwar Mahadev, Koteshwar Mahadev, Takshakeshwar Mahadev, Sujawan Dev, Rishiyan of Prayagraj, Dashashwamedh

opened on October 19, 1963.

Ghat and Naag Vasuki Temple in Daraganj are also crowded

with devotees. According to the Vedic calendar, Naag Panchami is celebrated every year on the fifth day of the Shukla Paksha of the month of Shrawan. There is importance of worshiping snakes on Naag Panchami. Vasuki Naag is specially worshiped on this day. Bholenath keeps Vasuki Naag wrapped around his neck like a necklace. That's why its importance increases even more when Naag Panchami falls on the day of Lord Shiva's favourite



## **Extensive use of free Wi-Fi service**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The free Wi-Fi service state ed by Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) in 2021 at ¬he free Wi-Fi service startimportant places in the city is being used extensively by the locals. According to the data usage of Wi-Fi in city areas where the facility has been provided by PMC, the service is being used the most at the Prayagraj airport. Following this, at second spot is Beli hospital where due to heavy influx of patients and their attendants, the use of the internet through free Wi-Fi is high.

Ironically, the least use of this Wi-Fi access is at PMC campus itself. The usage of this free Wi-Fi is quite low at SRN that in terms of patients and their attendants, this hospital caters to far more populace as compared to the airport or Beli hospital. The free Wi-Fi service is provided at nine places in the city including Civil Lines bus stand, Swaroop Rani Hospital, Prayagraj Junction, Subhash crossing, Beli Hospital, Kotwali (Chowk), Duffrin hospital (Mahila Chikatsalaya), Municipal Corporation and Prayagraj airport.

According to the data collected by the PMC, around 80 to 100 people are taking advantage of free Wi-Fi daily in and around the airport.

In a less dense areas at airport, data is downloaded from 9000 to 21000 MB while data from 1000 to 3500 MB is being uploaded on a daily basis. Likewise, at Beli Hospital,

which ranks second in free Wi-Fi access, the figure is low as compared to the airport. Here around 20 to 45 people download 3000 to 8000 MB of data and 250 to 1900 MB of data is uploaded at this centre which lies in Allahabad North.

Junior engineer at PMC Ram Saxena says that since there are a lot of taxi owners and drivers who wait for passengers around the airport, the use of the internet is more whereas in the Beli, the caretakers of patients and youth are making full use of the free Wi-Fi. "As soon as the user opens the Wi-Fi, they can spot BSNL and after registering the mobile number, the OTP is generated after which one GB of data can be used by the user", explained Saxena. However, the authorities are now taking steps to make people aware of the facil-

SANCTIONED: The

cost by the PMC.

Central government has sanctioned the doubling of the crucial Prayagraj-Chunar-Chopan rail line that will facilitate ease of travelling and transportation between Sangam city and states Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. The government has allocated Rs 1423.96 crore to the Prayagraj division of North Central Railway (NCR) for this. With the Mughalsarai (presently Deen Dayal Upadhyaya) yard being busy, the Northern Railway (NR) began construction of the Chunar-Chopan section as an alternative route to the Karanpura coalfields. The section from Chunar to Robertsganj-Churk on the main line was opened on July 14, 1954. This was further extended up to Garhwa Road where a bridge was required over Son river just before

General Manager of North Central Railway (NCR) Satish Kumar said at present this line serves the most backward tribal-dominated districts of Uttar Pradesh - Sonbhadra and Mirzapur - which are connected to three states. Through this 2,054 villages, 6,788 square km of area and a population of about 25 lakh get benefit. This rail line serves to link the main route connecting Howrah to Delhi with the energy pocket of the nation. The distance from Singrauli to Chunar via Deendayal Upadhyaya is 230 km while the distance from Singrauli to Chunar via Chopan is only 167 km, which is the shortest route between supplies coal rakes from the

Singrauli belt. The doubling of the Chunar-Chopan section will lead to reduction in travel time as well as additional freight handling and lower logistic cost. Presently five existing power plants, including Meja Urja plant at Meja, the power plant at Deora (Shankargarh), Panki power plant, Harduaganj power plant and NTPC Dadri power plant, use coal transported using this railway line.

Besides, the Chunar-Chopan section is a single line section, currently handling 20 to 22 goods trains and 14 coaching trains per day. The line capacity utilisation of this section is 214 per cent. The traffic on Chunar-Chopan section has increased tremendously and is increasing rapidly after the commissioning of DFCCIL, said Chief Public Relations Officer of NCR, HS

FIVE SUSPENDED: A total of five staff members, including Government Railway Police (GRP) Fatehpur police station in-charge Sahbalal have been suspended for allegedly assaulting and misbehaving with railwaymen. GRP SP Ashtabhuja Prasad Singh has taken this action prima facie considering the GRP staff guilty. The investigation has been handed over to CO GRP Prayagraj. He will investigate the entire matter and submit the report. After that departmental action will be initiated against the culprits. DRM of Prayagraj Division Himanshu Badoni formed two committees to probe the incident which took place in the Bikanerhigh-level inquiry committee

has also been formed. The train number 20404 Bikaner-Prayagraj Superfast Express was coming to Prayagraj. The train reached Kanpur Central railway station around 2 am on August 19. When it left after 5 minutes, GRP Fatehpur station incharge Sahbalal pulled the chain from the AC coach. After this four more people entered the AC coach. When the ticket inspector tried to stop, a dispute ensued between them and the

GRP staff got into a fight. The GRP inspector and his companion allegedly started fighting and manhandling ticket inspectors Rakesh Meena, VK Sharma, Alok Gupta, Santram, Amarnath, who were on duty in the train. Station incharge Sahbalal called the staff of Kanpur police station GRP. After this the ruckus increased and its video also

## Naag Panchami celebrated with traditional gaiety PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS The auspicious occasion of Naag Panchami was cele-

Shiva on Monday with all its traditional gaiety and religious fervour. Heavy rush of devotees was seen at the famous Naag

Kund in Jaitpura area where a

long queue of people was seen. The devotees also offered prayers at a temple there. Similarly, the devotees also offered prayers at Kal Bhairav and other temples. Heavy rush of devotees and saffron-clad kanwariyas was also seen at Dashashwamedh and adjoining ghats and Kashi Vshwanath temple. It was the second continuous day which posed a big challenge to the Water Police and NDRF as despite falling water level, the river Ganga is still flowing above the normal

Right from the early morning, the lanes and localities were echoed with the slogans of ʻbade guruji, chote guruji naag lo bhai naag lo..' as some children were selling pictures of Nag devta and other deities. Bade Guruji is used for Maharshi Panini, while Chote Guruji for Maharshi

Besides, at several places, 'Dangal' (wrestling) contests



Devotees worshipping at Naag Kuwan in Jatipura on the auspicious occasion of Naag Panchami

were organised at a few Akharas where even the female wrestlers could not hesitate in taking part. As Commonwealth Games are going on at Birmingham in the UK these days, enthusiasm was seen among the wrestlers as several budding talents who had brought a lot of laurels to the nation in several international sports events, had learnt the

basics of wrestling at such types of traditional akharas fighting bouts at soil, instead of

Meanwhile, Ayurvedic medicines were distributed to the devotees and kanwariyas by the members of Sanatani Samaj at a free health camp held on the occasion of Naag Panchami at Jain Mandir crossing, Maidagin. On the occasion,

Nadi specialist Dr Dinesh Singh also examined the patients.

The camp was presided over by Apoorva Narayan Tiwari. Among those who were also present were Shubhjit Saha, Bachelal Gaur, Kashinath Tiwari, Chandan Vishwakarma, Rajan Kasera,

Raju Sapera, Dhoorbator and

## **Tributes paid to Bismillah Khan**

VARANASI (PNS): The 17th death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan was observed at his mausoleum on Fatman Road here on Monday. The state president of Congress Party Ajay Rai and other personalities from music and other fields reached the mausoleum to pay their tributes to the shehnai maestro.

The family members of Ustad Bismillah Khan including his eldest daughter Jarina Begum and grandson Ashfaq Hyder Khan were present there. Aafaq presented nauha 'Mara gaya hai teer se bachha rabab', which Khan Saheb liked the most.



The state president of the others from music and other Congress Party Ajay Rai and fields reached the mausoleum

pay their tributes to the shehnai maestro. Paying his tribute to the legend shehnai player Rai said that the personality like Khan Saheb takes birth in thousands of years who was also a saint with the maestro of shehnai.

The convener of the programme organised to pay trib-ute to Khan Saheb Shaqil Ahmed Jadugar urged the government at Centre to run a train in the name of Ustad Bismillah Khan. The mutawalli of mausoleum Abbas Murtaza Shamsi, Shailendra Singh, Pramod Verma and others were present on the occa-

## Body of youth found hanging from tree

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of a youth was found hanging from a tree in an area under Dehat Kotwali police station on Sunday. On Sunday morning the police was informed about the body of a youth hanging from the tree in a guava orchard near Rajpur village. The deceased was identified was as Sanjay Sonkar (28), a resident of Ramnagar under Ramnagar police station, Varanasi. Sadar CO Shailendra Tripathi and Dehat Kotwali SHO also visited the spot. The police informed the family members and took the body into possession. The brother of the deceased expressed apprehension of murder. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Srikant Prajapati said the police will decide the direction of

investigation after getting the

postmortem report.

Chopan. The line was finally

Meanwhile one person died in an area under Kachhawaan police station on Sunday. Suresh Kumar (38), a resident of Godhana village was on the way to his house from cooperative shop carrying fertiliser bag on his head when he fell down in the way. The locals rescued him but he was found dead. On information the police reached the the spot and took the body into possession. SO Kachhawaan police station Ram Swaroop Verma said the cause of the death could be known after the postmortem

COMBING CONDUCT-**ED:** Lalganj Circle Officer (CO) Manjari Rao conducted combing under Halia police station on Sunday. During combing in the jungle area she interacted with people of the

villages adjacent to the jungle,

including Gajaria, Mudpali and others. She appealed to inform the police immediately in case any suspicious activity occurred or things come to the notice. After combing she inspected Halia police station,

issued necessary directions to maintain law and order on the occasion of the forthcoming festivals. She directed the SO and the staff concerned to keep registers and records updated. ILLEGAL VENDORS

CAUGHT: The RPF caught 13 illegal vendors on Sunday. During routine checking sub-inspector Akhilesh Tiwari and his team conducted raids on trains as well as platforms. During checking 13 vendors failed to show the proper papers. According to RPF incharge, Mirzapur unit, Dinesh Kumar, vendors were staff of the canteen located at the railway station but their token had expired. The RPF arrested them for further action, he added. He said in order to provide security to railway passengers the drive will continue in future too.

**COUPLES REUNITE:** Under Project Milan programme six couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre located at Police Lines on Sunday. The said couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and the matter was brought to the police. The police sent the cases to the Family Counselling Centre and after different sittings couple agreed to live together.

Incharge of the centre sub-inspector Shashi Tiwari, constable Pinki Jaiswal and counsellor Dr Krishna Singh and others were present during the www.dailypioneer.com

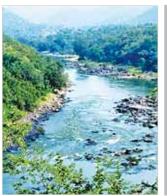
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PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Water wars**

Politicians must keep people first rather than playing with their emotions

t is August and Dravidian politicians are experiencing the customary itches caused by the shortage of water in river Kaveri (written as Cauvery as a tribute to the colonial masters). Originating in Karnataka, the more than 800-km-long river meanders through hills, valleys and plains before joining the Bay of Bengal at Poompuhar in Tamil Nadu. The divine river, which is described as the lifeline of Tamil Nadu's five delta districts (Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore and Nagapattanam), has become an eternal source of worry for farmers and politicians alike in the State. If the southwest monsoon fails, water level in Kaveri shrinks and this causes severe water shortage in these five districts, which form the Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu. If only the upper riparian State of Karnataka gets reasonable rainfall during monsoon, it could release water to Mettur dam in Tamil Nadu which sustains irrigation in the lakhs of hectares of paddy fields in the delta region. The battle for Kaveri waters was resolved by the Supreme Court



and the Kaveri River Water Tribunal which ruled that Karnataka should release 177.25 thousand million cubic ft (TMC ft) to Tamil Nadu in a normal-water year (June-May). Out of this, 123.14 TMC ft water is to be released during June to September, when farming operations are at their peak. But when rains fail, Tamil Nadu politicians get cold and start sneezing. This year (2023-2024 water year), Karnataka has released only 11.6 TMC ft water during June 1 to July 31 against the court-ordered 40.4 TMC ft water. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, who is also the water resources minister, have expressed helplessness in releasing more water as the

State reservoirs are almost empty.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his immediate intervention and make Karnataka release water as per the court directive. Meanwhile, the Kaveri Water Management Authority asked Karnataka to release 10,000 cusecs of water daily for the next 15 days and this has added fuel to fire. The Opposition parties, BJP and the Gowda Janata Dal, have lambasted the Karnataka Government for releasing water to Tamil Nadu as farmers in their districts face severe water shortage. Karnataka Government is caught in a Catch 22 situation. The blame lies with our own political leadership which lacks vision and is incapable of finding out long-term solutions to nagging issues. Tamil Nadu has a 1076-km coastline. It could have set up a series of desalination plants to meet its water requirements instead of rushing to the SC whenever the monsoon fails to shower its anticipated bounty. An interesting point to note is how politicians of yesteryears (those belonging to the genre of K Kamaraj and Raja Gopalachari) resolved the issue. At no point in time did they rush to the media. In fact, Kamaraj used to pick up the phone, make a call to his Karnataka counterpart seeking a portion of the Kaveri waters, which was granted immediately.



Devotees offer prayers at Lord Shiva temple on the occasion of 'Nag Panchami', in Thane

# Independence day #77: Time to ponder



The road to 2047 could be rough. India must take on population growth, poverty, illiteracy, religious bias and gender inequality on priority

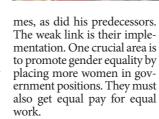
ndia just marked its 77th year of independence on August 15. It is an excellent time to reflect on successes and failures and plan what's ahead. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shared his vision for the country until 2047. His "Azadi ka Amrit Kaal" plan aims to enhance the quality of life for all Indians. Modi's dream is to prepare India to become the world's thirdlargest economy by 2030 and a developed nation by 2047. Amrit Kaal aims to use technology and involve the younger generation to improve the quality of life and reduce government intervention.

The country gained independence on August 15, 1947, a significant historical event. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, delivered his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech on this day in the Central Hall of Parliament. Various Prime Ministers have played a crucial role in shaping India to its current position.

India's freedom fighters made great sacrifices that paved the way for four generations of free Indian citizens. Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister born in independent India, which is noteworthy. The most critical thing was that since 1947, the country has remained united despite predictions of disintegration from Western countries. India has achieved 17 peaceful power transfers as a young nation without hiccups or military coups. The

have actively participated in the democratic process. Even illiterate voters have demonstrated their ability to remove corrupt regimes, as was seen in 1977. During this time, the Janata Party coalition was brought in. Indira Gandhi was removed from power due to her emergency excesses. However, when it was discovered that the Janata coalition was a mixed group, the people voted oack Indira Gandhi in 1980.

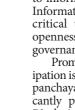
The country has made progress in various sectors. Its economy has gained global recognition, particularly since its liberalization in 1991. Over the past // years, India's democratic institutions have seen both successes and failures. The Modi government has initiated several sche-



Despite women's demand for a 30% reservation of seats in Parliament, male politicians have resisted the idea thus far. Rajya Sabha passed the women's reservation bill in March 2010, but it lapsed in Lok Sabha. New efforts have yet to be made to reintroduce

During his tenth Independence Day address last week, the Prime Minister spoke about India's progress in many areas. He highlighted the importance of three key factors: Democracy, Diversity, and Demography. He noted that 65% of the country's population is young. It is both a boon and a curse. While having more human resources is advantageous, ensuring enough food for such a large population is a worry.

In his tenth Independence Day address from the Red Fort, Prime Minister claimed that the country has progressed in various areas during his regime. Transparency in decision-making is essential



TENTH **INDEPENDENCE** DAY ADDRESS LAST WEEK, PRIME MINISTER SPOKE ABOUT INDIA'S **PROGRESS** 

IN MANY

**DURING HIS** 

for trust between the government and the governed. It can be achieved through access to information. The Right to Information Act (2005) is a critical tool that promotes openness and accessibility in governance. Promoting political partic-

ipation is essential. The village panchayat system has significantly progressed since the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution in 1992. A threetiered approach has decentralized power. Currently, over a million women hold positions as panchayat heads.

Industries like agriculture and dairy farming have seen significant progress, such as the Green and White Revolutions. The country has also made strides in nuclear power, military and information technology, and space exploration. Despite progress in many areas, critical issues remain. Specifically, education, housing, infrastructure, and healthcare need more funding. It is crucial in light of the recent pandemic. We need to build a more resilient healthcare system.

taken to address corruption, a their representatives. fundamental shift could combat this issue. Corruption has deeply rooted itself in all stra-

ta of society. And those who offer and accept bribes must face the consequences. Transparency in political financing is essential, especially with the rising costs of elections. Disclosing all donations to political parties is crucial. Moreover, identifying and addressing any loopholes in

existing laws is vital. To prevent discrimination based on caste, gender, and religion, it's vital to implement affirmative action strictly. Also, there is a demand for quota for the Backward Classes. In India, easing religious tensions is critical to respecting other religions and adopting a philosophy of coexistence. Communal clashes in various parts of the country must be ruthlessly checked.

The road ahead could be rough. The focus must be checking population growth, treating poverty and illiteracy, religious bias and gender inequality. We must address issues like city congestion, environmental degradation, and a pressing energy crisis. For all these, good governance is essential. People must Although steps have been be vigilant while choosing

> (The writer is a popular columnist. The views expressed are personal)

## Tamil Nadu is up in arms against NEET



Tamil Nadu's 40-odd medical colleges have suffered losses because of the abolition of capitation fees due to switching over to the all-India test mode

**《** Boys ride toys. Men ride Royal Enfield," were the catchwords of the legendary bike when it was introduced in the Indian market in the 1950s. Interestingly, the company had set up its assembly plant in a suburb of Chennai. The same Chennai and its Dravidian politicians have given a clarion call to the people of the State to launch an agitation of a different kind and it brought back the seven-decade-old RE battle cry to the mind.

"Let the Dravidians have their fun but leave the people alone" will be the ideal catchword that can sum up the situation in Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister M K Stalin, who is the eternal president of the DMK, has declared that the State would launch an agitation against the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), the all-India screening examination to select students for the undergraduate courses in the country's medical and dental colleges. While the rest of the country is rejoicing over the new mode of the selection process for medical colleges, Tamil Nadu and its DMK have called for a war against NEET. If other was the second largest con-

States opt for the NEET, that's their headache but this selection process is not welcome in Tamil Nadu, says Stalin.

Since public memory is short, the Dravidian politicians, especially the Karunanidhi clan always have their cake and eat it too. It was the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government at the Centre that brought in the concept of NEET to make the admission process to undergraduate medical colleges in the country transparent and studentsfriendly. The K-clan's DMK

stituent of the UPA Government and the party remained tight-lipped when the Central Government went ahead with the implementation of the NEET. Though owners of private medical colleges challenged the NEET, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court junked their plea and asked the Centre to

There was no sign from the K-clan or anybody at that time. The then chief minister J Jayalalithaa wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his succes-

implement it as early as pos-

sor Narendra Modi how Tamil Nadu was thoroughly unprepared for the NEET and sought time to switch over to the new format and this was granted without delay. The AIADMK Government launched ambitious NEET training centres across the State to prepare the students for the screening test. The response was encouraging and the number of students who made it to the MBBS and BDS courses was proof of this initiative. The fact is that TN has

more than 40 medical colleges and the management suffered a big loss because of the abolition of the capitation fee and switching over to the all-India test mode. Each MBBS seat in the management quota commanded a premium of Rs one crore and more as parents from neighbouring Kerala and Andhra Pradesh besides the NRIs made a beeline to Tamil Nadu for admission to the undergraduate courses for their wards. No need to explain who the owners of the med-

ical colleges are. (The writer is a correspondent with the Pioneer. Views *expressed are personal*)

### **NEW AND IMPROVED UPI**

Sir — The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is developing a voice bot system to facilitate UPI payments using voice commands in multiple languages. This advancement holds the potential to enhance accessibility and convenience in digital payments.

Initially available in Hindi and English, the voice bot system will function on both smartphones and feature phones. Its gradual expansion to other Indian languages will further contribute to digital inclusion and wider adoption of digital payments. The benefits of incorporating AI to enable UPI payments through voice commands

It will extend the reach of UPI payments to those who are not accustomed to smartphones or lack internet access. Additionally, the process of making UPI payments will become swifter and more user-friendly, allowing individuals to initiate transactions effortlessly through voice interactions. Furthermore, the voice bot system's ability to verify user identity prior to authorizing payments will enhance the security of UPI transactions. These advantages underscore the potential of AI to elevate the popularity of UPI payments within India.

Alongside the voice bot system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced several other noteworthy features for UPI, including Offline UPI payments utilizing NFC technology via UPI Lite, and an elevation of the per transaction limit for UPI Lite to Rs 500 from Rs 200 in offline mode. These enhancements collectively aim to expedite UPI payments, bolster reliability, and promote contactless transactions for smaller-value and transit-related pay-

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

#### **CONDOLENCES TO THE MARTYRS**

Sir — Heartfelt condolences to the families of the soldiers who tragically lost their lives in the recent accident in Ladakh. The loss of nine brave soldiers is a painful

### Flash Floods



\_lash floods during this year's monsoon season have caused unprecedented damage to both lives and assets in Himachal Pradesh. The death toll in rain-battered Himachal Pradesh rose to 73. According to the state emergency operation center, a total of 214 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state since the onset of the monsoon on June 24. Incidentally, the rainfall recorded in the state this July broke all records

for the month in the last 50 years.

Although climate change is expected to have played a role in causing the high precipitation leading to these flash floods, human-induced disasters (changes in the way dams are being built, shifts in crop patterns, and a rush of tourism) resulting from planned development have played a significant role in causing such colossal losses. Some are blindly explaining the situations as the wrath of supernatural powers. Let us try to rationalize our thoughts and regulate our lifestyles so that we don't destroy nature recklessly. Let nature remain pristine and grow without the mindless interventions of the so-called modern mankind. Otherwise, our days are almost numbered: we could witness the catastrophic disas-

Hindu God nor Allah can save us from this. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

ter "The Doomsday" of the great universe. No

to safeguard our nation's security. Home Minister Amit Shah's assurance that the entire nation stands with the bereaved families is a sentiment that resonates with every

Such accidents serve as stark reminders of the challenges faced by our soldiers, who work tirelessly in demanding environments to protect our borders. As a society, it is our duty to honor the sacrifices of these soldiers and offer unwavering support to their families during this difficult time. The bravery and dedication exhibited by these individuals underscore the importance of recognizing their service beyond just words of sympathy. We must continually strive to ensure that our armed forces are equipped with the best resources and infrastructure to prevent such tragedies.

Md Maimul Safui | Howrah

#### AAP TO FIGHT SOLO IN CHHATTISGARH

Sir — Paradoxically, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), despite being a co-constituent in the Congress-led INDIA Alliance, is going to contest the upcoming Assembly elecreminder of the risks our armed forces take tions in Congress' stronghold Chhattisgarh

all by itself, much to the BJP's glee and the grand old party's chagrin. Interestingly, in 2018, the AAP fielded as many as 85 candidates for the total 90 constituencies in the state, but none of them could even save their deposits

This is despite the fact that Congress earlier announced that it would contest all seventy Parliamentary seats in Delhi but later retreated. Hence, the AAP's foray into Chhattisgarh has put the Congress on tenterhooks, as the former has fallen back on the latter's plank of 'freebies,' on which the Congress won 68 seats and formed the government in Chhattisgarh on its own. On the face of it, this new development, stirring a 'war of words' between the INDIA partners, has come across as a body blow for the purported 'INDIA Alliance,' ahead of its next meeting scheduled for August 31 and September 1 in Mumbai. One can only wait and watch the way this INDIA

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **BREATH IS A BLESSING!**

Since energy is always in motion, change is a constant in our lives!



 $W^{\text{hat is the very first act we do upon being born? No rocket science} \\ \text{here, we inhale! Our very last act is to exhale. All spiritual and yogic} \\$ masters have at length deliberated on the subject. Yet we need to develop the habit of being mindful of our breathing patterns. From our first breath on, every minute of our lives, we continue to breathe, taking this miraculous ability for granted because our body's autonomous system does the job so masterfully - and yet, we can control the breath and in doing so change our state of being. There are innumerable bonuses to be had by practising conscious breathing or the ability to observe the breath, not necessarily control it.

We barely use thirty per cent of our lung capacity. Through mindful breathing, we can also expel ninety per cent of toxins. Several programs are being conducted by the faculty of the Art of Living under the guidance of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar from which individuals can learn and appreciate the magical, therapeutic prowess of pranayama and Kriya.

We can undertake pain management through proper breathing techniques. If a certain part of the body is aching, one can draw all attention to that part and observe the breath. This coupled with Mudra Pranayama works as a tonic in mitigating the pain. "As a fire blaze brightly when the covering of ash over it is scattered by the wind, the divine fire within the body shines in all its majesty when the ashes of desire are scattered by the practice of pranayama," wrote the Yogic Guru Shri B.K.S Iyengar.

The human mind keeps oscillating between the past and the future, never remaining in the present. Willy-nilly this results in emotional upheaval in our system. The mind can be brought to the present moment through the unfailing practice of the rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar says, "Mind is like the kite and the breath is



We can practice meditation by beginning with Nadi Shodan pranayama (alternate nostril breathing). This relaxes the body, muscles and nerves and we seamlessly slip into meditation. Meditation is an act of de-concentration where we strive to embrace all thoughts, never resisting any thought or emotion. The reality in life is that whatever we resist persists. Meditation eventually leads to mental sharpness and clarity and increased levels of concentration.

Human minds are cannonaded by innumerable thoughts. This leads to a state of perennial mental chatter. For a moment let us draw our attention to animals chewing cud, the process of regurgitation. This is exactly how we humans keep feeding on our negative thoughts and fears, reliving them every moment. Through mindful breathing we can arrest this tendency and reduce the mental chatter, bringing our minds to the present moment. Profound silence dawns on us through mindful breathing and over a period negative thoughts and fears in the mind dissolve, as we learn to be in the present moment, connecting to our inner self; living in harmony with our environment and our existence

Spiritually, conscious breathing helps to remind us that energy is constantly moving. As Einstein famously said, "Nothing happens until something moves." Well, since energy is always in motion (vibration), then change is a constant in our lives! This is a truth that cannot be ignored. Let us all practice mindful breathing from this very instant!

(Ravi Valluri is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. and is a faculty of the Art of Living)

# Punjab's industry must break free from the past



Punjab needs to rectify the errors of the previous industrial policy to become self sustained engine of growth and become a hub of industrial production



may sound a bit rich that the Punjab Industrial and Business Development Policy-2022, aims to transform the state-industrial sector as an export hub. Unfortunately, notification no.4888 dated 17th October 2018, under the Punjab Industrial and Business Development Policy 2017, which excluded hundreds of industries having Inverted Duty Tax Structures and Export-Oriented Units from incentives on Fixed Capital Investment(FCI), has been repeated and presented as an annexure-A with clause no.12.26 in the new industrial policy also. Thus the whole exercise to frame and notity the new industrial policy dilutes the purpose of fetching new investment in the state, which needs to be revisited and the error to be corrected in the said clause of the new industrial policy. The repeated error of the previous policy once again has been embodied in the new industrial policy stating that the incentive shall exclude any refunds entitled to be obtained by the taxpayer for any reason including on exports, or deemed exports. It narrates that any refund from the central government is to be adjusted against the payment of state incentives, which principally deprived the right of industry's falls under the Inverted Duty Tax structure under which the excessive amounts of tax are being paid on inputs and the same is refundable legally, therefore it is not justified to adjust the central government refund against the payment of Suppose any industry that pays 18 %

GST on input raw material and is liable to pay 12 % GST on the final product, falls under Inverted Duty Tax Structures and is entitled to avail of the input tax credit from



THERE IS A NEED TO RE-**ENGINEER THE** PROCESSES OF CORE **DEPARTMENTS** LIKE PUNJAB **INDUSTRIES &** COMMERCE, TAXATION AND **FINANCE** DEPARTMENT

(The author is Vice-Chairman Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Chairman of ASSOCHAM

Northern Region Development Council)

the central government. The Export-Oriented Units are also entitled to a full refund of input GST from the central government and are being deprived of the state incentives because of the operation of this corrosive clause. The big question is how a state government can restrict incentives to industries having an inverted tax structure and export-oriented units entitled to get refunds. This clause does not permit to not even a single unit in Puniab covered under an inverted duty structure to get an incentive on FCI. Hence, the Punjab government can not exclude these particular industries from incentives.

Against notification no.4888 dated 17th October 2018 under the previous industrial policy, which is now hurting as Annexure-A with clause no.12.26 in the new policy, earlier the industries forwarded a representation to the Chief Minister on 21st January 2021. While an interface to this representation, the Policy Implementation Unit of the Department of Industries and Commerce forwarded memo no.7736-7737 on 23rd April 2021, to the taxation commissioner and GMs of the District Industries Centre(DIC). In this memo, the department admitted the error in the said notification no.4888 and agreed to work out the minimal 2.5 % incentive on the FCI to the industries having an inverted duty tax structure and export-oriented units.

Instead of revisiting and correct-

previous policy as well as the same being carried out in the new industrial policy also excludes incentives to the industries. Since 2018, hundreds of applications have still been pending to avail incentives under the previous as well as new industrial policy. Finally, the concerned accountable officials should understand that repeated error in policies never meets the purpose for the public good as well as for the economy. To make the Punjab Industrial and Business Development Policy-22, a big success, Uniet Minister Bhagwant Mann had made all the right noises about creating a conducive environment for the industry but needs to back it with prompt interventions on due incentives to the industries. However, before framing the new industrial policy the concerned officials organised various meetings of the Chief Minister with stakeholders to incorporate their feedback. Despite all the exercises the differentiator is missing in the policy because the senior officials are adopting a lackadaisical approach towards the industries that's why the error is repeated again and again.

ing the unjustified objections in the

To strengthen and make an accountable and time-bound incentive system there is a need to reengineer the processes of core departments like Punjab Industries & Commerce, Taxation and Finance Department. On priority, it is needed to make the incentives extreme-

ly simple and industry-friendly and to minimise the complex riders at all levels of processing. Denial or delay in incentives could affect competition and consequently constrain economic growth.

At its current scale of operations, the Industry and Commerce Department integrated window system and unified regulator should be effectively applicable to incentives for all upcoming investment projects and existing industrial units in the state. Therefore, the officials should perform their intended roles effectively to meet the states emerg ing economic challenges and expec-

#### THE WAY FORWARD:

There is a pressing need for the Department of Industries and Commerce, Taxation and Finance department to revisit Annexure- A, having clause no 12.26 in the new industrial policy and correct the admitted error to work out the minimal 2.5 % incentive to industries having inverted duty tax structure and export-oriented units on fixed capital investment under the previous and new industrial policy.

At various levels, Punjab Industrial and Business Development Policy 2022, needs to envisage a simplified, time-bound and technology-driven incentives approval with the minimal human interface with due diligence to nurture a competitive industrial ecosystem in the

## A student's guide to effective learning habits

Effective communication is the foundation of successful teamwork and leadership that builds confidence and enables a person to reach reach his goals

**¬**he transition from the structured environment of a classroom to the dynamic world of cubicles marks a significant milestone in a student's life. As the chapter of formal education closes and the door to the professional realm opens, young minds face an exciting yet daunting journey ahead. Having gone through the same journey, I can emphasize the importance of cultivating effective learning habits early on. It contains transformative potential during this transition and lays the groundwork for success during this critical phase.

The traditional education model imparts a wealth of knowledge, honed cognitive abilities, and prepares students academically. As students move to cubicles, board-



HORMAZD MISTRY

(The writer is CEO of ROI

*Institute India)* 

rooms, and co-working spaces, they encounter new challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities. To thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of the modern workplace, students must embrace a holistic approach to learning that encompasses both intellectual prowess and an array of soft skills that foster personal and professional growth.

Be a Lifelong Learner: Learning doesn't end with graduation; it is a lifelong journey. In this ever-evolving world, embracing continuous learning is critical to stay relevant and competitive. Organizations value employees who demonstrate a commitment to personal and professional development. Continuous learning involves staying updated with industry trends,

technology advancements, and market shifts. Students should keep an eye on the evolving landscape of their desired fields, staying informed through blogs, industry publications, and professional

forums. Master Time Management: Time management is the cornerstone of success. From meeting deadlines for assignments to delivering projects at work, effective time management is crucial. Learning to manage time efficiently involves understanding one's strengths and weaknesses in time management. For students, tracking time spent on various activities will be beneficial in identifying areas where they can improve. Start by setting clear goals and breaking them down into

actionable tasks.

Critical Enhance Thinking Skills: The ability to think critically is highly prized in the workplace. Critical thinking involves analyzing information, questioning assumptions, and making wellinformed decisions. To foster critical thinking, one should seek courses that allow openended discussions and exploration of complex issues. Participating in case studies, debates, and research projects enhances critical thinking abil-

Adaptability and Flexibility: In today's rapidly evolving job market, adaptability is essential. To develop adaptability, students can seek experiences outside their comfort zones. Engaging in intern-

studying abroad exposes individuals to diverse situations and cultures, promoting adaptability. Moreover, the willingness to learn from failures and embrace change as a chance for growth will make the journey from student life to the corporate world more reward-

**Nurture Emotional Intel**ligence: Emotional intelligence (EI) is recognizing and managing emotions in oneself and others. In the workplace, EI plays a vital role in building relationships, resolving conflicts, and fostering a positive work culture. Mastering emotional intelligence will set you apart as an effective team player and leader. Students should focus on developing self-awareness, empathy, and

cultivate emotional intelligence, students can actively engage in activities that enhance self-awareness and empathy. Engaging in mindfulness practices, reflection exercises, and seeking feedback from peers can contribute to personal growth and emo-

tional intelligence. **Embrace Collaboration** and Networking: Collaboration is an essential skill in the modern workplace. Networking can open doors to job opportunities, mentorship, and insights into various industries. As a student, actively participate in group projects, teambased assignments, and extracurricular activities to enhance your collaborative abilities. Moreover, networking events, career fairs, and indusships, volunteer work, or strong interpersonal skills. To try conferences can help build

meaningful connections.

Refine Communication Skills: Effective communication is the foundation of successful teamwork and leadership. Students can seek courses or workshops on public speaking, writing, and effective communication. Hone your written and verbal communication skills by regularly engaging in presentations, public speaking, and writing assignments. In the corporate world, clarity and articulation are vital for conveying ideas, building rapport with colleagues and clients, and facilitating effective teamwork. Engaging in extracurricular activities such as debate clubs, public speaking clubs, or journalism can provide opportunities for the practical application of communication skills.

## Baby killer nurse sentenced to whole-life term in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

Nurse Lucy Letby was on Monday sentenced to a whole-life term by a UK court for killing seven babies and attempting to murder at least six others while working at a hospital in northern England.

Justice James Goss removed any early release provisions from the whole-life sentence order, saying the exceptionally serious nature of her crimes meant that the 33year-old will spend the rest of her life behind bars.

Letby was last week found guilty of the murder of seven newborn babies and also found guilty of seven counts of attempted murder relating to

ing remarks, Justice Goss said the nurse had acted in "gross breach of trust" and with "premeditation, calculation and cunning" as he handed down the tough custodial sentence at Manchester Crown Court. "You acted in a way that

he pioneer

was completely contrary to the normal human instincts of nurturing and caring for babies and in gross breach of the trust that all citizens place in those who work in the medical and caring professions," said Justice

Goss.
"The babies you harmed were born prematurely and some were at risk of not surviving but in each case you deliberately harmed them, intending



to kill them," he said.

On Friday, a jury at the same court had handed down a guilty verdict at the end of a 10-month trial, following which Indian-origin consultant paediatrician Dr Ravi Jayaram spoke out about the alarms he and his colleagues had raised at the Countess of Chester Hospital – where the nurse 2015 and 2016 at its neonatal

"I do genuinely believe that there are four or five babies who could be going to school now who aren't," Dr Jayaram said after the verdict. Letby enhanced the

anguish of the parents whose babies were murdered or attacked by refusing to attend her sentencing hearing.British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak condemned the nurse as "cowardly" for this, adding that his government is looking at changing the law to compel guilty criminals to face their victims after being found guilty."I think, like everyone reading about this, it's just

shocking and harrowing. Now, I think it's cowardly that people who commit such horrendous crimes do not face their victims and hear first-hand the impact that their crimes have had on them and their families and loved ones," said Sunak."We are looking and have been at changing the law to make sure that that happens, and that's something that we'll bring forward in due course,"

The murder trial heard how Letby deliberately injected babies with air, force fed others milk and poisoned two of the infants with insulin. Many of the parents impacted by her crimes addressed the court with their victim impact statements ahead of the sentencing, with tearful mothers speaking of their trauma at discovering how their babies suffered as they breathed their last.

The judge noted that the nurse, now convicted as one of Britain's worst serial killers in history and only the fourth woman to be handed a wholelife term, "relished" being in the intensive care unit where she took an interest in "uncommon" complications and targeted twins and triplets. The impact of your crimes

has been immense... Loving parents have been robbed of their cherished children. You have caused deep psychological trauma," said Justice Goss.

'There was a malevolence

bordering on sadism in your actions. During the course of this trial you have coldly denied any responsibility for your wrongdoing. You have no remorse. There are no mitigating factors," he said, explaining the factors that determined her tough sentence without any prospect of parole.

The UK's Prosecution Service (CPS), which was able to prove the case against Letby after months of intense evidence gathering, expressed relief that the nurse had finally been brought to justice."My thoughts remain with the families of the victims who have demonstrated enormous strength in the face of extraordinary suffering. I hope that the had long eluded them," said Senior Crown Prosecutor Pascale Jones."These were tiny, vulnerable newborn babies that she should have been caring for. She will never leave prison," added Cheshire Police, which led the murder investigation.

Meanwhile, a senior manager in charge of nursing when Letby murdered and seriously injured babies in her care has been suspended from her current role.

Alison Kelly, serving as nursing director at the Northern Care Alliance until recently, has now been suspended "in light of information" that emerged during the Letby trial.

## **New faces in Cambodia's parl**

ambodia's king congratu-Clated the country's new lawmakers on Monday, urging them in his traditional speech to the National Assembly on its first day following elections to promote economic growth and equality. The Cambodian People's Party under longtime authoritarian Prime Minister Hun Sen won a landslide victory in elections last month, taking 120 of 125 seats in the lower house of Parliament after successfully stifling all credible opposition.

The new government is undergoing a generational change, however, as Hun Sen hands off the premiership to his eldest son, Hun Manet, and many key Cabinet ministers are being replaced — most also by the children or relatives

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni, center, greets upon the arrival in front of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Monday

of incumbents.In Hun Sen's symbolic figurehead, told lawnearly four decades in power, Cambodia saw a dramatic increase in its standard of living, though the gap between the wealthy and poor has increased.King Norodom Assembly members, as represidamoni, Cambodia's largely sentatives of all Cambodians,

Indiabulis Housing Finance Limited

Authorized office

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX- IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")

the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 PM, to 04.00 PM, for recovery of Rs. 13,17,045/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Seventeen Thousand Forty Five only)

res. 13,17,049. (Rupees infrieen Lakn Seventeen Indusand Forty Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00400056, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from VIRENDER RAWAT, VANDANA RAWAT and HARISH

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,80,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,08,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eight Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. D 405 - A, FIRST FLOOR, GDA FLAT, BLOCK - D, SECTOR - 4, LAJPAT NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH – 201010.

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

APPENDIX- IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"),

the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 20,55,371/-

(Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00356457, by way of outstanding

principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023 with

applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AABID ABBASI and SALMAABBASI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,30,000/-

(Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserv

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. - S2, SECOND FLOOR, REAR LEFT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. C1/81, DLF

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

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 17 08 2023

Place : GHAZIABAD

makers he hoped the next five years would see continued economic growth, as well as increased social protections for the country's people."National

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAND ADMEASURING 1.84375 ACRES SITUATED

IN VILLAGE GADAULI/GADOLI KALAN TEHSIL

AND DISTRICT GURUGRAM, HARYANA, located

at Khewat No. 122 Khata/Khatuni No. 128.

Khasra No. 144/2 (Total 57 Biswa 40 Biswansi)

Be it known to all that M/s Signatureglobal Business Park Private Limited

(CIN-U70109DL2019PTC346164) is the owner

of the Land who has represented that Land is

free from all sorts of encumbrances (registered

or un-registered) including but not limited to sale, gift, mortgage, charge, lien, claims,

Any other person(s) having any claim against

into or upon the Land or any part thereof by

virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement,

contract, mortgage, lien, charge etc. or

otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby required to notify the same in

writing along with supporting documentary

evidence to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen)

days, from the date of publication of this

notice, failing which any claim and/or

biection, if any, shall be considered as waived

and abandoned and shall not be binding upon

Chambers of Soham Kumar

E-4. 2nd floor, Defence Colony,

Email: info@chambersofsohamkumar.com;

Tel: +91 124 466279.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

LAND ADMEASURING 1.8986

ACRES SITUATED IN VILLAGE

GADAULI KALAN SUB TEHSIL

located at:

KADIPUR DISTRICT GURUGRAM,

HARYANA, HB NO. 49, SECTOR 37D

Khewat No. 83 (1/12) Khata/Khatuni No. 87

Khewat No. 79 (1/12) Khata/Khatuni No. 83

(iii) Khewat No. 83 (2/15) Khata/Khatuni No. 87

(iv) Khewat No. 79 (2/15) Khata/Khatuni No. 83

Khewat No. 83 (1/12) Khata/Khatuni No. 87 Khasra No. 221 (2-15-0) (4 Biswa 12

(vi) Khewat No. 79 (1/12) Khata/Khatuni No. 83

(vii) Khewat No. 83 (2/15) Khata/Khatuni No. 87

Biswansi); (viii) Khewat No. 79 (2/15) Khata/Khatuni No. 83

Be it known to all that M/s Signatureglobal

virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement,

contract, mortgage, lien, charge etc. or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever

nature is hereby required to notify the same in

writing along with supporting documentary

evidence to the undersigned within 15

(fifteen) days, from the date of publication of

this notice, failing which any claim and/or

objection, if any, shall be considered as

waived and abandoned and shall not be

**Chambers of Soham Kumar** 

binding upon the above owners of the land.

(CIN-U70109DL2019PTC346164)

Park Private

Limited

is the

Khasra No. 221 (2-15-0) (7 Biswa 7

Khasra No. 130 (4-5-0) (11 Biswa 7

[hereafter 'LAND']

Business

Khasra No. 130 (4-5-0) (7 Biswa 1

Khasra No. 221 (2-15-0) (7 Biswa 7

Khasra No. 130 (4-5-0) (11 Biswa 7

Khasra No. 221 (2-15-0) (4 Biswa 12

Khasra No. 130 (4-5-0) (7 Biswa 2

the above owners of the land.

Limited

[hereafter 'LAND']

disputes etc.

ensure people live equally regardless of religious belief or education, and obtain employment equal to their abilities and education," he said.

Later Monday, the king and two Buddhist monks are to preside over the official swearing-in of the new lawmakers. Hun Manet and his Cabinet are to be sworn in on Tuesday. Despite handing the prime minister's job to his son, 71-year-old Hun Sen is expected to retain a large amount of control as president of the Cambodian People's Party and as the Senate president.

He has said that relinquishing the premiership "is not the end yet" for him, and that he would serve in other positions at least until 2033, which would bring him to a half-century in office.

### 'Saudi border guards killed many Ethiopian migrants'

Dubai (AP): Border guards in

Saudi Arabia have fired machine guns and launched mortars at Ethiopians trying to cross into the kingdom from Yemen, likely killing hundreds of the unarmed migrants in recent years, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Monday. The rights group cited eyewitness reports of attacks by troops and images that showed dead bodies and burial sites on migrant routes, saying the death toll could even be "possibly thousands." The questioned Saudi Arabia about its troops opening fire on the migrants in an escalating pattern of attacks along its southern border with war-torn Yemen. A Saudi government official, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak publicly, called the Human Rights Watch report "unfounded and not based on reliable sources," without offering evidence to support the assertion. Yemen's Houthi rebels, who allegedly make tens of thousands of dollars a week smuggling migrants over the border, did not respond to requests for comment. Some 750,000 Ethiopians live in Saudi Arabia, with as many as 450,000 likely having entered the kingdom without authorisation, according to 2022 statistics from the International Organisation for

## Zelenskyy thanks Denmark for pledging to send F-16s

**AP** COPENHAGEN

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy President thanked Danish lawmakers on Monday for helping his country resist Russia's invasion, a day after Denmark and the Netherlands announced they will provide Kyiv with American-made F-16 warplanes that could be delivered around the end of the year.Zelenskyy told the lawmakers that if Russia's invasion is successful, other parts of Europe would be at risk from the Kremlin's military aggression."All of Russia's neighbours are under threat if Ukraine does not prevail," he said in a speech in Copenhagen.

Zelenskyy portrays Ukraine as defending Western values of freedom and democracy against tyranny. He has argued that Úkraine needs to be properly provisioned to fend off Ŕussia's much bigger force.Ukraine has been pressing its Western allies for months to give it F-16s. Its ed. However,



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen sit in a F-16 fighter jet at Skrydstrup Airbase, in Vojens, Denmark

armed forces are still using aging Soviet-era combat planes from the 1970s and 80s, and its counteroffensive against Russian positions is advancing without air support, which analysts say is a major handicap. Zelenskyy said on Telegram that Ukraine would get 42 jets. Denmark pledged 19 F-16s, which could be delivered around the end of the year when pilot training lasting four to six months is complet-

Ukrainian squadrons battleready could take much longer. US Air Force Gen. James Hecker, commander of US air forces in Europe and Africa, said last week that he did not expect the F-16s to be a game-changer for Ukraine. Getting F-16 squadrons ready for battle could take "four or five years," he said. While some training has already begun for Ukrainian pilots, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Sunday it's just lan-

### NZ launches probe into exploitation of workers from India, Bangladesh

Wellington (PTI): The New Zealand government has launched a comprehensive probe into the alleged case of exploitation of 115 Indian and Bangladeshi nationals who arrived in the country with the promise of employment that did not materialise.

These individuals were accommodated in properties that were not fit to house so many people. The conditions of the accommodation were unhygienic, unsanitary, and inappropriate, New Zealand Immigration said in a press

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has commenced an 'in-depth and comprehensive investigation" into the case, it said last week.

"Our investigators have spoken with 115 Indian and Bangladeshi nationals who arrived in New Zealand on Accredited Employment Work Visas (AEWV) with the promise of employment when they arrived.

## Kim watches cruise missile launches as US, S Korean troops begin annual drills

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the testfiring of strategic cruise mis-Monday, as the US and South Korean militaries kicked off major annual drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal

The North's report on missile tests came three days after the leaders of the U.S., South Korea and Japan held their first stand-alone trilateral summit and agreed to increase their cooperation on their ballistic missile defenses to counter North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

During an inspection of a navy flotilla on an unspecified date, Kim boarded a patrol ship to review its weapons and preparations for combat, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. It said Kim later watched the ship's seamen conduct a drill of launching "strategic" cruise missiles, a word implying the weapons were developed to



This undated photo provided on Monday, by the North Korean government, shows what it says the test-firing of strategic cruise missiles. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government.

carry nuclear warheads.

A state media photo showed him watching a soaring missile from the patrol ship from another place, not on the vessel. KCNA said the missiles hit designated targets without any errors, demonstrating the ship's readiness and attack capability.

Kim said he would bolster efforts to build powerful war-

ships and modernize shipboard and underwater weapons systems for the North's navy. He called for the country's sailors to build "overwhelming ideological and spiritual strength," saying that is more important than numerical or technical superiority of weapons, according to KCNA.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement

Protests rock southern Syria

North Korea's report on its cruise missile tests contained "an exaggeration" and was "not consistent with the facts." It said South Korea's military will on its capacity to overwhelmingly defeat potential North Korean provocations.

"North Korea's naval cruise missile may appear technologically behind but is still a real threat," Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said. "The latest test shows Pyongyang's intention of attacking South Korea from many angles if it believes the Kim regime is at risk."

Launches from North Korea's huge stockpile of ballistic missiles are prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions. Its cruise missile tests aren't banned, but they still pose a threat because they fly at a lower altitude to avoid radar detection.

Analysts say North Korea aims to use cruise missiles to strike incoming US warships and aircraft carriers in the event of conflict.

### **Guatemala elects Arevalo as prez**

**AP** ■ GUATEMALA CITY

Migration.

A progressive from outside Guatemala's power structure was resoundingly elected the country's next president on Sunday in a reprimand to the governing elite over widespread allegations of corruption. Despite preliminary results showing a potential landslide for anti-corruption crusader Bernardo Arevalo, the attention immediately turned to whether he would be allowed to assume power as the current administration attempts to suspend his party's legal status. With more than 99 per cent of votes counted, preliminary results gave Arevalo 58 per cent of the vote to 37 per cent for former first lady Sandra Torres in her third bid for the presidency.

The official results will still



"We know that there is a political persecution underway that is being carried out through the institutions and prosecutor's offices and judges that have been corruptly coopted," Arevalo said on Sunday night.

"We want to think that the force of this victory is going to make it clear that there is no place for the attempts to derail the electoral process. woes for others. The US dollar

### as economy crumbles **AP** ■ BEIRUT has strengthened from 7,000

Protests spread Monday in two government-held provinces in southern Syria amid widespread anger over increasing prices, the crash of the Syrian pound and the dwindling purchasing power of many people in the war-torn country, opposition activists said. The rare protests are still limited to southern Syria and are far from government strongholds along the Mediterranean coast, the capital Damascus and the largest cities, including Aleppo and Homs.

The protests came a week after Syrian President Bashar Assad issued two decrees doubling public sector wages and pensions, sparking inflation and compounding economic

Syrian pounds at the beginning of 2023 to 15,000 now. At the onset of Syria's uprising turnedcivil war in 2011, the dollar was trading at 47 pounds.

The protests were concentrated in the southern city of Sweida, home to the country's Druze minority, and the nearby province of Daraa, often considered the birthplace of Syria's uprising 13 years ago.

Sporadic protests in Sweida against the government and corruption have intensified and turned violent, while Daraa, back under government control since 2018, has experienced high crime and clashes between militias.

There was no immediate comment Tuesday from the government about the second day of protests in Sweida and

Daraa. On Sunday, the progovernment Sham FM radio station reported that final exams at branches of Damascus University in Sweida were postponed until further notice because some students could not reach campuses because of road closures. Assad's decision to hike

wages and pensions comes as the cash-strapped government continues to restructure an expensive subsidy program for fuel, gasoline and wheat for bread. Soon after the decision, public transport and fuel fares increased. The economy has already

been struggling after years of conflict, corruption and mismanagement, and Western-led sanctions on the government over accusations of war crimes and involvement in the illicit narcotics trade.

EAST : PLOT NUMBER C-1/98, NORTH: ROAD 30 FEET, WEST : PLOT NUMBER C-1/100 SOUTH : OTHER'S PLOT, For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsho

#### APPENDIX- IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation an

DILSHAD EXTN II, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201002

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as its where is", as is what is "and "whatever of there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 24,56,681/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty One only) i.e. Rs. 15,58,957/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00210364; and Rs. 8,97,724/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHEDCP00210362, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRAHLAD VISHWAKARMA and APARNA VISHWAKARMA.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,60,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,06,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Six Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. G-4, GROUND FLOOR, REAR SIDE

MIDDLE (LIG WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) COMPRISED IN 1 BEDROOM, DRAWING ROOM CUM DINING ROOM, 1 KITCHEN, TOILET AND BALCONY HAVING SUPER COVERED AREA OF 400 SQUARE FEET I. E. 37.16 SQUARE METER BUILT ON PLOT NUMBER C - 1/99 SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY DLF DILSHAD EXT. - 2. VILLAGE BRAHMPUR URF BHOPURA, PARGANA LON TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAR PRADESH TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE UNDIVIDED RIGHTS AND SHARE IN THE LAND UNDERNEATH. THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in Authorized office Date: 17.08.2023 Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

E-4, 2nd floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024 Email: info@chambersofsohamkumar.com Tel: +91 124 466279.

developer of the Land who has represented that Land is free from all sorts of encumbrances (registered or un-registered) including but not limited to sale, gift, mortgage, charge, lien, claims, disputes etc. Any other person(s) having any claim against, into or upon the Land or any part thereof by

## Pak court to take up Imran's plea against conviction today

 $T^{\text{he Islamabad High Court}}_{\text{will take up on Tuesday a}}$  petition filed by Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Ímran Khan against his conviction and sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case, a verdict that could be crucial for his political future as well for his party ahead of general elections.

Judge Humayun Dilawar of the Islamabad-based sessions court on August 5 found the 70-year-old chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party guilty of corrupt practices and sentenced him to three years in jail in the case.

The Toshakhana case was filed in October 2022 by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which had earlier disqualified Khan for

Khan was arrested from Lahore on the same day he was convicted and transported to Attock city and lodged in its district jail.

The former premier challenged his conviction in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) which accepted the petition and fixed August 22 for a hearing. A division bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, will take **TOSHAKHANA CASE** 



up Khan's petition on Tuesday. The defence lawyers are expected to press for immediate relief in the form of suspension of the conviction until the adjudication of the petition.

The suspension of the conviction will result in the release Khan from the jail.

In the other scenario, the court may refuse to suspend the sentence and go for the final adjudication which may take weeks or even months.

In either scenario, Khan's troubles may not end any time soon as, according to his party, over 200 cases have been filed against him since his ouster from power in April 2022, and he could be convicted in some

of those cases. One such case is called the Al-Qadir Trust case about the alleged misappropriation of Rs 50 billion by Khan. The government last week filed a case against him for violating the official secret laws by publicising a secret cable sent by the embassy in Washington in March last year.

Khan had waved a document at a rally days before his ouster from office, calling it proof of a conspiracy to oust his government by the United States but later he changed his stance and accused former army chief General Oamar Javed Bajwa of allegedly orchestrating his downfall.

His close aide and two-

Shah Mahmood Qureshi was arrested in the same case over the weekend.

The Toshakhana is a department under the Cabinet Division that stores gifts given to rulers and government offi-cials by heads of other governments and foreign dignitaries.

According to the appeal, Khan's counsel was unable to rebut the final arguments of the ECP lawyer in the trial court, as the former was preparing to file the challenge and moved another application for transfer of the matter to another court. The petition stated that the trial court convicted Khan with a "pre-disposed mind", and sentenced him to three years imprisonment with a fine of PKR 100,000. The trial court verdict also

means Khan is disqualified from contesting general elections. If the cricketer-turnedpolitician is absent from the political scene, the prospects for his party appear to be gloomy in the general elections due to take place later this year. Moreover, most of the PTI's top leadership are either in jail or have quit the party amidst pressure from the establishment over the unprecedented violence across the country on May 9 after Khan's arrest in another corruption case.

### Pak human rights lawyer, politician sent to remand in sedition case Islamabad (PTI): Pakistani

human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and former lawmaker Ali Wazir were sent to a threeday police remand in a sedition case by an anti-terrorism court here on Monday. Imaan, the daughter of former human rights minister Shireen Mazari, and Wazir were arrested Sunday early morning by Islamabad police, two days after they participated in a protest organised by the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), which advocates the rights of ethnic Pashtuns.

Imaan addressed in

Islamabad a rally of the PTM, a group of ethnic Pushtuspeaking activists highly critical of the Pakistan Army, and criticised the powerful military establishment. The authorities wanted both of them as part of an ongoing investigation. It alleged that the two were involved in unlawful gathering, resistance and "interference in

As Mazari and Wazir were presented before the Islamabad Anti-terrorism Court, the judge ordered the authorities to produce the accused on August 24 again. On Sunday, the two were presented in the court of Judicial Magistrate Ihtasham Alam Khan. According to the detailed court order, the invesdetailed court order, the investigating officer requested a 10-day physical remand in the sedition case, registered under Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997. The judge had granted one day's remand and ordered police to present the two before an anti-terrorism court on Monday.

Subsequently, the two were produced by police in the court of ATC judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain earlier in the day.

Îmaan's legal team argued that police had already been given one-day remand of her client but it did not yet find anything against her.

## Palestinian gunman kills an Israeli, wounds another

Asuspected Palestinian Aattacker killed an Israeli woman and seriously wounded a man in the south of the occupied West Bank on Monday, Israeli authorities said, as violence continued to flare in the restive territory shortly after another shooting killed two Israelis. The latest attack is part of a sharp escalation in the region in recent months involving Palestinian militants, Israeli security forces and radical Jewish settlers. It took place as Israeli forces were already on high alert and searching for the gunman who had killed the two Israelis in the northern West Bank on Saturday.

The combustible mix of armed Palestinians carrying out shooting attacks against Israelis as well as near-nightly - and often deadly - raids by the Israeli army to arrest militants has fuelled the worst fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank in nearly two decades.

Reprisals by fanatic Jewish settlers against Palestinians have also heightened tensions in the

settlers threw stones and firebombs at a Palestinian home south of Nablus near the site of Saturday's deadly attack, local officials reported, causing dam-

age but no injuries. Israeli security forces said the suspected Palestinian gunman opened fire at an Israeli car on Route 60, the main northsouth road in the West Bank, near the major city of Hebron. The army said the apparent drive-by shooting killed an Israeli woman and seriously wounded a man as the two were driving. The Israeli rescue service reported the two victims were in their 40s and that a 6year-old girl who was also in the car was unharmed. The man, it said, was found semi-conscious and taken to the hospital.

Images from the scene showed the victims' car riddled with over a dozen bullet holes. The gunman fled, prompting Israeli security forces to embark on their second manhunt in three days. The Hamas militant group and Palestinian Islamic Jihad praised the attack as a response to Israel's expanding settlement enterprise in the

Japanese govt pledges support for fisheries

during Fukushima plant water release

claiming responsibility.

The deadly shooting came just days after another Palestinian attack killed an Israeli father and son who were washing their car in the north-

ern Palestinian town of Hawara,

putting the West Bank on edge.

Nearly 180 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since the start of this year, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Israel says most of the Palestinians killed were militants. But stone throwing youths protesting the incursions and those not involved in the confrontations have also been killed.

Some 30 people have been killed by Palestinian attacks against Israelis during that time. Israel says the raids are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks. Palestinians say the raids undermine their security forces, inspire more militancy and entrench Israeli control over lands they seek for a hoped-for future state. Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war, along with east Jerusalem

## Special court to hear cases under OS Act; Qureshi presented before it

The Pakistan government **⊥** on Monday established a special court to hear cases filed under the Official Secrets Act and former prime minister Imran Khan's close aide and exforeign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was presented before it for the hearing of the cipher case registered against him under the stringent Qureshi, the vice chair-

man of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was arrested on Saturday by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable last year. The purported cipher (secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State also present inside the court- the PTI chairman and the for

Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan last year. Judge Abual Hasnat, an

anti-terrorism court (ATC) judge, who is hearing the case registered against Qureshi under the Official Secrets Act, ordered the expelling of unauthorised people from the courtroom, prior to the start of the in-camera hearing, Geo News reported. "It is a matter of the Official Secrets Act, irrelevant people should leave," the judge ordered. The FIA team was however present in the court where a heavy contingent of Islamabad police was deployed outside the courtroom. The lawyers of PTI were

room, while the party's junior lawyers were ordered to leave. At the outset of the hear-

ing, the FIA prosecutor sought Qureshi's physical remand for the recovery of the alleged missing cipher while advocate Shaheen opposed FIA's plea. Proceedings of the court

will remain in camera in line with the law. The establishment of the court comes amid controversy over the approval of the Official Secrets Act by President Arif Alvi. The law was greenlit a cou-

ple of days before the dissolution of the National Assembly on August 7. Both Qureshi and PTI Chairman Imran Khan have been charged under the act for using the diplomatic cipher for political gains. The FIR stated that both

mer foreign minister revealed the contents of the classified document to unauthorised persons and twisted facts "for ulterior motives and personal gains in a manner prejudicial to the interests of

state security".

**Tokyo (AP):** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday promised his government's full support for fishing communities during the decades-long process to release treated radioactive wastewater from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea.

Meeting with fisheries representatives, Kishida promised measures to protect the fishing industry's reputation until the release ends.

Masanobu Sakamoto, head of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, reiterated his organisation's opposition to the release. He said members of the fishing community have gained some confidence about the safety of the move, but that they still fear damage to their industry, and welcomed the government pledge for support. "Scientific safety and the sense of safety are different," Sakamoto said. "Even if it's safe, reputational damage

Kishida later told reporters that Sakamoto's response signalled improved understanding and that key Cabinet ministers will meet Tuesday to set a date to start the release. Japan's national broadcaster NHK said the government hopes it could begin as early as Thursday.

Sakamoto welcomed the government pledge for its long-term support for the fisheries and sought additional funding as needed. The government has offered funding totalling 80 billion yen (\$550 million) for sales promotion and other steps, and for sus-

tainable fishing operations.

## **Nepal's top probe agency interrogates** two former PMs in land grab scam

PTI KATHMANDU

Nepal's top probe agency has interrogated former prime ministers Madhav Kumar Nepal and Baburam Bhattarai for the first time for their alleged roles in the high-profile Lalita Niwas land grab scam, the investigative agency said on Monday. The land grab scam took place during the prime ministerships of Nepal and Bhattarai, as the Cabinet headed by them made policy-level decisions in the matter.

Nepal and Bhattarai were interrogated on Sunday night in connection with the ongoing investigation into the scam, the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) spokesperson Navaraj Adhikari said. It is alleged that a huge area of valuable land belonging to the government was grabbed by some brokers with the help of senior government officials and some politicians by creating fictitious

The CIB officials of the Nepal Police have recorded the statements from Nepal and Bhattarai in connection with the land-grab scam involving valuable land pieces adjoining the Prime Minister's official residence at Baluwatar in Kathmandu, he said.

This is the first time that the CIB has taken statements from the former prime ministers in the case.

Madhav Kumar Nepal is currently the chair of the CPN (Unified Socialist) party, while Bhattarai heads the Nepal Samajbadi Party. Nepal was prime minister from May 25, 2009 to February 6, 2011, whereas Bhattarai was prime minister from August 29, 2011 to March 14, 2012.

Lalita Niwas covers some 300 ropanis (around 37 acres) of land and includes the prime minister's residence, Nepal Rastra Bank central office and

Chinese economy in distress,

its model is 'broken': WSJ

some other residences of key government officials, according to a report in The Kathmandu

the Nepal Cabinet had allowed the transfer of government land to individuals. And the Bhattarai Cabinet allowed the registration of the land in the name of a fake trust named Pashupati

Guthi. On February 5, 2020, the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (ČIAA) brought corruption charges against 175 individuals in connection with the land grab.

However, the constitutional anti-graft body had spared a number of key people, including former prime ministers Nepal and Bhattarai, even though it admitted that the decisions to illegally transfer the government land into private hands were taken during

Post newspaper. There are allegations that Tikinchha

### [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and 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 Indiabults Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 25.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 69,54,121/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Fifty Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLAPPAN00320145, by way of cuttarding property are recovered to the physical property of cuttarding property. of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 16.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 17.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from OMBIR, POONAM DEVI, SEEMA and DEEPAK KUMAR (PROPRIETOR, NIRMAL TRADING CO.).

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 55,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MOHALLA KALAN LUXMI CLOTH MARKET

SONEPAT, HARYANA - 131001. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsh bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Place : SONEPAT

Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX- IV-A

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulla Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005FLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 37,84,879/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine only) i.e. Rs. 5,97,485/- (Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHENOI00484566; and Rs. 31,87,934/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHENOI00358918, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Acreement and other related loan document(s) we f. 11.08.2023 along with legal

Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AVINASH AGGARWAL and DAYA RANI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 25,10,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,51,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,51,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty One Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Deposity Brice. 10% of the Reserve Price

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. A-1 ON UPPER GROUND FLOOR, FORNT LEFT HAND SIDE, LIG WITHOUT ROOF RIGHT, COVERED AREA MEASURING 30 SQ. MTR., BUILT UP ON PLOT NO. 1/205, AREA MEASURING 352.80 SQ. MTR. NITI KHAND-I, INDIRAPURAM TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD - 201001, UTTAR

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

Date : 18.08.2023 Place : GHAZIABAD

Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX- IV-A

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls
Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")
the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the
Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever
there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery or Rs. 19,26,336/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Six only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLVAS00251117, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.08.2023 along with legal expenses and othe es due to the Secured Creditor from AJAY KUMAR CHAUDHARY and SAVITA

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 13,25,000/- (Rupee: Thirteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposi ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,32,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. 203, SECOND FLOOR, REAR LEFT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. B-1/26, B BLOCK, DLF DILSHAD EXTENSION - II GHAZIABAD ADMEASURING 400 **BOUNDARIES:** EAST : 900 MTRS. WIDE ROAD PLOT NO. B-1/27

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in Date: 17.08.2023 Place: GHAZIABAD

WEST: PLOT NO. B-1/1

Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

SOUTH: PLOT NO. B-1/25

To be known to all that, Mrs. Poonam Adhikari W/o Shri H.S. Adhikari R/o Flat No. 14-D,Third Floor,Pocket-A,Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, is owner and in physical possession of Flat No.14 - D, on Third Floor, Category-MIG, in Pocket-A, Group 1811, situated at Dilshad Garden,Delhi-110095, (hereinafter called the Flat/property) which has been allotted by DDA vide File No M-22(5701)986/DG/HBM/NP, and applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said flat in D.D.A. Original Allottment cum Demand Letter and Original Mutation Letter and other related documents of said flat have been lost. An E.I.R. to this effect has been lodged. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/ contact with above named person at above address/Phone No.9650548869 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this flat can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H]-I,D Block 3"Floor,Vikas Sadan,INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs.
Shahnaz wife of Sakir Malik who is owner of One
Shop bearing Municipal No. 164455, area
admeasuring 75.47 sq. mls. (i.e., 90.27 Sq. Yds.),
ituated Dehi Bus Stand Se ChhaprauliChungi Ke situated Delňi Bus Stand Se ČhhaprauliChungi Ké-Madhay(Navyug Colony Ke Samne), Village Baraut, Andar Sima Nagar Palika Parishad Baraut, Paragnað Tehsil Baraut, District Baghpat-250617, having acquired the same from Mr. Sakir Malik son of Marhum Mehardin as attorney of Mr. Zakir Husain, Mohd. Sazid, Dr. Abid & Mr. Asif vide Gift Deed dated 03.12.2022, which is duly registered vide Document No.17386, at SRO-Badaut, on 03.12.2022; and same to be finance & mortgage by Protium Finance Limited. To comply the mentioned below, about his biglectoris, maint of days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot no.136,(Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-

#### [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls lousing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the ecured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o Two only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00391683, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other elated loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.08.2023 along with legal expenses and othe harges due to the Secured Creditor from SANTBEER and ARUN VAID.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 11,60,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,16,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixteen Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF THE RESIDENTIAL PLOT BEARING NUMBER A-1/199 HAVING COVERED AREA OF 36 SQUARE FEET I.E 30.09 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS "D. L. F DILSHAD EXTENSION-II", VILLAGE BRAHMPUR URF BHOPURA TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAR PRADESH THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-

PLOT NUMBER A-1/198, PLOT NUMBER A-1/200,

NORTH :

ROAD 25 FEET WIDE. SOUTH : OTHER PLOT For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsho

Date : 17.08.2023 Place : GHAZIABAD

Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** Ownership amendment of Industrial Plot No. 621, Phase-V, Udyog Vihar, Gurugram

Industrial Plot No. 621, Phase-V, Udyog Vihar, Gurugram was reallotted by HSIIDC (hereinafter called the "Corporation") Vide its rellotment Letter No.: 5207, Dated 15.12.2017, in the name of {(Smt. Raj Kumari & Sh. Rajender Parshad) (50%)} and {Sh. Vijay Kumar, Sh. Deepak Kumar Kukreja & Pankaj Kumar Kukreja} (50%). In between, after the death of Sh. Rajender Parshad on 26.02.2022, the

egal-Heirs left behind are as follows:

a) Smt. Raj Kumari W/o Sh. Rajender Parshad ) Mr. Hitesh Kumar son of Sh. Rajender Parshad

Mr. Lokesh Kumar son of Sh. Rajender Parshad

d) Mrs. Dipty Pasrija D/o Sh. Rajender Parshad (W/o Sh. Gaurav Pasrija On request of legal heirs of late Sh. Rajender Parshad and Sh. Vijay Kumar, Sh. Deepak Kumar Kukreja & Pankaj Kumar Kukreja, as a result of understanding among legal heirs, the transfer of plot (change in constitution) was provisionally allowed by HSIIDC in the joint name of (Smt. Raj Kumari (50%)) and {Sh. Vijay Kumar, Sh. Deepak Kumar Kukreja & Pankaj Kumar Kukreja) (50%) vide their letter No.HSIIDC 923, Dated: 09.06.2023. That henceforth, owners of Industrial Plot No. 621, Phase-V, Udyog

Vihar, Gurugram, shall be in the name of (Smt. Raj Kumari (50%)) and {Sh. Vijay Kumar, Sh. Deepak Kumar Kukreja & Pankaj Kuma Kukreja} (50%).

This public notice is hereby served for filing objection, if any, against the mendment in shareholding ownership of above-mentioned industrial plots/properties along with the building constructed thereon as per above details within a period of 30 days from the date of this public notice. The objection against the said transfer, if any, should be filed in the office of HSIIDC, Udyog Vihar, Gurugram within a period of 30 days from the date of this notice failing which ownership of Industrial Plot No. 621, Phase-V Udyog Vihar, Gurugram shall be formally acknowledged by HSIIDC the name of (Smt. Raj Kumari (50%)) and {Sh. Vijay Kumar, Sh Deepak Kumar Kukreja & Pankaj Kumar Kukreja} (50%).

HSIIDC, Udyog Vihar, Gurugram, HARYANA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Subhash Chand S/o. Mr. Kishan Dutt who is owner of Freehold Residential Buit. Up Property bearing No RZ-F-1/224, having 02 Floors (Ground and First Floor), area measuring 20.98 Sq. Mirst. i.e. 25 Sq. Yds. aach, out of Khasra Nos. 542 & 343, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nasirpur, abad, known as Methavir Enclave, F-I-F-Z Block, and the Composition of the State of Village Nasirpur, abad, known as Methavir Enclave, F-I-F-Z Block, and the Composition of the State of Village Nasirpur, abad, known as Methavir Enclave, F-I-F-Z Block, and the Composition of the State of Village Nasirpur, abad, known as Methavir Enclave, F-I-F-Z Block, and the Composition of the State Office of the State Off

Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about

registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act. [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to

Register) Rules, 2014] Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteer days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies at Delhi that K.L. ARORA & SON a Partnership Firm, may be registered under Part Lof Chapte XXI of the Companies Act 2013

as a company limited by shares. The principal objects of the company are as follows:

To take over the running business of a partnership firm namely M/s K L Arora & Son and to carry on the business of contractors, subcontractors, quasi contractors and to undertake contracts and sub contracts relating to construction, modification repairing, alteration, removal redecoration, redesigning enlarging, improving and designing of civil work, building for whatever use, roads approach roads, streets, circles squares, parks, parking places bridges, dams, reservoirs tunnels, earthworks, sewer tanks, drains, lighthouses towers, pipelines, underground cables etc. whether on a turnkey basis or on labour contracts of otherwise

A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 23 First Floor, Vigyan Vihar, New Delhi-110092.

Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot no. 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar District Gurgaon (Harvana) Pir code 122050 within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Dated this 22nd day of August 2023 Name(s) of Applicant 1. K L Arora (Partner)

2. Dheeraj Arora (Partner) 3. Neelima Arora (Partner)

believe China is entering an era of much slower growth, made worse by unfavourable demographics and a widening divide with the US and its allies, which is jeopardising foreign investment and trade.

Rather than just a period of

Washington (PTI): China's economic weakness, this could economy, the world's secondbe the dimming of a long era, it commented. "Now the (ecolargest, is now in deep distress and its successful model of nomic) model is broken," the financial daily said. growth for 40 years stands "broken", a prominent American financial publication has said, noting that signs of trouble

extend beyond China's dismal economic data to distant provinces. The Wall Street Journal in a major Sunday story wrote that economists now

various levels of government and state-owned companies, climbed to nearly 300 per cent of China's GDP as of 2022, surpassing US levels and up from

We're witnessing a gearshift in what has been the model of past decades has most dramatic trajectory in

economic history," Adam Tooze, a Columbia University history professor who specialises in economic crises, was quoted as saying by the Wall Street According to the report, the

total debt, including that held by development means investing in

according to Bank for International Settlements data. In Beijing's corridors of power, senior officials have

recognised that the growth reached its limits, the daily wrote. In a blunt speech to a new generation of party leaders last vear, Chinese President Xi Jinping took aim at officials for relying on borrowing for construction to expand economic activities, it added. "Some people believe that

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided projects and scaling up investon the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com, Fo ments," Xi said, warning: "You can't walk the old path with new

## Sensex rebounds 267 pts India, Asean to intensify bid to conclude FTA review by 2025 on gains in Infosys, ITC

quity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ◀ closed higher on Monday after two days of decline, supported by buying in index majors Infosys, ITC and Bajaj Finance amid a mixed trend in global markets.

In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 267.43 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 65,216.09. During the day, it jumped 387.16 points or 0.59 per cent to 65,335.82.

The NSE Nifty gained 83.45 points or 0.43 per cent to end at 19,393.60.

"Markets started the week with an uptick and gained nearly half a per cent. After the initial choppiness, Nifty maintained a positive tone for most of the session however profit-taking in the end trimmed some gains," said Ajit Mishra, SVP -Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Bajaj Finance was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.70 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, Nestle, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan and Axis Bank.

Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti and State Bank of India were among the laggards. Meanwhile, shares of Jio Financial Services, the demerged financial services unit of Reliance Industries, listed on the bourses on Monday. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.87 per cent, and smallcap index climbed 0.71 per cent

All indices ended in the green, with utilities jumping 2.56 per cent, power climbing 2.31 per cent, metal (1.19 per cent), capital goods (1.09 per cent), realty (1.03 per cent), teck (1 per cent), commodities (0.95 per cent), industrials (0.92 per cent), IT (0.88 per cent) and healthcare (0.79 per cent).

"Asian stocks stumbled on Monday after China delivered a smaller cut to lending rates than markets had counted on, continuing Beijing's run of disappointingly frugal stimulus steps. European stocks rebounded from a one-month low as higher energy prices buoyed oil producers," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong

European markets were trading with gains. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday. "A rebound in the global market after a sig-

Bajaj Finance

LOSERS

John John Relance

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Change ()+267.43

nificant correction prompted buying in domes-

tic equities, particularly within the IT sector. However, the potential for volatility to linger in

the near term remains due to the increasing dol-

lar index and elevated US bond yields, fuelled by

concerns about rate hikes. "Investors are keenly

observing the commentary from the Fed chair

during its forthcoming summer conference for

interest rate insights," said Vinod Nair, Head of

equities worth Rs 266.98 crore on Friday, accord-

ing to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude climbed 0.60 per cent to USD 85.31 a bar-

rel. "Positive European market cues triggered a

relief rally in domestic benchmark indices as

investors resorted to short covering after taking

a hit last week on the back of sharp FII selling and

wobbly due to weak macroeconomic scenarios and

volatility in global currency markets due to uptick

in US bond yields," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of

Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

"However, the market may continue to stay

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded

Research at Geojit Financial Services

weak global cues.

India and the 10-nation bloc Asean on Monday said they have directed their officials to intensify their efforts to conclude the review of the existing free trade agreement in goods between the two regions by 2025.

The issue was discussed during the twentieth AEM (Asean Economic Ministers)-India Consultation meeting, held at Semarang, Indonesia.

According to a joint media statement, the meeting welcomed the progress of the review of the Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). It also endorsed the term of

reference of the AITIGA Joint Committee, the Work Plan of the review negotiations and the negotiating structure.

the agreement more user-friendly, simple and trade facilitative for businesses to increase trade and support sustainable and inclusive growth. "To this end, the meeting encouraged the officials to intensify their efforts with the aim of achieving a substantial conclusion of the review in 2025," the statement said.

The consultation was cochaired by Indonesian Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan and Additional Secretary in India's Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal. It was a long pending demand of India to undertake the review of this agreement, which came into effect on January 1, 2010.

India has asked for a review of the agreement with an aim to eliminate barriers and misuse of



the trade pact. Recently, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the India-Asean trade agreement is the 'most ill-conceived' one.

Members of the Asean include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore,

Thailand and Vietnam

In general, such review exercise includes implementation issues, rules of origin; verification process and release of consignments; customs procedures; further liberalisation of trade in goods; and sharing and exchange of trade data

Trade experts said the review demand is there because India's exports to Asean have been affected due to non-reciprocity in FTA concessions, non-tariff barriers, import regulations and quotas.

Concerns have also been raised about routing of goods from third countries in India through Asean members by taking the duty advantages of the agreement. Asean has a much deeper economic engagement with China through the Asean China Trade and Goods Agreement.

During 2010-11, India's exports to ASEAN increased to USD 25.7 billion from USD 18.11 billion in 2009-10. However, imports in 2010-11 rose to USD 30.6 billion from USD 25.8 billion in 2009-10.

## India's foreign trade crosses USD 800 bn mark in first six months of 2023: GTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A healthy growth in India's services segments has helped the country's total exports and imports of goods and services to cross the USD 800 billion mark during the first half of 2023, despite a slowdown in global demand, think tank GTRI said in a report on Monday.

According to the analysis of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), exports of goods and services rose by 1.5 per cent to USD 385.4 billion during January-June this year, as against USD 379.5 billion in January-June 2022. Imports, however, dipped by 5.9 per cent to USD 415.5 billion during the six months of this year, as against USD 441.7 billion in January-

June 2022. "India's foreign trade (exports and imports of merchandise and services) reached USD 800.9 billion during January-June 2023, exhibiting a decline of 2.5 per cent over the same period last year (January-June 2022)," the report said.

Standalone, goods exports dipped by 8.1 per cent to USD 218.7 billion, while imports contracted by 8.3 per cent to USD 325.7 billion. On the other hand, services exports during the six months period grew by 17.7 per cent to USD 166.7 billion, while imports rose by 3.7 per cent to USD 89.8 billion.

"Data is showing modest decline due to weak global demand and losing competitiveness in labour intensive sectors. The decline in merchandise exports happened despite appreciating INR (Indian Rupee). INR/USD exchange rate appreciated from 76.16 in April 2022 to 82.18 in Apr 2023," GTRI Cofounder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said the world trade outlook for 2023 is weak due to a number of factors, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, high inflation, tighter monetary policy, and financial uncertainty. But these factors will soon

be overshadowed by a spate of  $new\ subsidies\ and\ protection ist$ measures by the EU and USA. For example, in the first seven months of 2023 alone, the EU has introduced five regulations on climate change and trade, each of these are essentially measures to curb imports," he said. India should continue to

focus on increasing product quality and supply chain competitiveness, he said, adding since every big country is into inward mode, India should not surrender its policy space especially in new issues in FTAs (free trade agreements) and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

He suggested the government be ready to use targeted and precise retaliation to counter unilateral policy decisions like CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism) or EU Deforestation Regulation.

India has done this effective ly in 2019 by raising tariffs on the US products when the US in 2018 raised tariffs on steel and aluminium, he said.

The report stated that 11 of

29 product categories contributing to 25 per cent of India's exports registered positive export growth during January-June 2023, over the same period last year. Those sectors include Telecom, Computer and electronics items; Machinery, boilers, Turbines; Pharmaceuticals; ceramic products.

Smartphone exports jumped to USD 7.5 billion during January-June this year from USD 2.5 billion in January-June 2022. However, exports in 18 of 29 product categories contributing to 75 per cent of total merchandise exports declined during the period and that include cereals, vegetable, fruits, spices; fish, meat; dairy products; textiles, carpets, garments; footwear; and leather.

#### VIT, VELLORE, HOLDS 38TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Institute Technology (VIT), Vellore, conducted its 38th annual convocation recently. Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Civil Aviation General Dr VK. Singh took part as chief quest and delivered the convocation address



Founder-Chancellor of VIT Dr G Viswanathan presided over the convocation. In his convocation address, Dr Singh said, "There is no shortcut to success, though it is written in books. It all depends on how committed, hardworking and knowledgeable you are." He advised the graduates not to stick to one solution for all problems but seek solutions in a pragmatic way. "Education is what you gather as part of the environment in the institution. This adds to your personality. Education is what you have learnt and how you will apply it, how you develop an open mind and analyse things," Dr Singh added. Earlier, VIT Founder-Chancellor influence the Centre and State Governments to spend more on higher education and compete with advanced countries

#### **KIIT CELEBRATES 19TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION**

The 19th Annual Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University (KIIT-DU), Bhubaneswar was held on 19thAugust 2023, during which a total of 6638 students were conferred with Bachelor's, Masters, and PhD degrees,



Gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof Ganeshi Lal. Governor of Odisha, exhorted the young graduates to spread the message of love in society and uphold the true values of justice, equality and fraternity. Drawing a parallel to the charm and fragrance of a flower that continues to smile in the face of adversities and pain, he urged students to discover their innate qualities and utilize them for the betterment of humanity. The university also conferred Honoris Causa Doctorate Degrees upon three eminent persons: Dr. Aiit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) & Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Govt. of India; Jitendra Kumar Mohanty, Chairman & Managing Director, Swosti Group of Hotels, Bhubaneswar; and Chander Prakash Gurnani, CEO & Managing Director, Tech Mahindra. In his presidential address, Ashok Kumar Parija Chancellor, KIIT DU said that education is the passport to a bright future and KIIT is shaping the bright minds as responsible citizens of his nation

#### RAJSICO CHAIRMAN RAJIV ARORA INAUGURATES ODOP

**DISPLAY WINDOW** The One District One Project (ODOP) initiative, a visionary scheme introduced by Government of India, the Industries Department of the Government of Rajasthan, is set to shine a spotlight on the rich cultural heritage and exceptional craftsmanship of the state. The scheme, aimed at fostering social and economic development among artisans, craftsmen and farmers, will witness a significant milestone as the ODOP display window is inaugurated by Rajiv Arora, Chairman of RAJSICO & REPC on Monday, 21st August 2023 at RAJASTHALI Emporium, New Delhi. Veenu Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Government of Rajasthan, Shubhra Singh, Additional Chief Secretary and Chief Resident Commissioner, Government of Rajasthan, Dheeraj Srivastava, Commissioner Rajasthan Foundation, Government of Rajasthan, Dr. Manisha Arora, Managing Director of Raiasthan Small Industries Corporation, Government of Rajasthan and other distinguished officials

#### LIQUOR BARON RADICO EVADES ₹1,075 CR TAX: CAG REPORT

Uttar Pradesh based liquor major Radico Khajtan of Rampur district in the State has been found guilty of a massive tax evasion worth Rs 1075 crore by the national audit watchdog Comptroller Auditor General (CAG). The losses were found after the CAG compared the Income Tax Returns and Excise Documents of the company and initial investigations has tracked upon that the said evasion has been committed by the linuor manufacturing unit in connivance of the officials of Excise Department and few of them have been found guilty by the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Department. CAG documents suggest that when figures of Radico Khaitan of the Year 2013-14 to 2019-20 was compared it was noticed a difference of Rs 1075 Crores. In the said amount even the Interest amount of Rs 482 Crores has been included. The Consumption quantity of Input was shown less in Excise documents and more in Income Tax Returns, officials explained. With such massive evasion, the merchants paying less tax in comparison to the benefit of Samadhan Scheme availed during the previous is to face departmental inquiry

### Jio Financial Services shares fall nearly 5% in debut trade

Shares of Jio Financial Services, the demerged financial services unit of Reliance Industries, listed on the bourses on Monday, with the stock falling nearly 5 per cent to hit the lower circuit limit.

On the BSE, shares of the company began the trade at Rs 265, up 1.20 per cent against Rs 261.85, the price fixed at a special price discovery session held last month. However, the stock later fell by 3.85 per cent to hit Rs 251.75 — its lower circuit limit against Rs 261.85.

Shares of the company listed at Rs 262 on the NSE but later declined 4.94 per cent to Rs 248.90 — its lower circuit limit. The company commanded a market valuation of Rs 1,59,943.93 crore. The company is the 34th most valued firm in the pack of top 100 companies by market valuation. In volume ikh shares of the



were traded on the BSE and over 7.47 crore shares on the NSE. Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) demerged from Reliance last month

In a special price discovery session held on the record date last month, the stock's pre-listing price came out to be Rs 261.85.

In the equity market, the BSE Sensex climbed 267.43 points to settle at 65,216.09. The NSE Nifty gained 83.45 points to end

build Australia's largest urea plant

which is an Indian-owned com-

L&T' Energy Hyrdocarbon contract involves fabrication

and supply of process and piperack modules for the 2.30 MT per

annum urea plant along with a

L&T Heavy Engineering has secured orders for packag-

ing the urea equipment for the

The facility will come up in the Burrup Peninsula in Western

Australia and, on completion,

1.3 MT ammonia unit.

project.

L&T wins 'significant' order to

icant order indicates a value

between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,500

not reveal commercial details of

contracts as the value can change

by the time of completion,

L&T Group Chairman and

Managing Director-Designate, SN Subrahmanyan said.

awarded by Italian firm Saipem

& Clough — the Engineering,

Procurement, and Construction

(EPC) contractor of Perdaman,

The contract has been

"We've adopted a policy to

BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty added Jio Financial Services to their pack. This has been done to ensure price stability and limit volatility in shares of RIL in view of the demerger as part of the revised methodology of the exchanges to treat demergers.

The BSE Sensex had Jio Financial as the 31st firm and the Nifty had the company as its 51st stock. The newly listed entity would be removed from the indices after the end of the day on the third day of its listing.

Meanwhile, shares of Reliance Industries declined 1.50 per cent to settle at Rs 2,518.25 on the BSE.

Trading members of the exchange are hereby informed that effective from Monday, August 21, 2023, equity shares of Jio Financial Services Ltd (formerly known as Reliance Strategic Investments Limited) shall be listed and admitted to dealings on the exchange in the list of T Group of securisaid in a notice on F

will be the largest urea plant in Australia and one of the largest

in the world, Perdaman

Chairman Vikas Rambal told

Subrahmanyan said the plant will also be the largest

modularised and pre-fabircated

unit in the fertiliser industry

globally, which will be built at

the L&T's yards at Hazira and

Kattupalli near Chennai before

being transported to Australia,

where the parts would be assem-

reporters here.

### France-based CEVA Logistics to acquire controlling stake in Stellar Value Chain Solutions

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

France-based CEVA Logistics
has signed a pact with thirdparty logistics firm Stellar Value Chain Solutions for acquiring a controlling stake in the company, a statement said on Monday. The move under which CEVA will acquire the entire

stake of private equity firm Warburg Pincus will help it diversify its presence in India. This will, in turn, boost its

local workforce, assets, customer roster and capabilities, Stellar Value Chain said in a statement.

The acquisition is expected to be completed in the coming weeks, the company said without disclosing the deal size.

Incorporated in 2016 by logistics veteran Anshuman Singh, Stellar Value Chain Solutions is into contract logistics with omni-channel fulfilment services in segments such as e-commerce, automotive, consumer, retail, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, among others.

"Warburg Pincus has been an extremely supportive partner in building this company right from its inception. It is now passing on the baton to another global giant, CEVA Logistics, to take this company ahead, said Anshuman Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of Stellar Value Chain Solutions. "The team from both the

companies will allow for a quick integration and new, global opportunities for our associates.'

Post-acquisition, Stellar Value Chain Solutions will become part of the third largest company in the world in contract logistics, the company said

Anshuman Singh will continue driving this business fol-

Value Chain Solutions across more than 70 facilities in 21 cities across India, it said. In addition, CEVA will inherit the Stellar's workforce of

of total logistics area) of Stellar

porary employees, the company said CEVA Logistics in India is currently present in 75 locations

nearly 8,000 full-time and tem-

across 35 cities with approximately 27,00,000 square feet of warehouse space. With the acquisition, CEVA Logistics would become a much

stronger player in Indian contract logistics space, offering its new customers global expertise and increased operational efficiency and innovation, Stellar Value Chain Solutions said.

In addition to India, it said, the acquisition complements recent growth in CEVA's contract logistics business elsewhere in the Asia Pacific region.

"With the addition of Stellar VCS, we will continue our strategic growth with the goal of becoming a top 5 global logistics player. We are expanding into more key market segments and boosting our presence in this strategic country," said Mathieu Friedberg, Chief Executive Officer, CEVA

Stellar has an important network of contract logistics facilities across India and a top roster of customers. Bringing on their expertise and footprint in India is a major step forward for CEVA Logistics, he added.

Logistics.

Moreover, the deal is also expected to benefit CEVA's freight management and customs business in the region, the company said. At the same time, with new

manufacturing trends and supply chain routes developing, CEVA's global network and wide range of logistics solutions provide its APAC clients with the agility needed to navigate changing market conditions, the company said.

### Majority of firms expect new or replacement hiring in July-Dec period: Survey

PTI MUMBAI

Diversified group L&T on

a "significant" order from Perda-

man Chemicals & Fertilisers to

build a 2.3 million tonne urea

plant in Australia. On comple-

tion, this facility will be the

largest urea plant in Australia and one of the largest in the

value, L&T said it was a "a significant order". Generally, signif-

Without disclosing the deal

world, the company said.

Monday said it has secured

ajority of companies plan Majority of companies rational to recruit people, including as new and replacement hires, in the second half of 2023, a survey said on Monday.

The Naukri Hiring Outlook Survey also showed that most recruiters expect business development, marketing, and operation roles to lead hiring during the July-December period.

Over 1,200 recruiters and consultants took part in the survey, which is conducted twice a year to gauge recruitment trends in companies and industries across the country.

Around 92 per cent of the recruiters expect companies to hire professionals. About 47 per cent of the recruiters predicted new and replacement hiring while 26 per cent expected new job creation, it said

As per the findings, about 20 per cent of the recruiters said they would maintain their head-

count during the six months and only 4 per cent foresaw layoffs or downsizing during this peri-od. Nearly 70 per cent of the recruiters surveyed expect attrition rates to remain below 15 per cent, suggesting employees will look to hold on to their current jobs amid the current job market uncertainties, the survey

Mid-level professionals were expected to remain in demand, followed by those at the entry-The highest attrition rates

are expected across business development, marketing, operations, and HR roles. Mid-level professionals were the most likely to switch jobs during this period, the survey said.

About 42 per cent of the recruiters surveyed said their companies gave less than 10 per cent increment in the last appraisal cycle while 31 per cent said the hike was between 10 and 15 per cent.

## BYJU'S senior exec exits, to lead US firm Impending Inc

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Pyju'S Senior Vice President for international business Cherian Thomas has resigned from the company and will now helm US-based Impending Inc. As the CEO, Thomas will focus on building and scaling the product portfolio, while strengthening and growing a global talent pool, Impending Inc said in a statement.

A mail sent to BYJU'S did not elicit any response. A source familiar with the

matter confirmed Thomas' departure, but did not comment on his successor. "We are hugely excited to

have Cherian Thomas on board. We share a vision of creating inspired apps with pop culture potential without compromise and have convinced each other that we are going to make it hap-pen together," Impending Inc

co-founder Phill Ryu said. Thomas, touted to be the architect behind BYJU's American expansion, was also responsible for spearheading the business of Osmo (as its CEO), a BYJU'S subsidiary, with a revenue of over USD 100 million in FY21, according to the release. He was the first international employee at BYJU'S back in 2017 and was credited with building the international organisation, according to the statement. Thomas co-founded food

blogging platform Cucumbertown in 2012, having sold the VC-backed startup to Japanese conglomerate Cookpad in 2016. He was also one of the earliest employees at gaming company Zynga, having worked with them until their IPO in 2011.

lowing the acquisition. As part of the deal, CEVA Impending is the studio will acquire approximately 7.5behind applications like video million square feet of carpet area (approximately 15 million sq ft games Heads Up and Here Kitty, and listing app Clear.

## Prannoy, Sen advance to second round of World Championships

Star Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles second round of the World Championships with straight-game wins over Finland's Kalle Koljonen and Mauritius Georges Julien Paul respectively here on Monday.

Prannoy, the world number 9, who reached the quarterfinals in the last two editions, saw off the left-handed Koljonen 24-22, 21-10 to extend his head-tohead count over the Finnish player to 3-0.

Sen, the reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist, then streamrolled Paul 21-12, 21-7 in 25 minutes to follow Prannoy into the second round.

The Almora shuttler, who had won a bronze in the 2021 edition, is likely to meet Korea's Jeon Hyeok Jin, while the 31-year-old from Kerala is expected to face Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo next.

The match between Prannov and Koljonen turned into a tight battle in the opening game with the Finnish player quick to open up a 8-4 lead. But Prannoy reeled off seven straight points to grab a 11-8 lead at the break.

However, an exciting battle ensued after resumption with Koljonen eventually grabbing



three game points after pushing one away from the forehand of his opponent.

A calm Prannoy, however, saved all three game points before hitting wide to once again hand over the advantage to his rival.

A backhand block at the net helped him save another game point but he sprayed into net next as it was 22-21 in favour of the Finnish player.

a net duel to gift the lead to the Indian, who converted with a brutal cross-court smash.

an equal footing with Prannoy marginally leading 6-5 at one stage. However, the Indian soon zoomed away to open up a six-point lead at the break with a straight smash.

The Indian kept moving ahead with Koljonen finding it hard to negotiate the angles and deceptions of Prannoy, who soon gained 12 match points after Kolionen hit wide.

Prannoy missed one at the However, Koljonen couldn't capitalise as he hit long and lost er one before the Indian shut the er one before the Indian shut the door with a straight smash.

Sen, who had defeated Paul en route his CWG gold, had no The second game started on issues in brushing aside his

rival. He opened up a 11-3 lead and though Paul managed to make it 8-12, the Indian soon changed gears to seal the open-Sen continued in the same

vein after the change of sides as it turned out to be an extremely lop-sided contest with the Indian gaining 13-2 lead. Eventually, Paul hit out twice to hand over the match to Sen. Earlier, the Indian mixed

doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy, ranked 33rd, lost to Scotland's Adam Hall and Julie Macpherson 14-21, 22-20, 18-21 in a 59-minute

## Shooter Kaur earns 6th quota place for India; finished fifth at Worlds



PTI ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Upcoming shooter Sift Kaur Samra earned India its sixth Paris Olympic quota place, finishing fifth in the women's 50m rifle three positions event at the ISSF World Championship her on Monday.

The 21-year-old, who had earlier this month won gold in her favourite event at the World University Games in Chengdu, China, aggregated 429.1 in the

Samra, who had won her maiden individual medal at the international level — a bronze at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Bhopal in March this year fought hard to emerge fifth at the end of the qualification round, scoring 589.

Scorning 505.

She had a 'kneeling' score of 192 and shot superb 199 and 198 in 'prone' and 'standing' positive final to final the f in prone and standing positions. However in the finals, Samra slipped to eighth early on in the 'kneeling' position but pulled herself up in 'prone' and 'standing' to climb steadily to Cath.

China's Zhang Qiongyue (465.3) claimed the gold medal, while countrymate Han Jiaye (463.5) bagged silver. USA's Sagen Maddalena was third with a score of 451.9.

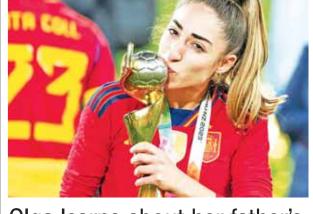
The Indian trio comprising Samra (589), Ashi Chouksey (590) and Manini Kaushik (582) finished fifth in the team cate-

gory with an aggregate of 1761. This is the third Paris Olympic quota for India at the World Championship, with Mehuli Ghosh (women's 10m air rifle) and 28-year-old Akhil Sheoran (50m rifle 3-positions) the other

Overall, India has so far won

six Paris quota places.

Bhowneesh Mendiratta (men's trap), Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil (men's 10m air rifle) and Swapnil Kusale (men's 50m rifle 3 positions) are the other three Indians to have secured the 2024 Olympics quota places at last year's ISSF World Championships.



### Olga learns about her father's death after scoring in Spain's 1-0 FIFA Women's WC win

**AP** MADRID

Olga Carmona, whose goal won the FIFA Women's World Cup for Spain on Sunday, learned after the final of her father's death, the Spanish soccer federation said.

He had been ill and died while Carmona's mother and other relatives travelled to Australia to watch her play in the final, the federation said early Monday, without giving more detail on the cause of death.

The family decided to wait until after the title celebrations to give Carmona the news.

"And, without knowing it, I had my Star before the game started," Carmona said on X, formerly known as Twitter, along with a photo of her kissing the

winners' medal. "I know that you gave me the strength to achieve something unique. I know that you were watching me tonight and that you are proud of me. Rest in peace, Dad." On Monday, Carmona wrote again on X to thank people for their kindness and say she'll attend the victory ceremony. "Yesterday was the best and worst day of my life. I know that vou would want to see me enjoying this historic moment, so that's why I'll be with my teammates so that from where you are you know that this star

Before the news of the death of Carmona's father, the federation said the title celebrations will take place after the squad's arrival in Madrid on Monday

is also yours, Dad."

## India football coach Stimac not ready | Lahiri finishes third in Newcastle to predict Asian Games outcome

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian football head coach Igor Stimac is not sure where the country would finish in the Hangzhou Asian Games next month given the U-23 format of the quadrennial showpiece and with very little known about the opposing teams. Asked what finish at the

Asian Games would satisfy him, Stimac said on Monday that while India does have a strong team, the fact that it is the only side having "not played a single game with the under-23s in the last two years" made predicting the outcome difficult. "It's difficult to say (how far

India will go in the Asian Games) because it's an under-23 competition, and you don't have much information about all the teams you're going to face there. I think we are the only team that hasn't played a single game with



"How much we can do in a short preparation time is a huge question. Obviously, we do have strong under-23 players, who are already a huge part of the senior national team, and it should help

But as you say, it's a similar competition to the Asian Cup, but different also because you don't have time between the

"We're going to face the biggest opponents in our group, China, in the opening game. And less than 48 hours later we have to play the next opponents (Bangladesh), which is hugely surprising. We're going to put all

our efforts into the opening

game and do our best to beat

China to make our life easier."

added Stimac in an interview to

AIFF.

Cup all set to kick of in Thailand on September 7, Stimac is also looking at options in the likelihood of ace striker Sunil Chhetri

nood of ace striker sunii Chnetri not being part of the squad. The King's Cup will be India's first outing abroad this year following their stupendous performance at home where they have won three consecutive tournament, are enjoying a 16-match unbeaten streak at home and basking in the glory of reentering the top-100 of the FIFA Rankings.

The tournament scheduled to be held from September 7-10 will see India, the 2019 edition's bronze medallists, take on Asian powerhouse Iraq in the first match. The other two teams in the competition are Thailand and Lebanon. However, Chhetri's wife was admitted to hospital on August 8 because of dengue and the ace striker could miss the tournament.

# be a big miss, Stimac said, "Absolutely. That's why we are following our boys at the (ongoing) Durand Cup too. And they are doing well. They are showing a good attitude putting on

good performances. "But you know that we have many things happening in September. So we'll see who will get the opportunity and who will use it in a proper way, I would say." The event will serve as preparation for the Hangzhou Asian Games, where football action begins just nine days after the conclusion of the King's

ing a good attitude, putting on

"They've (boys) spent the last few weeks with their clubs, with their club coaches, working on different things, and also enjoying the Durand Cup.
And obviously, the King's

Cup will be a different challenge from the previous home tournaments, where we were very suc-



PTI NEWCASTLE

Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri shot a fine 3-under 68 in the final round but failed to find as many birdies as he deserved to finish third at the International Series England.

The 36-year-old had earlier finished second at the International Series in Vietnam.

Lahiri, who carded 70-69-69 in his first three rounds, finished at 8-under 276 and was third behind winner, Andy Ogletree (64) at 15-under and Ian Poulter (64) at 9-under 275.

Among the other Indians, Ajeetesh Sandhu (71-72-71-72) was T-31 while Gaganjeet Bhullar

Randhawa (74-71-81-74) was T-74. Lahiri, who finished runner up at the last LIV Series event, has been playing well. In five starts prior to this, he has been second or T-2 three times and T-12 once. He has good results in the LIV Series, which have not been counted for World Ranking points. Lahiri was "very, very pleased" with his per-

formance. "I think that was probably the top-three ball-striking rounds of the year for me, I think I would rate this round better than my Saturday at Bedminster (on LIV) and better than Adelaide

"I was very, very happy with how I swung it. My control of the ball in the air, my distance control everything was spot on. I drove it phenomenally," he added.

Ogletree stamped his authority once again on the Asian Tour by claiming the USD 2 million International Series England after a stunning seven-stroke victory - with a runaway 16-under tournament total.

The American was unstoppable, shooting a final-round seven-under-par 64 - the joint lowest round of the week.

This is Ogletree's third convincing International Series victory - he triumphed in Qatar by three this year, and by four in Egypt last season - and it consolidated his lead on both the Asian Tour and International Series Order of He won USD 360 000

Dominant Indian junior

### Venus Williams withdraws from Cleveland event with knee injury

**AP** ■ CLEVELAND

Venus Williams withdrew from Tennis in the Land because of a knee injury, but the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion plans on playing in next week's US Open.

Williams on Sunday released a video through the promoter of the WTA 250 event in downtown Cleveland, saying: "Unfortunately, my knee is just not acting right. It's not supporting me being on the court."
The 43-year-old Williams

has received a wild card to compete at the US Open, which begins on August 28. She won back-to-back titles at Flushing Meadows in 2000-2001 after reaching the final in her debut in 1997. "It's such a bummer, but I'm going to work on myself and get myself together to be at the US Open," she said.

Williams had been scheduled to play her opening match in Cleveland on Monday, five days after she was defeated by Zheng Qinwen of China at the Western and Southern Open in Mason, Ohio, Earlier at the tournament outside Cincinnati, she earned her first win over a top-20 opponent in four years, beating No. 16 Veronika Kudermetova of Russia. Williams has a 3-6 record this season and is ranked No.

# Mohun Bagan wary of in-form Abahani in crucial AFC Cup clash

 $F_{\text{ding preseason and a revam-}}^{\text{acing challenges of a demanding preseason and a revam-}$ ped team composition, a rusty Mohun Bagan Super Giant will be wary of in-form Abahani Limited Dhaka when they clash here on Tuesday for a spot in the AFC Cup South Zone group berth. The Mariners are in the midst of a hectic preseason

where they are also competing in the Durand Cup and in the Calcutta Football League Premier Division. Bagan has assembled a big

budget team for the season, and it's no secret that the AFC Cup takes precedence for the Sanjiv Goenka-owned side. Except for a 5-0 win over

Bangladesh Army FT in the Durand Cup opener where they chose a young, all-Indian lineup with Liston Colaco and Manvir Singh as the only experienced players, Mohun Bagan have struggled to put together



their A-game. The Mariners also saw their eight-match winning streak against arch-rivals East Bengal coming to an end following a 0-1 defeat.

The inclusion of their highprofile foreign signings have not given immediate results as coach Juan Ferrando has struggled to find a perfect balance. Australian A-League winner

Jason Cummings, who played in the 2022 World Cup, has struggled to find his form and create a strong attacking presence upfront. The lone bright spot has been Anwar Ali, the India centre-back. Mohun Bagan had Ali's aerial prowess to thank as the defender grabbed a brace to send his side through to the AFC Cup playoff with a 3-1 win over

Cummings also managed to find the target, which could significantly boost his confidence ahead of facing a stronger opponent in a knockout fixture.

The pressure was evident on the last two season's Inter-Zone semi-finalists as Ferrando termed it a "final".

"Tomorrow, it's like a final. We try to do everything we can, give 100 percent," he said.

Ferrando admitted that the hectic schedule made it tough for the team to find the balance. 'The hectic schedule makes it difficult to talk about balance. Preseason was difficult, (we)

didn't get a lot of time to work. 'We tried to give our best in every match. We'll see tomorrow, and then will prepare for the Durand Cup. Some players are playing in the Kolkata league, Durand Čup and AFC Cup.

"Now, we're thinking only about winning the (AFC Cup) match and then the Durand Cup. After that, we will get time to prepare for the season," the Spaniard said. Mohun Bagan had an easy outing against the Mario Lemos-coached side and

won 3-1 last season. But the Dhaka outfit appears to be in superb form, having stitched a four-match winning run that includes a 2-1 victory over Club Eagles of Maldives in the preliminary stage 2. "Both teams will be playing at the same level. The last match was totally different, the combination was totally different," Ferrando said.

Ferrando acknowledged that he has to find the perfect balance. "Every team is thinking about the best lineup. It's most important to be ready for tomorrow's match and try to find the best lineup. It's difficult to say you are completely happy all the time. You have to improve always," he added.

Having learnt from their mistakes, Lemos is keen to give the Mariners a tough fight this time. "It's definitely a tough match. Mohun Bagan are a highly skilled and experienced team. We faced them last season and made some mistakes. At the very least, we aim to make the game more competitive compared to last year," he said.

### hockey team scores 4-0 win over England

PTI ■ DUSSELDORF

The Indian junior men's hock-ey team scored a fluent 4-0 victory over England at the 4-Nations Tournament here on Monday. Rajinder Singh (13th), Amir Ali (33th), Amandeep Lakra (41st) and Araijeet Singh Hundal (58th) were the goal scorers for India.

After a cagey start to the match, India went ahead 1-0 after Rajinder converted a penalty corner.

Trailing by a goal, England started stitching together attacking moves to cover the deficit in the second quarter.

However, they could not penetrate the Indian defence as the scoreline remained 1-0 at half-time.

At the start of the second half, Amir Ali scored a quick field goal to put more pressure on England.



With a 2-0 lead behind them, India started dominating the proceedings. Amandeep converted another penalty corner late in the third quarter as India further extended their

With 15 minutes left on the clock, England started showcasing urgency to find goals, but India defended deep.

Araijeet added another goal at the stroke of the final whistle

as India won the match 4-0.

## Spain poised for long run among soccer elite with talented young team

Newly crowned Women's World Cup champion Spain has established itself for a long run among soccer's elite with its young and talented roster of rising stars.

La Roja defeated England 1-0 in Sunday's final for their first major tournament title. Over the course of the month-long event, Spain played through the turbulence of last year's player rebellion and the injurydiminished role of two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas.

Aitana Bonmati, at just 25 years old, solidified her credentials as a top

midfielder, and 19-year-old forward Salma Paralluelo proved to be a rising global star.
"I know that this is the dream

we've had since we were little. So right now it is difficult to comprehend. But when we get home, we'll really know what we did," Paralluelo said. "It's something huge."

Spain joined Germany as the

only two nations to win both men's and women's World Cup titles and Bonmati spoke about inspiring a generation - just like her hero Andres Iniesta influenced her in 2010 when the Spanish men won the World Cup in South Africa.



Bonmati and her teammates after the match were already wearing new jerseys that included the star above Spain's crest that signifies a World Cup title.

'Today we have this star and this medal and this cup, but it's for all of them, all of those who have fought for more equality and to get us to a better place," said Bonmati. "We love that we could contribute our part to be role models for all those girls and boys. Very emotional to have achieved something so extraor-

More than anything else, Spain's victory showed that the rest of the

al powers. Germany, Brazil and the United States all suffered surprisingly early exits from the tournament. Few expected the traditional soccer powerhouses to have long

world is catching up to the tradition-

gone home by the time Spain hoisted the trophy. An expanded field of 32 teams was expected to expose the dispari-

ty in the women's game. But instead, teams including Morocco, South Africa and Jamaica all advanced to the knockout round to defy expectations. Morocco was one of eight teams playing in its first Women's

# RAHUL MAKES ASIA CUP CUT WITH A RIDER PTI NEW DELHI said Agarkar in his first media interaction since taking charge T. Z.L. Rahul, albeit with a SAHUL MAKES ASIA CUP CUT WITH A RIDER Manual Cup Same. Shreyas Iyer is fully fit, said Agarkar in his first media interaction since taking charge T. Z.L. Rahul, albeit with a SAHUL MAKES ASIA CUP CUT WITH A RIDER All of India's Asia Cup sames will be played in Sri Lanka while tournament host Robit during the media interaction. All of India's Asia Cup sames will be played in Sri Lanka while tournament host Robit during the media interaction.

L Rahul, albeit with a rider, and Shreyas Iyer were on Monday named in India's squad for the Asia Cup beginning August 31 while highly-rated young batter Tilak Varma earned a maiden call-up to the one-day format to the one-day format.

There were question marks over the fitness of Rahul and Iyer, who are making a comeback after undergoing thigh and back surgeries respectively Iyer last played in March and Rahul in May. While Iyer was declared fully fit by chief selector Ajit

Agarkar, questions remain over Rahul's fitness status.

Wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has been added to the squad as a back up for Rahul who has developed a niggle recently, informed Agarkar after announcing the squad here.

"It is not the original injury. There is a niggle. That is why Sanju is travelling (to Sri Lanka). We are expecting Rahul to be fit. If not the start of Asia cup may be by the second or the third game. Shreyas Iyer is fully fit," said Agarkar in his first media interaction since taking charge last month. Pacer Prasidh Krishna, who made a comeback from injury with the ongoing series in Ireland, has also been included in the Asia Cup squad.

Varma has made the cut on

he pioneer

the back of an impressive run in his maiden T20 series in the West Indies. The 20-year-old is currently with the T20 squad in

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal was a notable omission from the squad, leaving India with only one wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja are the other spin bowling options.

Hardik Pandya, who has

been named vice-captain, and Shardul Thakur, are the two pace bowling all-rounders while Krishna, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammad Shami are the specialist fast bowlers.

X-factor batter Suryakumar Yadav has also found a place despite his underwhelming run



games will be played in Sri Lanka while tournament host Pakistan will get to host four games at home.

Asked about Varma's inclusion in the squad as he is yet to play ODI cricket, Agarkar added: "In West Indies, we saw some real promise in terms of not just performances but the temperament. And it gives us an opportunity to take him with the team, give him some more exposure; a left-hander again,

looks very promising.
"So fortunately we can take
17 here, it'll be 15 at the World Cup. So when the time comes we'll take that decision, but at the

we'll take that decision, but at the moment it, at least, gives the coach and captain an opportunity to have him with the squad."
Sitting alongside Agarkar, India skipper Rohit Sharma explained the rationale behind Chahal's exclusion leaving the team with no right hand off-spin option

"We thought about an off-spinner as well, Ashwin and Washy (Washington Sundar), but right now you see Chahal

could only pick 17 players," said Rohit during the media interac-

"The only way we could have picked him was if one of the seamers was missing. We can't do that because seamers are going to play a big role in the next two months. A few of them are coming back after a long time, so we wanted to have a good look at them, get them in and see what they have to offer. "Having said that, no doors are closed on anyone. Anyone can come in anytime. If we feel like we need Chahal for the World Cup, we'll see how we can squeeze him in, same goes for Washy or Ashwin." **Squad:** Rohit Sharma (cap-

tain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Sanju Samson (back up to Rahul).

## Hayden backs Tilak, Gill to fire

### Terms Chahal's omission from Asia Cup 'big'

PTI MUMBAI

ormer Australia batter Matt-backed young players Shubman Gill and Tilak Varma to make the opportunity count after they were named in India's squad for the Asia Cup.

After making a stunning 890 runs in the IPL 2023, Gill went through a lean patch during the tour to West Indies, hitting just two fifties in 10 matches across three formats.

However, Varma impressed all with fine outings in the T20I series in the Caribbean, culminating in his maiden call-up to the India ODI side.

"(It) is this extreme talent, especially within the batting sense, that brings India to life. Gill hasn't played a lot of one-day cricket for his country yet. Tilak Varma day mid 16 day agame of one-day cricket for his country. But that doesn't mean they're not able to deliver.

"And this is what we've seen in the IPL. We've seen names which otherwise you'd have absolutely zero idea of, come to stage but certainly an international event, and set it alight. So, I feel very confident in the fact that Indian cricket is in good hands," Hayden told media here on the sidelines of the CEAT

Cricket Rating Award. Hayden pointed out the strong character of India's middle-order to underline his point. "When you look at India's



middle-order, you look at Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Surya-kumar Yadav, Tilak Varma... those 3-4 players, and Rohit Sharma described it best. He said 'you can look at anyone at those numbers but ultimately it's not one of them that wins you the World Cup," said Hayden.

However, Hayden termed not selecting leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal for Asia Cup

as a 'big omission'.
"There're some big omissions. Chahal in particular, that leg-spinner is such a superb player and (it) must be tough for the selectors because they've also got another one in Kuldeep (Yadav).... He's a superb player. option," Hayden said.

Talking further about Varma's inclusion, Hayden said it could be a move with other big events in mind.

"In the lead up to World Cups, you're always going to have some players and we've seen the class of Tilak Varma. I even potentially getting into the next World Cup (T20 World Cup 2024) as well," he said.

Hayden said the presence of Varma in the squad will put pressure on Suryakumar Yadav, who has had a hard time auditioning for the No 4 position in ODIs.
"The great thing about

Team India is that it has got a really solid 1-2-3 combination, similar to Australia. When you look at their last four or five months, they've had a really

strong engine room," he said.
"They've got some good problems to solve through the middle-order. If they can fill spots with talented young playpressure on someone like Suryakumar Yadav — I think that's a good strategy; keep everyone honest in the side and performing, so not a bad move,

Hayden explained. Asked whether India head coach Rahul Dravid is conservative in his approach, Hayden think it's a good strategy in terms of not just this World Cup but said coaches do not win tournaments, but players do. He cited

'Bazball' as an example.
"Like Rahul (Dravid) is

important for your Tilak Varmas, he is, probably, important for your Suryakumar Yadavs as well. We're gonna have another great name here in Baz (Brendon) McCullum... Where it's not always the innovation that wins you World

Cups or tournaments.

"I mean, as much as people were talking about Bazball, it was still in England, a drawn series (Ashes 2023)," Hayden

Hayden also brushed aside concerns about ODI forms of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

"Since his hundred against tralia in Ahmedal seen a different Virat Kohli. I haven't seen a lot of his performances of late coming into the West Indies.

"But big players want big tournaments and both of those two names will be set for a big World Cup. They'll both play I think according to that. I wouldn't be too worried about it," he

### **Getting dropped from Indian** team left me frustrated: Pujara West Zone against Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinals. He followed it up

PTI ■ LONDON

Veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara on Monday admitted that getting dropped from the Indian Test team was a frustrating experience, and left him with self-doubt

and a bruised ego.

The 35-year-old did not find a place in the Indian Test squad for the recent tour to the West Indies.

The veteran of 103 Tests last played for India in the WTC Final against Australia at the Oval in June, where he made 14 and 27.
"There have been ups and downs in the

last few years. It tests you as a player because having played, say more than 90 Test matches, I still had to prove myself. I still had to prove that I belonged there. It's a different type of challenge," Pujara told the Final Word Podcast Word Podcast.

Pujara said the axing sometimes left him a frustrated person.

"Sometimes you do get frustrated, even if you have to prove yourself after 90 Tests and five-six thousand, whatever number of runs I had scored. It's not easy. Sometimes it plays around with your ego. There are still doubts - are you good enough.



"If you have to prove yourself again and again, (you wonder) whether it is worth it," said Pujara, who is now playing for Sussex in Fredish County pridet

runs behind top-placed Virat Kohli. Pujara also made his presence felt in the

domestic matches with three hundreds. The Saurashtra man made a 133 for

"In my cricketing career, I have been put in English County cricket.

Pujara was India's second highest rungetter in the last WTC cycle (2021-2023) with 928 runs from 17 Tests, a mere four under pressure so many times where I've lost my spot in the team. But you just try and

play for the team. You don't try and play for

with unbeaten 106 and 117 for Sussex

against Northamptonshire and Somerset respectively in the One-Day Cup.

more to offer to Indian cricket.
"I know that the kind of contributions

I have made to Indian cricket, I still have a

lot to contribute. I was given an interesting

to win...Or we haven't lost that particular Test

ried about selection and his focus will be on

further sharpening his game.

However, Pujara said he was not wor-

"I was told that whenever I have scored more than 70 or 80 runs for the Indian team, about 80% of the time India have gone on

stat some time ago.

match," he said.

Pujara is convinced that he has a lot

"If you play for your spot, you're just another selfish cricketer who is just being there in the playing XI, playing for the spot but not contributing to the team.

## 4th medium pacer, backup batter among areas India must prioritise before World Cup: Karthik

Indian cricketer Dinesh Kart-**L**hik feels identifying the fourth pace option and a backup batter are the two areas that India needs to prioritise during the Asia Cup ahead of the World Cup. While India's top order will feature skipper Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli, the pace attack will comprise Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj.

"There are two areas (India must identify at the Asia Cup). um pacer," Karthik told the ICC. "We have Jasprit (Bumrah), we have (Mohammed) Shami and we have (Mohammed) Siraj. We are sure about all of these three, but who is going to be the fourth?" "Is it going to be Shardul Thakur? Is it going to be Prasidh Krishna? Mukesh Kumar? Or are you going to go for the pace of Umran Malik?"



Considering the middle order, especially the finisher's slot, Karthik called for rookie Tilak Varma as a viable option, besides keeping Suryakumar Yadav in

Varma has been named in

India's Asia Cup squad after his stellar show during the T20 stellar show during the T20 he finished as India's highest run-scorer. "Do we need a lefthander? Do we look at Tilak Varma or is Suryakumar that option as he plays all the sweeps that are available in the game, makes it hard for spinners and is a very good player of spin as

well," Karthik continued. "So, who is the backup batter. That is the next question."

## We don't ask players overnight to bat at any slot: Rohit Any player can be fitted

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndian captain Rohit Sharma **⊥** wants his middle order batters to show flexibility as no one in the national team owns any particular batting position.

The Indian captain also said that each and every player who plays or misses out has received clear communication about what role is expected of them and where they stand in terms of their international career. Asked how Ishan Kishan

will be placed vis a vis his batting slot if KL Rahul misses out against Pakistan in the Asia Cup opener, Rohit explained the team's thought process. "Ajit (Agarkar) is new to the picture and he didn't know what was happening before that. I have tried to keep him updated as much as possible," Rohit said while answering the PTI query.

"One thing I need in this team is everyone ready to bat anywhere. Cricket is moving in a different direction. You can step up at any position, no one should say 'I am good at this position and that position. That is the message that has been conveyed to every individual, not now but that's happening for last two, three or four years," the skipper said. "I know it's tough for you guys outside to understand that why is a guy who was batting at No. 6 is suddenly batting at No. 4. It hasn't happened overnight. He has been prepared for that role. This is international sport we are talking about. This is not club cricket."



anywhere that team requires him to. Not like we go off to sleep at night telling a batter a position and next morning we change that position. It doesn't happen like that," Rohit said in his inimitable style. The Indian skipper seemed a trifle irritated when asked why India doesn't have a settled No. 4.

We have got guys who can bat at No.4. It's not about No.4. It's about top three and there onwards, 4, 5, 6, 7 and there onwards and who can win us game. There have been challenges and guys have been put under pressure and that's a good

thing.
"Unfortunately, we had injuries along the line and we down.

and keep in mind workload management and see what combination suits us.

"We have 9 ODIs and 2 practice games and we have lot of games where these guys will get a chance to make the posi-tion their own," he added. When a scribe tried to grill

him on his flexibility logic asking if random batting position changes create instability, his answer was akin to a pull shot that he plays against fast bowlers.

"When I said flexibility is necessary I never said Hardik (Pandya) will open the innings. Not that. It's not top three but ones batting at No 4 or 5 who need to be flexible to bat up or

"No. 5 is Rahul and No. 6 is Hardik, but if there's some change that flexibility is required as we also as youngsters did it. There is a method. We don't do that kind of madness. This is not school rule that numbers 1 to 8 are fixed. It's not about creating mayhem," the sarcasm wasn't lost on anyone.

Can't drop a pacer in order to pick Chahal or Ashwin

Yuzvendra Chahal looks likely to miss the World Cup bus and Rohit was very categorical that he couldn't have afforded to miss out on pace bowling option in order to pick him or

Ravichandran Ashwin. "We thought about off spinner Ashwin and Washy (Wash-

ington Sundar) but right now you saw Chahal has to miss out and we can't get him in because we can take only 15 and only way we could have done that is by dropping a seamer. "We cannot do that consid-

ering amount of games that is going to happen, some of them coming back after long time and we can have a good look at them. See what they have to offer."

But like any skipper would do, Rohit said that doors are not closed on anyone although it was more of a consolation statement.

"No doors are closed on anyone. Chahal has played lot of white ball cricket and if we need him we would find ways to squeeze him in. So is Ashwin or

# in No 4 position: Ganguly

PTI MUMBAI

 $F^{ormer\ captain\ Sourav\ Ganguly\ on\ Monday\ said}$  India have a lot of options for the No 4 position in their ODI side, and stressed that one position alone will not win important tournaments like the World Cup. Ganguly said the team management should zero in on one player and give him a long rope at the No 4 slot.

"India has enormous talent. I keep hearing about this...We don't have this or that but we have too much and that is the problem that we cannot decide. "The No 4...Rahul (Dravid), selectors and Rohit (Sharma) need to decide that 'this is my No 4 and I will continue with him. One batting slot does not make much of a difference," Ganguly told the media here while being appointed as the brand ambassador of the real estate company Casagrand.

Downplaying the debate over the No 4 position, Ganguly said any player can be fitted there. Number four is just a number and anybody

can fit in. I started in the middle-order in oneday cricket and went on to open because I was asked to by Sachin (Tendulkar) as captain. It is the same with Sachin. He batted at six and his captain asked him to

open and he became a world-class player. Anybody can play at No 4. There's Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul," said Ganguly.

Promising left-hander Tilak Varma, who impressed all during the T20I series against West Indies recently, on Monday was included in India's squad for the Asia Cup 2023. It was his maiden entry into India's ODI set-

up. Ganguly hoped that the young batsman will make the opportunity count with big runs.
"He is good but I think when you play big

tournaments, you need a bit more runs under the belt," he said.

Ganguly opined that wrist spinners will be crucial for India in the coming tournaments. "We have a very good bowling attack...



med) Shami, (Ravindra) Jadeja will play the allrounder's role and then you have the wrist spinners. "I will always pick (Yuzvendra) Chahal, I will always pick wrist spinners. I do not know what the selectors think but I will always pick wrist spinners," he said.

However, Chahal was not picked in India's Asia Cup squad but left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav found a place in the Sri Lankabound unit.

Ganguly backed India to come good in the Asia Cup and in the subsequent World Cup.

"It's a solid team, I keep saying that, (but) I keep hearing "yaar solid solid bolte ho, World Cup jeet ta hi nahi hai, aise thodi World Cup har samay jeetega yaar. (you say it is a solid team but does not win the World Cup. You cannot win the World Cup every time)," he said.

Ganguly said India will enter the semifinals of the World Cup and urged everyone to give the side a bit of time to find the mojo. "I am sure they will at least get to the semi-

finals (of WC). They entered the Test championship final, which itself is an achievement. Once they get there, they'll cross the bridge.

So, I have a lot of time for this team, a lot of faith in this team and hopefully from the Asia Cup we will see a side which will go all the way (against) Australia and then the World Cup," he added.