

OPINION 6
DENTIST PRESIDENT
INFLECTS PAIN IN PAKISTAN

WORLD 9
SUNAK APOLOGISES FOR
CODE BREACH

MONEY 10
STOCK MARKETS SNAP 3-DAY
GAINING STREAK

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY AUGUST 25, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



INDIAN PLAYERS
UNDERGO
YO-YO TEST
12 SPORT

INDIA WALKS ON THE MOON

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India took a walk on the moon, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Thursday, as Chandrayaan-3's robotic rover rolled out of the lander and commenced mobility operations with all activities on schedule and all systems normal, a day after its historic landing on the unexplored lunar south pole.

The Vikram lander with Pragyan rover in its belly touched down on the Moon's surface "well within the area" identified for the purpose, said ISRO chairman S Somanath, as the 26-kg six-wheeled rover began its exploration of the lunar surface.

The ISRO also said all the Lander Module (LM) payloads have been turned on.

"All activities are on schedule. All systems are normal. Lander Module payloads ILSA, RAMBHA and ChaSTE are turned ON today. Rover mobil-



ity operations have commenced. SHAPE payload on the Propulsion Module was turned ON on Sunday," it said in a post on X while giving an update in the evening.

In a post earlier in the day, the space agency said the "rover ramped down", marking the

success of yet another stage of Chandrayaan-3, as it lines up a series of missions like the Mangalyaan-2 Mars Orbiter Mission, Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight programme and also the Sun mission Aditya-L1. "Chandrayaan-3 ROVER: Made in India — Made for the

Moon! The Ch-3 Rover ramped down from the lander and India took a walk on the moon!"

India on Wednesday scripted history as its third unmanned Moon mission's Lander Module made a flawless soft-landing, making it only the fourth country to achieve this feat, and first to reach the uncharted south pole of Earth's only natural satellite.

As the country basked under the glory of its spectacular space success, senior BJP leader and former Karnataka Minister R Ashoka said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Bengaluru on August 26 to congratulate ISRO scientists and officials.

Somanath said the rover movement is working "very well".

"The lander landed perfectly on the intended site. The landing location was marked as 4.5 km x 2.5 km — I think on that space, and the exact centre of that was iden-

tified as the location of landing. It landed within 300 metres of that point.

"That means it is well within the area identified for landing," Somanath told PTI in response to a question on the exact landing site.

He said there are two instruments in the rover and three instruments on board the lander, and all of them have been switched on sequentially. "They will study basically the mineral composition of the moon, as well as the atmosphere of the Moon and the seismic activities there."

Prime Minister Modi said science has made it possible for India to reach a difficult terrain on the Moon and thanked world leaders for their congratulatory messages on Chandrayaan-3's success.

"Since yesterday I have been receiving congratulatory messages from everyone."

World leaders hail Modi for Chandrayaan mission feat P4



Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa and Norwegian Grandmaster and World Number 1 player Magnus Carlsen during the second tie-breaker match of the Chess World Cup 2023 final in Baku on Thursday PTI

Praggnanandhaa charts path to glory

PTI ■ CHENNAI

For someone, who took to chess just because his parents wanted him and his sister to wean away from watching television, R Praggnanandhaa has charted his own path to glory and is closer to greatness than ever.

The 19-year old wonder-boy has long been seen as a possible successor to the five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand and is certainly on the path to be a chess great.

A stunning performance in

the FIDE World Cup in Baku has catapulted him to the Candidates tournament to determine the challenger to current world champion Ding Liren.

He could not win the World Cup but his stellar giant-killing show brought chess on the front page of national dailies, adding to the popularity of the game that is followed keenly only in a few States in India.

By becoming the only Indian player after Anand to book a spot in the Candidates, the Chennai teenager has proved that he will be the

name to reckon with when it comes to big-ticket chess events.

Praggnanandhaa could not pull off a repeat of his giant-killing acts of the last few days as fancied Magnus Carlsen beat him 1.5-0.5 in the tie-break to win the FIDE World Cup here on Thursday.

Praggnanandhaa's dream run in the tournament ended at the hands of the world No. 1 after the classical games ended in a stalemate and required a tie-breaker to identify the winner.

Continued on Page 2

Modi, Xi discuss LAC

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ JOHANNESBURG

As tension persists at the border in Ladakh between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday flagged this issue during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday. Both leaders agreed to "expeditious de-escalation" on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

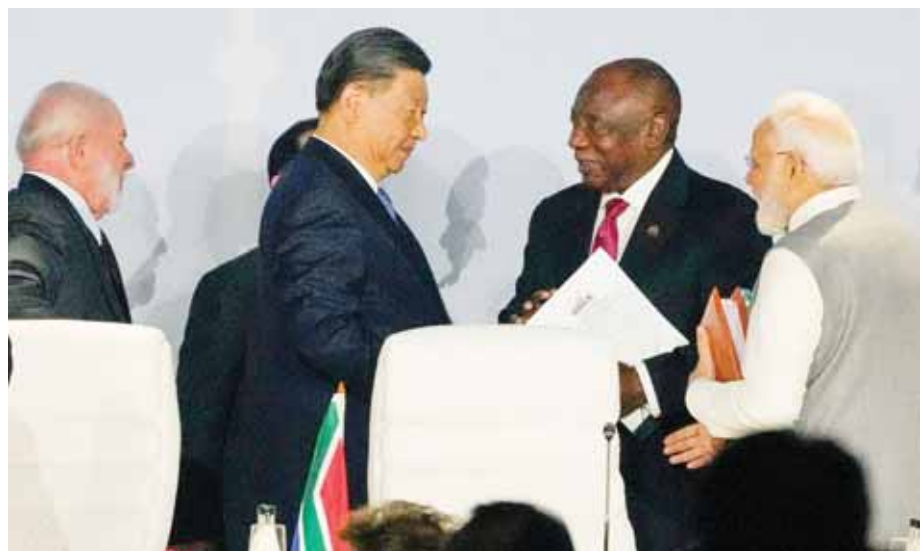
During his meeting with the Chinese President on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, Modi highlighted concerns over the situation at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said.

Modi and Jinping agreed to work for "expeditious de-escalation" along the entire LAC, where tensions have been high since the violent face-off in June 2020 in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley.

"It was a conversation with President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. The Prime Minister had interaction with other BRICS leaders. In the conversation with President Xi Jinping, the Prime Minister highlighted India's concerns over unresolved issues along the LAC and other areas along the India-China border," Kwatra said.

He said the PM underlined that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas and respecting the LAC are essential for the normalisation of India-China relationship.

"In this regard, the two leaders agreed to direct their relevant officials to intensify efforts at expeditious disen-



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks to China's President Xi Jinping as President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula, left, and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi look on in Johannesburg on Thursday PTI

gagement and de-escalation," the Foreign Secretary said.

The two leaders on Thursday were seen having brief exchanges ahead of a media briefing by the BRICS leaders on the final day of the high-profile event.

Continued on Page 2

Murmur in Congress: Support to AAP a blunder

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Opposition bloc INDIA meeting next week, there are rumblings within the Congress whether it "politically erred" in extending unconditional support to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Parliament over the contentious Delhi Services Bill against the wish of large number of senior party leaders who protested the move till last moment.

What has now irked the grand old party is the AAP

vehemently pitching for poll battle in the Congress strongholds of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and attacking the Congress on a continuous basis even though the Congress did damage control a week ago to pacify the AAP when a couple of Delhi Congress leaders claimed that the party has asked leaders to prepare to fight all seven Lok Sabha seats in the national Capital.

When contacted some of the newly appointed Congress Working Committee members

told *The Pioneer* that the AAP electoral ventures had certainly damaged the Congress in last year Assembly elections in Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Goa.

Sources said that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who was in the national Capital on Thursday, and former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijay Singh had drawn the high command's attention to the AAP's campaign against Congress leaders and workers in both the States which may dent the party's prospects.

Continued on Page 2

Rocketry best film; Alia, Kriti, Allu best actors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood stars Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon shared the best actress prize in the National Awards 2021 for their roles in "Gangubai Kathiawadi" and "Mimi", respectively. While Hindi film "Rocketry: The Nambi Effect" was named the best feature film, southern cinema sensation Allu Arjun bagged the best actor award for the Telugu blockbuster "Pushpa: The Rise (Part I)".

The National Film Award for best director went to Nikhil Mahajan for Marathi film "Godavari". Pankaj Tripathi was named best supporting actor for "Mimi" and Pallavi Joshi the best supporting actress for "The Kashmir Files".

"The Kashmir Files", directed by Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, also won the Nargis Dutt award for best film on national integration. "RRR" won six awards. Tripathi dedicated the award to his father, who passed away recently.



The National Awards for 2021 were announced by filmmaker Ketan Mehta who headed the 11-member jury. The jury received 280 feature films in 28 languages as entries.

Asked about films releasing theatrically in 2022 winning the awards for 2021, Neerja Sekhar, Information and Broadcasting additional secretary, said, "As per the regulations, the eligible films were certified and released from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021."

RRR music director MM Keeravani shared the best music direction award with "Pushpa (The Rise Part I)" music director Devi Prasad. The SS Rajamouli-directed film also bagged awards for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment, best male playback singer to Kalabhairava, best special effects, best action director and best choreography.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's lavishly mounted biopic

"Gangubai Kathiawadi", on the powerful and much respected Kamathipura courtesan, won five awards.

Besides best actress for Bhatt, Bhansali won two awards — for best screenplay writer (adapted) along with Utkarshini Vashishtha and best editing for the film. The film's other awards were for best dialogue writer for Vashishtha and Prakash Kapadia and best make-up artist for Preetisheel Singh D'souza.

Continued on Page 2

In this moment of triumph over the moon, the country is realizing the importance of scientific research. Alike the grand success of space scientists, we have created a landmark achievement by publishing 3000 research protocols and more than 500 research papers in the world's top research journals and achieved what the WHO and entire medical system could not achieve.

RESEARCH & EVIDENCE based ayurvedic medicine, for Arthritis, Cervical, Spondylitis, Slip Disc, Sciatica and other Vata Dosha related diseases.

Regenerates damaged cartilage, improves blood circulation, rejuvenates degenerated cells and regulates pain markers.

Highly beneficial in knee pain, backache, shoulder pain, neck pain and pain in hips and joints.

Made with 38 precious herbs

Goodness of powerful herbs such as Vrihatvaat Chintamani, Punarnavadi Mandoor, Shuddh Guggal, Svam Bhasm etc.

All our medicines are available at Patanjali Stores, leading medical, ayurvedic and others stores across India.

The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

House panel examines Bills set to replace IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel on Thursday began examining the three bills that seek to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and the Evidence Act, with Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla making a detailed presentation on various aspects of the proposed legislation.

Opposition members raised a range of issues, with DMK's Dayanidhi Maran alleging that Hindi names given to the bills are violative of Article 348 of the Constitution and seeking consultations with stakeholders like states, judges and bar associations from across the country, sources said.

They added that Maran submitted a letter listing his objections and demands, including giving English names to the bills, to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs Chairperson Brijlal, a BJP MP and former IPS officer.

Many members, including from the BJP, praised the thrust of the bill. Sources said BJP MP Dilip Ghosh alleged that in a state like West Bengal, even serious cases are not regis-



tered at times and called for measures to ensure that victims are given justice.

TMC member Derek O'Brien asked why the new bills were brought in as the existing laws could have been amended as well. Congress member Digvijay Singh said the committee should not rush in preparing its report and take time to do a thorough job. Opposition members also supported Maran's contentions.

Bhalla's presentation highlighted the main features of the three bills, including the removal of sedition as an offence and proposing stringent measures for crimes against children. He noted that views were gathered from a wide range of sources, ranging from chief ministers, judges, governors and MPs before the

bills were introduced.

Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the three bills -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill -- in the Lok Sabha during Parliament's Monsoon session. The House had referred them to the standing committee.

Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhanakhar had on August 18 formally sent the bills to the committee and asked it to submit its report in three months, in time for the government to table the updated bills in the next session of Parliament.

Bhalla's presentation will continue for two more days -- Friday and Saturday. Sources said the committee will meet on September 11 and 12 as it

seeks to speed up its work and elicit the views of various domain experts. The home secretary is likely to be present on the two days as well.

In his letter, Maran said the connecting language of all states is English and unless all stakeholders know the name of the proposed laws in this "common language" their implementation will be difficult. "Hindi cannot be imposed through these bills in non-Hindi speaking states like Tamil Nadu and I strongly object to usage of Hindi titles and also text inside the three Bills," the DMK member said.

While introducing the bills, Shah had said these would transform India's criminal justice system and added the changes were done to provide speedy justice and create a legal system that caters to the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people.

He had described the existing laws, all enacted in the 19th century during British rule, as a colonial legacy meant to protect the rulers and not the people. The standing committee, sources said, did not adopt its draft report on "Prison Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms" as scheduled.

BJP leaders commemorate Jaitley's death anniversary



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of the fourth death anniversary of former Union Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday, senior BJP leaders including State president Virendra Sachdeva paid rich tributes to him by garlanding his statue at Arun Jaitley Park. On this occasion, the family of Arun Jaitley, his wife Sangeeta Jaitley, their son DDCA. Chairman Rohan Jaitley and his daughter Sonali Jaitley Bakshi were present.

BJP Lok Sabha MPs Manoj Tiwari and Ramesh Bidhuri, NDMC Vice President Satish Upadhyay, J&K BJP co-chairman Ashish Sood and others were also present.

Recalling his political experiences with Jaitley the Delhi BJP President said that he considered himself very fortunate that he got the opportunity to work under him.

ED suspects job-scram money routed through Abhishek's company

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The money raised from the multi-crore school-level recruitment scam might have been routed through the Leaps and Bounds company, an enterprise primarily owned by Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his family members, sources in the Enforcement Directorate suspect.

The ED has been investigating the multi-crore recruitment scam which has landed a number of top TMC leaders including former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee, MLAs and senior government employees including a sitting vice chancellor in jail.

Three days after the ED conducted marathon raids at Leaps and Bounds offices and other premises sources said "the hard discs seized from the said company have revealed details of transactions between the company and about 4-5 other companies ... huge amounts of money have flowed in from these companies --- as 'consultation fees' --- to the company raided."

The owners of this company in question have explanations to make about the other companies they dealt



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

with, sources said. "It may be that these companies are not in existence at all or may have been wound up," officials said. The ED had on Monday raided various locations related to Abhishek Banerjee --- who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee --- including the premises and a water manufacturing company of Leaps and Bounds. Abhishek Banerjee a TMC MP from Diamond Harbour has been the Chief Executive Officer of the company.

Chief Operating Officer of the company Sujaykrishna Bhadra also named as Kalighater Kaku (Uncle of Kalighat), the area where the Chief Minister resides with her family members is presently in jail for his alleged connection with the recruitment scam.

The ED officials had recovered a number of digital evidences including hard discs showing "dubious transaction details."

Court convicts 2 for 5 years for promoting ISIS activities in India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In another major ISIS conspiracy case under probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), a special court here has sentenced two accused to five years' imprisonment and fines for promoting the banned terrorist outfit's activities in India.

The duo, Abdullah Basith and Abdul Qadir, were arrested on August 12, 2018 for their affiliation with the ISIS and for furthering its violent anti-India agenda through the ISIS Abu Dhabi module, the NIA said.

The NIA Special Court here sentenced them under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and relevant provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as also under Explosive Substances Act. They have been jailed for five years and imposed a fine of Rs 2000 each.

Private medical colleges charge exorbitant fees, pay less stipend: NMC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Private medical colleges may have been charging exorbitant tuition fees, but when it comes to paying stipends it is either peanuts or none, as has been found by the National Medical Commission (NMC) during a survey conducted by it recently.

The medical education body found that a fourth of postgraduate students in private medical colleges are not receiving stipends. This is a clear violation of the NMC rules. According to Regulation 13 of Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations (PGMER), 2000, amended from time to time, "The post-graduate students of the institutions which are located in various states/Union Territories shall be paid remuneration at par with the remuneration being paid to the postgraduate students of state government medical institutions/central government medical institutions, in the state/Union Territory in which the institution is located."

However, according to the



survey's findings, shared by the NMC on Thursday, "around half the students responded that the stipend being paid is not equal to government medical colleges in their states."

The commission conducted an online survey via Google Forms on the issue of stipends to undergraduate interns and postgraduate medical students in self-financed/private medical colleges.

The survey received 10,178 responses from postgraduate medical students. Of these, 7,901 responses were from postgraduate students in 213 private medical colleges of 19 states and two Union Territories.

The balance responses were either from students of government medical colleges or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) hospitals and some duplicate responses, an NMC advisory on the payment of stipends to postgraduate medical students said.

Analysis of the 7,901 responses showed that 2,110 postgraduate students of various private medical colleges are not receiving stipends.

Auroville Foundation announces 1st Literature Fest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AUROVILLE/NEW DELHI

Auroville Foundation, which comes under the aegis of Ministry of Education, has announced its first literature festival from August 25 - 27th August, 2023, bringing together some of the best Indian, International and local writers, thinkers and poets and to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

"As the culminating event of the 150th year commemoration, we are honoured to have on board the Chennai International Centre and the Valley of Words Literature and Arts International Festival as our festival partners and are grateful for the generous support of the Ministry of Culture and the Auroville Foundation," said Jayanti Ravi (IAS), Secretary, Auroville Foundation.

Ever since appointment of the 1991 batch Gujarat cadre officer, Ravi has been successfully able to work on keeping intact the glory of Auroville which remained neglected for years after its inception through an Act of Parliament. The campus situated near Chennai in Tamil Nadu and in Puducherry also hosted a series of working committee meetings on G20.

BRICS expansion message to world to transform: PM

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/JOHANNESBURG

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) combine on Thursday decided to admit six countries as its new members with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying modernisation and expansion of the bloc is a message to all global institutions to transform considering the changing times.

The decision to admit new members including Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE was taken at the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg. South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the decision to invite the six countries to join the combine on the final day of the summit started on August 22.

He said the new member nations will become part of BRICS from January 1, 2024.

Prime Minister Modi said at a media briefing there along with the BRICS leaders admitting Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members will give new energy and direction to the grouping.

Modi said the decision to expand the grouping will also further strengthen the belief of many countries in a multipolar world. He made these remarks in his media statement in presence of Ramaphosa, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz

Inacio Lula da Silva. Russian President Vladimir Putin made his media statement through video conference.

The Prime Minister said India has always fully supported expansion of BRICS and believed that addition of new members will further strengthen the grouping.

"I am happy that our teams have together agreed on guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures for expansion of BRICS," he said.

"I am happy that many positive outcomes came out of three days' of deliberations," he added.

Modi said he was confident that "we would be able to give new dynamism to BRICS by working with new member countries of the grouping". Referring to countries being admitted as new BRICS members, Modi said India has had very deep and historic relations with all of them.

Ramaphosa announced the decision flanked by Prime Minister Modi, President Jinping and President Lula da Silva. The South African president said an agreement was reached on the "guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures of the BRICS expansion process, which has been under discussion for quite a while".

"We have consensus on the first phase of this expansion process, and further phases will follow," he said. South Africa is holding the current presidency of BRICS.

IAF to procure 100 more Tejas Mark-1A fighter jets from HAL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to enhance its fighting capabilities, the IAF is planning to procure 100 additional Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark-1A fighter jets from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

At present, the force has 30 Tejas jets and 80 are under production and likely to be in service in batches beginning from 2024. The induction of these indigenously designed and manufactured jets will replace the ageing MiG-21 fighter aircraft, sources said here on Thursday.

The proposals for the projects have been submitted to the Defence Ministry and clearance for the order is expected in the near future.

As many as 300 Tejas Mark-1A fighter jets are going to be inducted into the Indian Air Force in the next few years.

Tejas Mark-1A is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured modern 4-plus generation fighter aircraft with more than 65 per cent indigenous components.

With an indigenously developed Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile, modern Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite and Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) capabilities, Tejas MK 1A is expected to meet the operational requirements of the IAF.

Rocketry best film; Alia...

From Page 1
Shreya Ghoshal won the best female playback award for her song "Mayavaa Chaayavaa" for the film "Iraavin Ninnhal". The original screenplay honour went to Malayalam film "Nayattu" and its writer Shahi Kabir.

The Indira Gandhi Award for best debut film of a director went to Malayalam film "Meppadiyan" while the prize for best film on social issues was given to Assamese film "Anunaad-the Resonance".

Shoojit Sircar's biopic "Sardar Udham Singh" won the award for best Hindi film as

well as honours for best cinematography (re-recording final mixing), best production design and costume design. Agnihotri, who is in the US, said he dedicated his award to victims of terrorism, especially Kashmiri Hindus.

In his Instagram stories, actor-director R Madhavan dedicated the award for "Rocketry..." to his parents and Nambi Narayan, a former ISRO scientist whose life story inspired the film.

Sanon said it was a big moment for her to be recognised by the National Film Award jury.

Murmur in Congress

From Page 1

The Congress, which is in power in Chhattisgarh and was in power in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh until a faction joined to support the BJP, is confident of retaining the same voting percentage in the Assembly polls scheduled later this year.

"While AAP threatened to boycott the Mumbai meeting of INDIA bloc scheduled next week, it did similar arm twisting ahead of the first meeting of Opposition leaders at Patna when they wanted a commitment from the Congress to support in Parliament on Delhi Services Bill," said a senior Congress leader.

"It was only after the party high command was convinced by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to take on board AAP led by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, the party which has presence in two States with no Lok Sabha MP, is in INDIA bloc," rued a very senior Congress leader.

Several State units of the Congress and significantly Delhi and Punjab units many times conveyed to the Congress high command against any format of alliances with the AAP.

Former Union Minister Ajay Maken, who also served as Delhi Congress chief and a Minister in Sheila Dikshit Government, former Delhi MP Sandeep Dikshit, Delhi union leader Alka Lamba and newly inducted part of the CWC Committee have along with several others always opposed any truck with AAP. A former Delhi University Students Union President Lamba was AAP MLA and rejoined the Congress couple of years ago.

Modi, Xi discuss...

From Page 1

Also, post the briefing, the two leaders were seen exchanging a handshake on the stage.

The exchange took place in the backdrop of ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh and the two armies holding a series of meetings there since August 14 to find ways to hasten the process of disengagement.

While the Corps Commanders at the level of Lt Generals held 19th round of talks on August 14 since trouble erupted at the LAC in May 2020, Major Generals of the two armies held talks for a few days starting August 18. These talks focused on strengthening confidence building measures, sources said.

As regards Modi-Jinping interaction in Johannesburg, video footage aired by a South African broadcaster showed the two leaders having a brief exchange. The Prime Minister and the Chinese president met briefly at a dinner in Bali in

November last year. The ties between India and China came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border row that began in May 2020.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year standoff in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

India and China held the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks on August 13 and 14 with a focus on resolving pending issues at the standoff areas of Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh. A joint statement described the talks as "positive, constructive and in-depth" and that both sides agreed to resolve the remaining issues in an expeditious manner.

Days after the fresh round of high-level talks, the local commanders of the two militaries held a series of negotiations in two separate locations to resolve issues in Depsang Plains and Demchok.

Praggnanandhaa charts path to...

From Page 1

For the five-time World Championship winner and Norwegian superstar Carlsen, who has been at the top of the sport for over a decade now, this was his first-ever World Cup title. A wonderkid, who took up the sport at the age of four-and-a-half, Praggnanandhaa has achieved several firsts in his distinguished career thus far.

After coming under the wings of Anand, who has taken to mentorship like a duck to water, the rise has been steady for Praggnanandhaa.

By beating Magnus Carlsen, the world No.1 and former classical champion in an online tournament last year, Praggnanandhaa showed that he could soak in the pressure and defeat the best in his business at their own game.

Though questions remain on his ability in the classical format, the teenaged GM has shown that he has it in him to be in the big league.

Hailing from Chennai, the hotspot of Indian chess, Praggnanandhaa has been in

the spotlight since he made waves at a young age.

He won the national under-7 title to lay down the marker and has been on the rise ever since. At 10, he was an International Master and two years later, he became a GM.

Late in 2019, he achieved a ELO rating of 2600 at 14 years and three months and looked to be on the overdrive. The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 came as a speed bump.

However, Praggnanandhaa shone in online tournaments and kept getting better. In 2021, he impressed in the Meltwater Champions Tour, scoring victories over top names like Sergey Karjakin, Teimour Radjabov and Jan-Krzysztof Duda and drawing Carlsen.

In 2022, his stock rose further when he stunned Carlsen in the Airthings Masters rapid tournament. He became only the third Indian after Anand and P Harikrishna to win a game against the seemingly unbeatable Carlsen.

Praggnanandhaa's calm demeanor when at the table

hides a confident and aggressive player. He can be quite a formidable opponent when he sits across the table for a game.

And, he has shown great fighting qualities, in the World Cup especially. Up against world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura, he showed that in abundance and felled a higher-rated opponent.

Then against Fabiano Caruana, the world No.3, in the semifinal, his defensive capabilities were to the fore and he came through in a nerve-racking tie-break.

As Grandmaster M Shyam Sundar, a coach with the Indian team in Baku for the World Cup, says, "One of his (Praggnanandhaa's) biggest strengths is his ability to defend bad positions even against the absolute elite."

This stands him in good stead in adverse situations.

That apart, as Shyam Sundar says, Praggnanandhaa is good in all formats and that helped him reach the finals as he was confident in the tie-breaks against Caruana.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that M/S Mehta Offset Works having office at A-16, Naraina Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi through its partners (1), Mr. Manoj Mehta (2), Mr. Anil Mehta, (3), Mr. Dalip Kumar Tuli and (4), Mr. Mukul Kumar Tuli, that M/S Mehta Offset Works is the Allottee/owner of Property No. A-16 situated at Naraina Industrial Area Phase-II, Delhi vide File No. F.6A(32) 1965/INDL we lost/misplaced our Original Perpetual Lease Deed Allotment Letter Possession Letter and Section 5 Plan, and C form D form and other documents etc. of the above said property An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station, vide LR No.818057/2023 dated 24/08/2023. Any person claiming any right, interest having any objection may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 7285992702 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (Indl)/or Asstt. Director (Indl), A-Block, First Floor, Vikas Sadan, Indl, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to public at large that my client Gurmurt Singh purchased a property bearing number 29/2 measuring area of plot 41.80-sq MTRS. (50-SQ.YDS) ANARKALI MAIN now known as Old ANARKALI DELHI 110051 by the sale deed mentioned here below.

- Sale deed dated 28.04.2023 executed by Mrs Raj Kumari in favour of Mr. Gurmurt Singh in respect of the property area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. and same was duly registered with the sub registrar-VIII, as Doc. No. 3830, Vol. No. 10652, Book No.1, page no 19-25, on 02.05.2023
- Sale deed dated 30.11.2021 executed by Mrs Sushel Verma in favour of Mr. Raj Kumari in respect of the property area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. and same was duly registered with the sub registrar-VIII, as Doc. No. 9580, Vol. No. 10053, Book No.1, page no 26-34, on 01.12.2021
- Sale deed dated 05.10.2016 executed by Mrs Braham Devi alias Birma devi in favour of Mr. Sushel Verma in respect of the property area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. and same was duly registered with the sub registrar-VIII, as Doc No. 6012, Vol No.8539, Book No.1, page no 17-23, on 14.02.2016

on 14/02/2016 if any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect of right, title or interest in the above said property then contact us with in 7 days from the date of publication of this notice on the number mentioned here in below.

Sd/-
Nishant Bhardwaj
Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Suman Verma and Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Verma intends to purchase Freehold Entire First Floor without roof rights of builtup property No. 95, measuring 211.69 Sq.Yards, at State Bank Colony, Delhi-110009, from Mr. Rajan Shabbi (present owner) who had lost/misplaced the Original Last Page of Conveyance Deed dated 10.05.2011 Registration No. 7999 in the name of Mr. Smt. Shakuntala Rani and my client is mortgaging the same to LIC HFL. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, then our client shall presume that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear.

Karnail Singh, Advocate.
K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension
New Delhi
Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363



CHANGE OF NAME.

I, Jaswinder Singh S/o Shri Balwant Singh R/o J-3 B 2nd Floor Lajpat Nagar-2, South Delhi-110024, hereby declare that correct name of my Minor daughter is Amandeep Kaur Khalsa henceforth Amandeep Kaur and Amandeep Kaur Khalsa is one and the same person.

PD(140)C

Chief Secy not following orders: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a fresh round of tussle between the Arvind Kejriwal led AAP Government in Delhi and the bureaucracy, Services Minister Atishi alleged that the chief secretary has refused to follow her orders for a coordination mechanism to hold meetings of the newly formed National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA).

Reacting to the minister's claim, Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar said such public statements are being made as attempt to indicate authority by her in areas of services matters and vigilance matters, wherein she does not have any executive powers.

"Atishi is neither a member of the NCCSA nor any role has been assigned to her in the GNCTD Act 1991 regarding



Atishi Marlena

NCCSA," the chief secretary said. Delhi BJP also slammed the Kejriwal Government on the issue, saying the AAP government has no concern for the development of Delhi or for peoples welfare.

Atishi claimed that she had issued an order on August 16 for establishing coordination among different departments



Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar

of the Delhi Government and the NCCSA which the chief secretary has refused to accept. "In his 10-page letter on August 21, the chief secretary refused to follow this order," she said in a press conference. "If coordination mechanism for holding meetings is not acceptable to the bureaucracy, how will the NCCSA function?" Atishi

asked. She said the Arvind Kejriwal government, despite knowing that the NCCSA was "illegal and unconstitutional" and challenging its formation in the court, had decided to establish coordination mechanism so that works related to Delhi people do not stop.

"If officers refuse to follow orders of the ministers, works for Delhi people will be hampered and delayed," she said. Atishi said that the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act-2023 says that the officers of the Delhi government may refuse to follow orders of the ministers.

Criticising Atishi, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that be it Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal or Minister Atishi for them power means power to transfer and

post officials.

"They need handpicked officials to raise party funds. With the introduction of Delhi Services Act the Kejriwal government has lost its power to post its handpicked officers at sensitive lucrative positions," he said.

The NCCSA headed by the Delhi chief minister was formed through a Centre's ordinance in May this year and handles services matters including transfer and postings of officers in the government. "It says that the power for taking decisions will rest with an unelected LG (lieutenant governor) and bureaucracy and not with the elected government and its ministers.

Section 45 of the Act says if an officer so wants can deny following order of a minister," she claimed. She questioned if

Delhi was going to be governed by the bureaucrats now? It's just the beginning, she said and apprehended that the officers in coming days may refuse to execute plans of the elected government to open new schools and provide free medicines and electricity.

This will shatter democracy and finish transparency since the elected government is accountable to the people. Atishi had earlier said that there were "several roadblocks" due to which meetings of the NCCSA were hampered.

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

chief secretary said, "The Parliament by law (i.e. GNCTD Amendment Act 2023) has inserted section 45C in the GNCTD Act 1991 which provides executive powers to the central government to make rules encompassing all aspects of service matters, including vigilance matters. Therefore, executives powers w.r.t. Service matters, including vigilance matters, vest with the central government."

"Further, in case of all Group A officers (including IAS officers) and DANICS officers, the transfer/posting and vigilance matters are to be recommended by NCCSA in terms of section 45H of the GNCTD Act 1991 (as inserted by GNCTD Amendment Act 2023). NCCSA is chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister and again there is no role assigned

to Hon'ble Minister Ms. Atishi in NCCSA," he said. It seems that Minister Atishi is trying to capture the executive powers, which are not vested upon her, the chief secretary alleged.

"This is being done when Hon'ble Apex Court has refused to stay the provisions of the GNCTD Amendment Ordinance 2023 (which has now been replaced by the GNCTD Amendment Act 2023). Even she is trying to dictate the NCCSA which is chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

"This ultimately shows that such public statements are being made as attempt to indicate authority by Hon'ble Minister Ms. Atishi in areas of services matters and vigilance matters, wherein she does not have any executive powers," the chief secretary said.

Police to track social media during G20 summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police will track social media to prevent any rumour-mongering or inflammatory posts, identify and check criminal elements and focus on malls, markets and religious places in the city as part of security drills for the G20 summit.

According to an official, all borders will be "sealed to prevent unwarranted entry" into the national capital though normal vehicular and public movements will be allowed, they said after a review meeting held by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena with top Delhi Police officials, including the police commissioner.

They said that if some particular groups intend to stage protest or indulge in nuisance during the two-day mega event, it will come under "unwarranted entry" and police will stop them from entering the city.

The LG was informed during the meeting that 60 deputy commissioners of police (DCPs) were drafted to oversee and manage specific tasks related to the G20 summit next month, Raj Niwas officials said.

The DCPs will oversee security in and around the summit venue at Pragati Maidan, airport, designated hotels where dignitaries and delegates will stay, places where spouses of the state heads will visit, traffic routes among others, they said.

The LG directed Delhi Police for strict compliance of security measures with focus on G20 summit. He directed to ensure law and order in general and security of women and other vulnerable groups in particular, the officials said.

The other security measures to be implemented by Delhi Police as per the LG's direction included cordial behaviour with delegates and tourists and people in general, continuous vigil to prevent unlawful gathering, "sealing of all borders to prevent unwarranted entry into the city", identifying and restraining activities of bad characters, among others. The field police personnel will convey any lacunae on the ground with regards to sanitation, defacement and road maintenance to the departments concerned.

The police will also keep track of posts and trends on social media, especially with regards to rumour-mongering and inflammatory contents, as directed by the LG, they said.



The police will also ensure maximum and visible presence across the city and implement crime control strategy in view of the G20 summit scheduled on September 9-10, they said.

There will be a special focus on malls, markets, monuments and places of worship with deployment of quick response teams, commando units and strike forces with special vehicles (Vikrant) around these places. Elaborate contingency plan in and around hospitals to facilitate emergency medical care will also be part of security arrangements, they said.

Parking at all places at all times by all agencies including Delhi Police will be compiled keeping rules in mind, officials stated.

Saxena underlined in the meeting that the forthcoming summit was an opportunity for the force to showcase its efficiency and capability in handling visits by 40 heads of states to the national capital.

Virtual traffic help desk to be set up

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday said it will set up a virtual help desk through its website as part of elaborate traffic arrangements for the forthcoming G20 Summit. Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Surendra Singh Yadav said an advisory will soon be issued in this connection.

"As Indians, it is a matter of pride that we are hosting this summit. For us also, it is a matter of pride that we are providing police and traffic services for the heads of states and other dignitaries," Yadav said. "We take it as a challenge. We have made elaborate arrangements and a detail traffic advisory has been prepared and it will be issued shortly," he added. India is hosting the G20 Summit and the main event will be held in New Delhi on September 9-10.

The summit is likely to be attended by 29 heads of states as well as top officials of the European Union and invited guest countries and 14 heads of international organisations. Yadav mentioned that the Delhi Police will launch a virtual help desk through its website.

"The help desk will contain directions on how to avail of various services and have hassle-free movement. If you are availing of bus or taxi services or if you are going to the airport or railway station, it will contain detailed information of where services are available," Yadav said.

The objective is to give detailed information on where regulations are in place in advance so that the people can plan their travel accordingly. The advisory will also be shared with MapmyIndia, Google Maps and other services so that they can configure it with their services during that time, the special commissioner added.

"The movement of heavy and medium goods vehicles will be controlled on September 8-10. However, there will be no impact on the movement of essential services. We will also set up a special ambulance assistance control room and issue a special helpline to facilitate the movement of ambulances," Yadav said.

The senior officer added, "Our deployment will be in place at 20 traffic junctions where we believe there will be ambulance movement."

The help desk will contain directions on how to avail of various services and have hassle-free movement. If you are availing of bus or taxi services or if you are going to the airport or railway station, it will contain detailed information of where services are available," Yadav said.

The objective is to give detailed information on where regulations are in place in advance so that the people can plan their travel accordingly. The advisory will also be shared with MapmyIndia, Google Maps and other services so that they can configure it with their services during that time, the special commissioner added.

"The movement of heavy and medium goods vehicles will be controlled on September 8-10. However, there will be no impact on the movement of essential services. We will also set up a special ambulance assistance control room and issue a special helpline to facilitate the movement of ambulances," Yadav said.

The senior officer added, "Our deployment will be in place at 20 traffic junctions where we believe there will be ambulance movement."

Contingency plan to be put in place to prevent waterlogging in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An elaborate contingency plan will be put in place to deal with possible waterlogging due to heavy rainfall in the run-up to and during next month's G20 Summit in New Delhi. According to L-G House officials, the plan involves specific arrangements at locations that witnessed waterlogging last month.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena reviewed the issue of waterlogging during the G-20 Summit and issued directions to put in place a plan to deal with waterlogging around ITPO, Rajghat, hotels designated for delegates, and other strategic locations in case it rains heavily in the city.

The plan involves having a battery of tractor-mounted heavy duty 50 horsepower pumps deployed to clear the excess water, mechanical road sweeping (MRS) vehicles, also mounted with heavy water jetting machines to clear mud and silt off road sides, and a 'super sucker' to clear clogged drains and sewer lines, they said. The



machines will be deployed round-the-clock in two shifts of 12 hours each and will be monitored by a sanitary inspector, a helper, and a probationer IAS and DANICS officer. The supervision of these vehicles and personnel has been entrusted to the SDMs of the respective areas, officials said.

A tunnel leading to Ring Road at Pragati Maidan, the main Summit site, was submerged in water after heavy rain in the city last month, forcing the LG to come up with a graded water evacuation plan. The plan involved collecting water in small reservoirs of 1,000 litre capacity each which is then pumped into reservoirs of 2,000 litre capacity, and further into reservoirs of 50,000 litre capacity.



India of my dream in 2047: Atishi for focus on education, health

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Atishi said India has progressed in the last 76 years but there are several areas where our country still needs to work such as education, medical facilities, unemployment, and discrimination.

Felicitating the winners of statewide school competition 'India of My Dream in 2047', where students shared their vision of India's future, Atishi said, "The students themselves said during the interaction that good education and medical facilities are required.

Another student mentioned there shouldn't be any discrimination. Whether someone is Hindu or Muslim or Sikh

or Isai (Christian), everybody should be treated equally."

The Delhi minister further said that there are many such places where people still don't have access to good education, medical facilities, and job opportunities. "There are many who are unemployed and there are places where women are scared to step out of their houses," Atishi said.

"If the Delhi government school students and the children sitting here are determined to make the country better, I am sure that they will be able to do it," she added.

The 'India of My Dreams in 2047' contest was announced for Delhi Government and private school students and teachers.

19 ITBP markswomen to be deployed across city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of 19 commandos of Delhi Police, who recently completed a rigorous four-week training to be markswomen at an Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) centre, will be deployed at strategic locations in the city, including at the G20 summit venue and hotels, as part of the mega event's security arrangement next month.

The commandos have just completed a four-week specialised training session conducted by the ITBP at its training centre in Karera, Madhya Pradesh. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) commando Kiran said it is an honour to have been given such a big responsibility. "It is a dream come true to work as a



markswoman during such a prestigious event in our country. This training course was very useful and has increased our confidence," Kiran said.

In a first, the Delhi Police decided to send the 19 SWAT commandos for the markswoman course following Commissioner Sanjay Arora's visit to SWAT's Zamrudpur unit a few months back. The course, which was held between June 19 and July 15,

groomed the commandos as markswomen with basic principles of firing, among other skills. Constable Kiran stood first in the training by securing 95 per cent marks.

Commando Nisha said that shooting requires patience which is why women have been chosen for the role. "We do yoga, meditate and do several things to make ourselves strong. We are ready to tackle any adverse situation," she said.

Besides weapons training, the police officers have also received special training on dealing with any adverse situations.

"We practised daily in several areas, including how to handle a situation without panicking. We were trained about the weapons and their handling.

MCD identifies 'garbage vulnerable' points ahead of G20 clean-up

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhi prepares to host the AG20 Summit in Delhi, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has chalked up a plan to identify all 'garbage vulnerable points' and clear them in a timely manner.

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi in a press conference on Thursday said all zonal Deputy Commissioners (DCs) have been directed to take action in this regard.

This move also comes amid the ongoing campaign 'Ab Delhi Hogi Saaf' — a city-wide cleanliness drive started by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on August 12. "Garbage vulnerable points are open places where trash is

found dumped regularly. The idea is to identify such points, clean them up and place flower pots there so people won't dump garbage there again," Oberoi said.

According to a circular issued by the municipal commissioner on Thursday, the zonal DCs were directed to "delineate GVPs (garbage vulnerable points) in their respective zones" and have them removed within two weeks.

Delhi Deputy Mayor Aaley Muhammad Iqbal and Leader of House in MCD Mukesh Goyal said the national capital can become cleaner if the city's residents, civic employees, and people's representatives work in tandem.

Students protest at JMI, demand arrest of Monu Manesar over Nuh riot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Nuh violence, several students' organisations on Thursday held a protest at Jamia Millia Islamia demanding the arrest of Bajrang Dal member Monu Manesar and compensation for those whose houses were demolished in the district. In a related development, Gurugram police has arrested a man in connection with the alleged killing of a Bajrang Dal member during the recent communal violence in Haryana.

Around 100 students from various outfits gathered at the university's gate number 7 holding posters that read, "save Nuh", "stop VHP Shobha Yatra on August 28", "stop violence" and "arrest Monu Manesar".

"We have three demands from the Centre -- revoke FIR against innocent Muslims, provide compensation for those whose houses were bulldozed and arrest Monu Manesar," a



protestor, Mohammad Al Fauz, said. Authorities have already denied permission to the Vishva Hindu Parishad's (VHP's) proposed 'Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra' in Haryana's Nuh on August 28.

On July 31, communal violence had erupted when mobs allegedly pelted stones at the VHP's yatra in Nuh. It led to violence in the district which spilled to adjoining Gurugram and six people, including two home guards and a cleric, were killed.

VHP leader Devender Singh had said he was not aware of the rejection of the permission and asserted that there is "no need for any permission" for the yatra.

84 arrested in Noida Police raids at fake call centre cheating US citizens

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The Noida Police on Thursday said they have arrested 84 people, including 36 women, after a raid at a call centre on charges of duping US citizens of crores of rupees by pretending to be American government officials.

The accused had a database of around five lakh US citizens that included their names, contact numbers and some financial details which were used to target them and take them into confidence, they said.

The raid was conducted at the call centre located in Sector 6, having a capacity of 150 desktops, around 5 pm on



Wednesday over inputs of such illegal operations being carried out from a facility during night, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Harish Chander said. "It's a large-size call centre. We have arrested 84 people, including women, from there. The centre functioned during night," Chander, flanked by Additional DCP Shakti Mohan Avasthy and ACP

Sushil Kumar, told reporters. "The call centre was used two to three times a week and in one night alone, the gang would make Rs 25 lakh to Rs 30 lakh. They had been operating for around four months now from the facility in Noida," the DCP said. Two key persons who are believed to be the masterminds behind this call centre have been identified but are at large, the officer said.

The US embassy has also been informed about it, while formal communication with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Interpol is being established, the police said.

On the gang's modus operandi, Chander said they

interacted with US citizens after contacting them using voice messages in which the callers would scare the gullible Americans by saying their 'social security number' -- a unique identity given by the government -- has been "compromised".

"The gang would then tell the US citizens that for assistance in fixing the problem, they should press 1 on their phones after which the call would land at their call centre (in Noida). Using a software, these people talked to them and shared their personal details, further convincing them that they are government officials," he said.

Hit by bus, taxi crashes into wall of Rijiju's residence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A taxi crashed into the wall of Union Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju's official residence in central Delhi on Wednesday after being hit by a DTC cluster bus. The accident set off alarm bells in the security establishment. According to police, the impact of the crash was so strong that a portion of the wall broke and left a gaping hole.

Visuals showed the damaged car and the hole in the wall of the Minister's residence on Krishna Menon Marg in central Delhi. Rahim Khan, a resident of Narela, along with his wife and two children, was travelling to Nuh, Haryana in



the cab. On the way, when he reached near Kothi number 9 at Krishna Menon Marg, his vehicle was hit by a DTC cluster bus of Seva Nagar Depot. The cab driver lost control and the vehicle hit the wall of Kothi number 9, police said.

Following the incident, officers of security agencies questioned Khan in detail before letting him go.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (E&M) HQ-1
TECHNICAL LABORATORY CAMPUS, GHAZIPUR, DELHI - 110 096
Email: ee.enm.edmc@gmail.com
NIT NO.: EE E&M/MCD/ENGG/2023-24/10 Dated: 23.08.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer (E&M) HQ-1 on behalf of Commissioner, MCD invites tenders in e-tendering in two stage system i.e. Stage: - 1 Documents related to eligibility criteria and Stage: - 2 Financial bid.
Name of Work: Plant on Turn Key Basis at Ghazipur Slaughter House; Head of Account: H-124-1216; Tender Amount: Item Rate; Earnest Money: Rs. 13,67,000/-; Tender Cost: Rs. 1500/-+(270 GST); Time of Completion: 04 Months; Rate shall hold good for: 180 days; Tender ID: 2023_MCD_165444; Bidders may download of bid document from MCD official web site https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/-
Ro No. 37/DP/MCD/2023-24 Ex. Engineer (E&M) HQ-1

Chandrayaan's success belongs to humanity: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the global applause for the Chandrayaan-3's successful soft-landing, a day before, at the South Pole of the lunar surface, the first by any country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said science has made it possible for India to reach a difficult terrain on the Moon and thanked world leaders for their congratulatory messages on the success of Chandrayaan-3.

"Since yesterday I have been receiving congratulatory messages from everyone. Worldover, this achievement is not seen as a success limited to one country, but of the entire humanity. It is a matter of pride for all of us. This is an opportunity to congratulate Indian scientists on behalf of the entire world," the Prime Minister said in brief remarks at the BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

"The soft landing at the south pole is not only a big achievement for India but for the scientific community of the world. There have been no attempts to land in the area that India had targeted. India's

World leaders hail Modi for Moon Mission



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi at the 15th BRICS Summit, in Johannesburg on Thursday

attempt has been successful. Science has been able to take us to difficult terrain. This itself is a big achievement of science and scientists," Modi said while world leaders including the Chinese President Xi Jinping looked on.

On Wednesday, India became the fourth nation to soft land a spacecraft on the moon when Chandrayaan-3 touched down near the south pole of the earth's natural satellite. Congratulations have poured in for India and Prime Minister

"A historic milestone and proud moment for the Indian people. India has become a true pioneer in space exploration. This Indian success will benefit researchers all over the world."

Thanking UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the prime minister said this milestone is not just India's pride but a beacon of human endeavour and perseverance. "May our efforts in science and space pave the way for a brighter tomorrow for all," he added.

He also thanked Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and his Nepalese counterpart Pushpa Kumar Dahal 'Prachanda' for their wishes.

Replying to Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, he said, "India's space programme will always do whatever is possible to further global well-being."

Several other world leaders, including from Norway and Madagascar, congratulated India on the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission, making the country the first to reach lunar South pole and fourth to touchdown on Moon.

India a trusted partner in Africa's bid to become a global powerhouse: Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is a trusted and close partner of Africa in its journey to become a global powerhouse under the 'Agenda 2063', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday while reaffirming New Delhi's commitment for the Global South.

In his address to top leaders of the African continent and BRICS nations in Johannesburg, Modi identified counter-terrorism, food and energy security, resilient supply chains, climate action and cyber security as areas of common interests.

The 'Agenda 2063' is the African Union's economic development blueprint for the 50 years that came into effect in 2013. "India is a trusted and

Defence deals worth ₹7.8K cr approved



A view of the Mi-17 V5 Helicopter. The DAC headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had accorded Acceptance of Necessity for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹7,800 crore which includes procurement and installation of Electronic Warfare Suite on Mi-17 V5 Helicopters | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement | File photo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to boost the operational capabilities of the armed forces, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday approved deals worth Rs 7,800 crores.

Giving details of the DAC meeting, defence ministry officials said here to enhance the efficiency of the Indian Air Force, nod was given for procurement and installation of Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite on Mi-17 V5 Helicopters under Buy (Indian-IDD) category.

It will enhance better survivability of Helicopters. The EW Suite will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

The DAC also accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of ground-based autonomous system for mechanised infantry and armoured regiments which will enable various operations like unmanned surveillance, logistic delivery of ammunition, fuel & spares and casualty evacuation in

Security meet reviews internal, terror, narco threats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level security conference chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Thursday reviewed key internal security challenges like terrorism, narco-finance and cyber security among others.

The two-day conference, attended by top security officers, also discussed emerging national security challenges. Shah inaugurated the sixth national security strategies conference here.

The conference brought together police leadership, experts and cutting-edge practitioners in hybrid mode to

deliberate on existing and emerging national security challenges, the Home Ministry said in a statement. The conference also had discussion on internal security, terrorism, narco-finance and cyber security, sources said.

Meanwhile, a Parliamentary panel on Thursday began examining the three Bills which seek to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) and the Evidence Act, with Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla making a detailed presentation on various aspects of the proposed legislations.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the three Bills—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill—in Lok

Sabha during Parliament's Monsoon session, and the House had referred them to the Standing Committee.

Sources said DMK member Dayanidhi Maran voiced his disapproval of the Hindi names given to the Bills during the meeting and suggested that the committee should hold consultations with members of the bar at different States, noting that criminal trials are held in district-level courts.

The committee should be visiting States to hear views of stake-holders, he said, drawing support from other opposition members like Derek O'Brien of the TMC, the sources said. Bhalla's presentation will continue for two more days on Friday and Saturday. Members are likely to get two days next month to seek clarification from the Home Secretary.

The three Bills seek an overhaul of the existing laws, described as a colonial legacy by Shah, by replacing them with new Acts catering to contemporary needs and aspirations of the people.

The Standing Committee has to submit its report in three months time for the government to table the updated Bills in the next session of Parliament. BJP member Brij Lal is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

proposals for procurement of 7.62x51 mm Light Machine Gun (LMG) and Bridge Laying Tank (BLT) were also given go ahead by the DAC.

While induction of LMG will enhance fighting capabilities of infantry forces, the induction of BLT will result in faster movement of Mechanised Forces.

The AoN for procurement of Ruggedised Laptops and Tablets for the Indian Army under Project Shakti was also given. All these procurements will be sourced from Indigenous vendors only.

Moreover, to enhance the operational capability of the MH-60R Helicopters of the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of weapons for the same, officials said.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also) Case No.: OA/2162/2022 Exh. No. 16660 [Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993] ICICI BANK LIMITED VS PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH To, (1) PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH D/W/S/O. AMRENDRA PRASAD SINGH, PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH SON OF SHRI AMRENDRA PRASAD SINGH, R/O FLAT NO. A-302, HARI KRISHNA APARTMENTS, GH-1, SECTOR 45, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002 PAN CARD NO. AYNPS2013E 2ND ADDRESS:- C/O ICICI SECURITIES LTD., FA-16, FIRST FLOOR, CROWN PLAZA MALL, SECTOR 15, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121008. 3RD ADDRESS:- FLAT NO. 1101, 11TH FLOOR, TOWER 2/ TOWER ALCAZAR, THE PRESIDIO, VILLAGE ATMADPUR, SECTOR 31, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002. FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002. (2) KAJAL SINGH WIFE OF SHRI PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH RESIDENT OF FLAT NO. A-302, HARI KRISHNA APARTMENTS, GH-1, SECTOR 45, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121003. (3) OZONE GSP INFRA TECH HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT SAROME HOUSE, SECTOR 45, HARYANA-121003. WHEREAS, OA/2162/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 18/02/2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed for recovery of debts of Rs. 9637975.82/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:- (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 25/08/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 14/03/2023. Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue Summons

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स रामा बिल्डकॉन एंड रियल स्टेट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (मो. - श्री कमल कुमार अग्रवाल, दोर लॉईम स्टोन क्वारी), ग्राम-दौर, तहसील-पाटन, जिला- दुर्ग (छ.ग.) स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 434/1, 434/2, 434/3, 434/4, 434/5, 434/6, 434/7, 434/8, 434/9, 434/10, 434/11, 434/12, 434/13, 434/14, 453/1(पाट), 471(पाट), 560/2(पाट), 455, 456, 458/1(पाट), 469 (पाट), 561/1(पाट), 561/2, 561/3(पाट), 561/5 (पाट) एवं 561/6, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 9.94 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता- 2,00,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला- दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 27/09/2023 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे, स्थल- शासकीय प्राथमिक एवं पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला के सामने खाली मैदान, ग्राम-दौर, तहसील- पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. कोरोना वायरस के निवृत्त एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशानिर्देश का आश्रय- पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इरिग पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरुण भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला- दुर्ग, मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला- दुर्ग, मुख्य महासंयोजक, जिलों व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला- दुर्ग, सारपंच / सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत- दौर, जिला- दुर्ग, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला- दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Clear transfer requests soon: Minister to zonal Rlys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a noble decision, the Railway Ministry has directed the zonal railways to expeditiously dispose of pending requests of employees for transfer to the station or place of posting of their respective spouses.

The communication to the principal chief personnel officers of 15 zones on August 17 came after the board received a number of representations from railway employees and their associations about delays or denial on their spouse ground transfer requests despite having a laid down policy.

"It is requested that all such pending requests may be examined and disposed of in terms of laid down policy," the letter stated, adding that the respective zones should apprise the board a summary of all pending and cleared requests along with reasons for the

Brain-computer interfaces give hope to patients suffering speech loss

New Delhi: Giving a ray of hope to paralysed people, scientists have developed a device that can translate such a patient's brain signals into words at faster speeds than before, a step towards restoring communication to people with severe paralysis. The study is published in the journal Nature.

The brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) are capable of decoding brain activity into speech faster, more accurately and covering larger vocabulary than existing technologies, the researchers said. People with neurological disorders, including brainstem stroke or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often face speech loss due to paralysis of muscles. Previous studies have shown that it is possible to decode speech from the brain activities of a person with paralysis, but only in the form of text and with limited speed, accuracy and vocabulary.

The latest findings, published in two papers in the journal Nature, demonstrate a BCI that collects the neural activity of single cells with an array of fine electrodes inserted into the brain, and trained an artificial neural network to decode intended vocalisations.

Patra: Aiyar's autobiography reveals focus on dynasty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday hit out at the Congress over remarks by former Union Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar saying that the senior Congress leader's autobiography reveals the "soul" of the Congress-Led Opposition alliance with a focus on "dynasty", bias against Hindus and kept empathy with Pakistan.

Commenting on Aiyar's recently released biography, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference here that the senior Congress leader's autobiography reveals the "soul" of I.N.D.I.A, the opposition alliance.

He maintained that ahead of the Lok Sabha Poll, the book speaks the language of the Gandhi family and its release was intentionally timed.

Congress leader and former Union minister Aiyar on Wednesday alleged that former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao was "communal" and described him as the "first BJP PM" of the country.

The former diplomat, whose autobiography "Memoirs of a Maverick -- The First Fifty Years (1941-1991)" hit the stands on Monday, also batted for resumption of dialogue with Pakistan, saying that when it comes to that country, "we have the courage to carry out surgical strikes against them, but we don't have the guts to sit across the table and talk to a Pakistani".

BJP spokesperson highlighted Aiyar's remarks against former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao, claiming that it was the Gandhi family that was making him say how Rao "belonged to the BJP and not the Congress".

The saffron party also took exception to Aiyar emphasising on resumption of dialogue with Pakistan.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs]). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sudesh Sharma/ Rahul Gautam/ LBMAT0001414144	House On Plot No. 168, Anand Van Colony, Phase - 1st, Mathura- 204101, Mathura/ August 22, 2023	October 31, 2011 Rs. 28,66,475/-	Mathura/ Dwaraka/ Delhi

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

Date : August 25, 2023
Place: Delhi

Authorized Officer Secured Creditor

NMC to colleges: Upload fellowship details for foreign medical students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to streamline the process of granting temporary registration to the foreign medical graduates (FMGs), the National Medical Commission (NMC) has asked the medical colleges and institutes to upload the details of fellowship programmes including course content, duration, fee etc. on their official websites for such students.

The Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRC) of NMC will verify these details while processing the applications for granting temporary registration to the FMGs. The

facilities on the website, and details of fee charged by the institute." In view of the above in order to streamline the process of timely grant of temporary registration to foreign medical practitioners the following should be ensured," NMC said and asked medical colleges to have the information ready at the time of processing the application for the registration.

The commission said that failure to provide the details will result in delay in grant of temporary registration. The registration will be provided for a maximum period of 12 months followed by a cooling off period of one year.

Discussions on draft declaration begins at G20 CWG meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The discussions on the draft declaration began at the 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting here on Thursday under India's Presidency with the delegates from the G20 members, and international organisations. Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Chair, G20 CWG, Govind Mohan delivered the welcome remarks where he said, "It is my firm conviction that culture will inform renewed, more inclusive approaches to development, while also reshaping our vision of the global economy as a whole - thus speaking to the core G20 mandate." The Secretary also highlighted the uniting power of culture by expressing that the universal canvas of culture epitomises the shared human journey, fortifying our sense of global kinship.



Union Secretary Govind Mohan and other G20 delegates at inaugural function of CWG in Varanasi on Thursday.

The Chair, G20 CWG also commended the exceptional feat achieved by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar South Pole, underscoring India's growing prowess in the realm of space exploration. G20 members also congratulated India for its successful mission to the moon.

Following the welcome remarks, Lily Pandeya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Co-Chair - G20 CWG, delivered the introductory remarks with a brief recap of the process of the CWG since the first meeting in Khajuraho.

The first two CWG meetings have enabled the CWG to build a working dynamic across

the membership, which was enriched by the outcomes of the Global Thematic webinars. The 3rd CWG in Hampi was a pivotal moment that shaped the trajectory of the CWG's work and solidified the commitment to collective action and the shaping of the working documents.

After the inaugural session, the working sessions began with the delegates participating in discussions over the Draft of the Culture Ministers Declaration for the upcoming Culture Ministers' Meeting on August 26. As India gears up for the G20 Leaders' Summit, it aspires to adopt outcomes by consensus that places culture at the heart of policymaking,

leveraging its interplay with other key policy areas such as trade, tourism, and digital sectors.

After the discussions concluded for the day, the delegates visited Sarnath, near the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Varuna in this holy city. After attaining enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya, it was here that Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, sanctified as Maha Dharma Chakra Parivartan. The smooth glistening pillar established by Emperor Ashoka, located in Sarnath, built around 273-232 BC, marks the foundation of the Buddhist Sangha.

After visiting the archaeological site of Sarnath, the delegates also had a guided tour of the Sarnath Museum, which is located adjacent to the excavated site at Sarnath.

The delegates also experienced an immersive cultural performance showcasing India's rich music traditions - "Waves of Music" which had four exciting presentations underlining Hindustani Classical Music.

The meeting will resume on Friday with the delegates from the G20 members, invitee countries and international organisations continuing the discussions over the Draft of the Culture Ministers Declaration for the upcoming Culture Ministers' meeting on August 26.

Restructuring of police circles approved

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The state police authorities have approved the restructuring of police circles in Prayagraj police commissionerate in order to improve policing. With one more new police station - Airport police thana becoming functional this month along with the induction of two new police circles - Kareli and Phulpur, police authorities have decided to restructure police circles in the Prayagraj police commissionerate.

After the approval of state police authorities, six out of 14 police circles have been restructured on Wednesday. To begin with, four police stations including Cantt, Civil Lines, Shivkuti and Mahila Thana, will now come under Civil Lines police circle. Earlier, there were three police stations, including Kareli, Civil Lines and Mahila thana in Kareli police circle.

Similarly, Sarayinayat has now come under Tharwai police circle and Bahariya has been excluded. Earlier there were three police stations including Tharwai, Phaphamau

and Bahariya under Tharwai police circle. Under the Dhoomanganj police circle, Airport station has been included. There were Dhoomanganj, Cantt and Puramufti in Dhoomanganj police circle earlier.

Under the Colonelganj police circle, Kydganj police station has been included. Earlier three police stations, including Colonelganj, Georgetown and Shivkuti, were in the Colonelganj police circle.

Similarly, Attarsuiya police circle now has three police stations, including Kareli, Attarsuiya and Mutthiganj police station whereas it earlier had Kydganj, Mutthiganj and Attarsuiya.

There has been no change in the structures of eight police circles that included Kotwali (Kotwali, Shahganj and Khuldabad), Jhansi (Jhansi and Daraganj), Handia (Handia, Utrav and Saraymanrez), Soraon (Soraon, Nawabganj and Holagarh), Karchana (Karchana, Naini and Industrial area), Meja (Meja, Manda and Koroan), Bara (Bara, Shankargarh and

Lalapur) and Kaudhiyara (Kaudhiyara, Ghurpur and Khiri).

A senior cop said that restructuring of police circles has been done to improve policing and coordination among police officials. There are a total of 41 police stations which have been divided into 14 police circles.

STUDENTS CAN MOVE TO ANOTHER IIIT FOR ONE SEMESTER: Students taking admission in IIITs from the academic session 2023-24 can now move to another IIIT, other than their parental institute, to study for one semester.

Official sources said students wishing to study for one semester in any of the four other IIITs (other than their parental institution where he or she is enrolled) for any reason, can pursue their studies there for six months. They will be transferred to the institute of their choice with admission for six months and will also earn credit for the same. The credit of the institute, in which the student has taken admission will be added to his/her result.

For this, a Centre for

Cooperation has been set up at all the five IIITs. The directors of the five IIITs have been made members of the centre. Along with this teachers of these institutes can also go to labs of the other four IIITs and pursue their studies or research work as per their convenience.

Director IIIT-Allahabad Prof Mukul Satawane said there are five government-funded IIITs in the country located at Prayagraj, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Kanchipuram and Karnal. The IIIT-Gwalior and its counterpart at Prayagraj have implemented the National Education Policy (NEP) in all the courses.

"The Centre for Cooperation has been created by merging these five institutions. If a student takes admission in any of the IIITs and wishes to study for one semester from any of the remaining four IIITs, he/she can do so. They will study for one semester from any of the institutes and the credit thereof will be forwarded to the institute in which he has taken admission for one semester and the credit will be added in his result," he added.

Cyber criminals promising part-time online jobs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Cyber criminals these days are now promising part-time online jobs and duping aspirants of their money. Cops have received about a dozen complaints from individuals with the claim that they had been lured by cyber criminals promising part-time jobs online and cheating them.

Cops claim that educated people are falling into the trap increasingly, despite awareness campaigns about such cyber frauds.

As per latest modus operandi, a person approaches the victim on social media or on instant messaging apps offering lucrative money for a set of online tasks including subscribing to videos and the likes.

Initially, fraudsters give good amount of money for luring the victim further and

once they make a big investment, they turn incommunicado. Taking a serious note of such increasing incidents, cyber crime thana cops have appealed to people not to fall into this trap, a new modus operandi that seems to be in vogue in the city of late.

Cops have also appealed citizens not to click on the shared links wherein victims are being asked to play online games.

The cyber frauds are targeting victims, particularly women on popular messaging apps and cheating them. A senior cop said apart we are more focussing on campaigns especially focused on small-town and rural areas, to raise awareness on the various methods employed by cyber criminals.

Cops have appealed citizens not to open unwanted mobile app and link and always visit official website for jobs. If

any person feels cheated, he or she should call 1930 to get the complaint registered.

DRIVING SCHOOLS: At a time when number of driving schools have mushroomed in different localities of the city and many of them functioning without following the set norms, the regional transport office here has decided to take strict action against such unauthorised schools.

Such motor driving schools, which do not follow all the set norms will have to get registered or shut their facility, failing which they will face action at the hands of the RTO.

Recognising unauthorised driving schools as a threat and a major reason for rising road accidents, the Transport department has decided to crack down on such schools in accordance with the state government orders, said an official at the RTO.

"All training schools running in the city will be inspected and scrutinised. We have prepared a list and notices are being served to them. Driving schools that do not meet the set standard will be shut down," said Prateek Mishra, regional inspector, RTO, Prayagraj.

"Only 12 driving schools are registered with the RTO Prayagraj in the city, but dozens more are operating illegally. They will be given time to upgrade as per the set standards by October 27 failing which the driving training schools will be closed," he added. In a bid to regularise private driving schools in the state, principal secretary (transport) L Venkateshwarlu in April this year had issued an order making it mandatory for private motor driving training schools to comply with the guidelines, which, in turn, will earn them government recognition.

Temple waste coconut coir used to make food flavouring compound

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A Banaras Hindu University (BHU) team of researchers have developed a flavouring compound using coconut coir that is claimed to have tremendous antioxidant properties as well as antimicrobial and anticancerous qualities. The team in its study used temple waste coconut coir as base material for fermentative production of food flavour.

The team comprises Dr Abhishek Dutt Tripathi, Department of Dairy Science and Food Technology, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Dr Veena Paul, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Dr Vibhav Gautam, Centre for Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Institute of Medical Sciences, and Dr Aparna Agarwal, University of Delhi. Dr Abhishek Dutt Tripathi said that cities like Varanasi, which have great religious and spiritual significance, produce massive amounts of temple waste with a large portion of coconut coir.

This waste though biodegradable, if not regulated properly, poses threat to the environment and serves as the



BHU team which made a study to use temple waste coconut coir in making a food flavour compound.

breeding ground for numerous microbial diseases. There is a vast scope for using coconut coir as it is rich in lignocellulosic biomass, said Dr Tripathi, adding that there have been studies describing the different approaches to converting coconut coir waste's lignocellulosic biomass into value-added

aromatics

"We have attempted to take this work a step forward to prepare edible flavouring compound using lignocellulosic biomass of the coconut coir with the help of bacillus aryabhattai, which has been done for the first time", he said, adding that the findings of the study

have been published in journals like Bioresource Technology, Food Biotechnology and Applied Food Biotechnology.

The work will be highly beneficial for the food processing and pharma industries. Highlighting the process, Dr Tripathi said that during the study coconut coir was subjected to pretreatment and then dried for 72 hours at 50. It was then ground into fine powder. After the hydro-distillation of the coconut coir, it was digested at 100±2 for an hour and then filtered and acidified to separate lignin and cellulose. The extracted lignin was then subjected to fermentation using bacillus aryabhattai.

After fermentation, the broth was filtered, and the residue, known as the supernatant, was transferred to a separating funnel and extracted with ethyl acetate. It was then centrifuged for 15 min, following which all the organic fractions were collected and concentrated using a rotary vacuum evaporator. The recovered flavour was tested for cell line study, which proved anticancer activities against breast cancer, he said.

'Kashi Pratibimb' issue released

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Goswami Tulsidas Jayanti was celebrated under the aegis of the Rajbhasha department at Bhartendu auditorium of the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) office here on Wednesday. The Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava inaugurated the programme by garlanding the picture of Goswami Tulsidas, after which the branch officers and employees dedicated floral tributes to Tulsidas. The DRM, by removing the cover of the 27th issue of the quarterly magazine 'Kashi Pratibimb' published by the Rajbhasha department of Varanasi



DRM VK Srivastava releasing issue of magazine 'Kashi Pratibimb' in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Division of North Eastern Railway (NER), released the magazine issue.

On the occasion of Goswami Tulsidas Jayanti, the DRM highlighted the personality and work of Tulsidas and threw light on his contribution in the field of Hindi literature and religion. In his address, he said that on the occasion of Goswami Tulsidas Jayanti, it is our good fortune to release the 27th issue of 'Kashi Pratibimb' published by the Rajbhasha department. Most of the arti-

cles and poems in this magazine are composed by railway employees and officers of Varanasi Division.

Through the magazine, the employees working in the division are encouraged to make maximum and exemplary use of official language Hindi, due to which other employees are also motivated to write in Hindi.

Welcoming everyone, ADRM (Infra) cum Additional Chief Rajbhasha Officer Rahul Srivastava said in his address

that 'Kashi Pratibimb' magazine is regularly published by the Rajbhasha department of Varanasi Division of NER. Through the magazine, railway employees are encouraged to do more and more work in Hindi and the personnel are also encouraged to develop an interest in reading and writing in Hindi. Most of the railway workers get their articles published, which gives an opportunity to the railway employees to display their literary talent, he added.

Police bid to check petty offences

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a bid to check the graph of petty offences particularly auto-lifting and burglary, the Prayagraj police Commissionerate have once again launched the concept of mohalla and gram suraksha committees in urban and rural pockets of the district.

Commissioner of police (Prayagraj) Ramit Sharma has instructed station house officers (SHOs) of all 41 police stations of Sangam City to reactivate the committees that will

not only be helpful in receiving intelligence inputs but also bridge the gap between police and masses. Cops, however, claim they will get positive response from samiti members to build a strong intelligence and social network against outlaws, the members of the samitis like elite class, on the other hand, assert that they need time to improve their skills as well as collect inputs in this regard.

With the reactivating of committees, the police in a bid to collect minute inputs from reliable public sources, conducting patrolling in outreach areas and also to establish direct communication between police and masses, are to form over 400 mohalla/gram suraksha committees in the district asking the members to give inputs to police station concerned which will be helpful to the police maintaining law and order. These measures are being taken to win the confidence of common man as far as issue of patrolling is concerned and police will be able to develop secure feeling among masses.

Police officials claim that the idea behind activating mohalla and gram suraksha committee was mooted after witnessing a steep rise in the cases of petty offences and subsequently these committees were inactive for long time. Under the exercise, station officer in-charge rank police officials will hold meetings with members at frequent intervals and appeal to members to come forward to offer their assistance as far as maintaining of law and order is concerned.

Episcopal ordination of Fr L Mascarenhas held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The episcopal ordination of Fr Louis Mascarenhas was held at St Joseph's College grounds on Thursday. Thousands of people gathered under the beautiful well-decorated pandal to witness the event.

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias in the presence of Papal Nuncio Leopoldo Gerilli, Archbishop Raphy Manjaly, Gerald Mathias, Bishop of Lucknow, six archbishops, many bishops, hundreds of priests, religious sisters, relatives of Fr Louis Mascarenhas and lay people, ordained Fr Louis Mascarenhas as the Bishop of Allahabad Diocese. At the outset Fr. Leo presented a short historical sketch of the Allahabad Diocese. He also shed light on the life and mission of Fr Louis Mascarenhas. At 9.30 am the liturgical celebration began with the beautiful prayer dance by the nurses of Nazareth Hospital. The presentation of the candidate was done by Rev



Fr Antony KK, chancellor of the Diocese while the papal bull was read in Hindi by Rev Fr Reginald D'Souza before the People of God. After the Bible readings, Arch Bishop Raphy Manjaly gave an inspiring homily. Then came the most sacred and solemn moments - episcopal ordination done by Oswald Cardinal Gracias.

The second part of the

programme was the felicitation in honor of the new bishop. It began at 12 noon. During this celebration religious leaders, civil administration representatives and many people from civil society were present. It started with the beautiful prayer dance by St Peter's School, Akbarpur. The new bishop was greeted by different sections of people. Thereafter

Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Dr Raphy Manjaly, the Archbishop, Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udipi Diocese and Bp Loupi addressed the gathering. Fr. Walter D'Silva expressed his views and addressed the congregation. In the end convenor of the programme, Rev Fr Isidore D'Souza proposed the vote of thanks.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

Looking ahead

Chandrayaan-3 touches down safely, let's now touch upon national issues of importance

Wednesday evening saw 140 crore Indians struck by Moon Fever praying to the Almighty for the success of Chandrayaan-3, the Indian Space Research Organisation mission to soft land a rover on the hitherto unexplored south polar region of the lunar surface. As the country watched with bated breath, the lander Vikram made a soft landing on the Moon surface as per the commands sent by India's space scientists sitting millions of kilometres away in the Bengaluru headquarters. It must be acknowledged that female scientists played a crucial role in manoeuvring the earth's orbit to lunar orbit and then on to the surface of the Moon. It is a commendable achievement, especially when recorded in the backdrop of Russia's failure to achieve a similar distinction last weekend. What adds to the sweetness of India's achievement is that the entire mission had a swadeshi aura to it. Our space scientists conceived, designed, built and deployed this inter-planetary mission with indigenous technology. All the countries who congratulated India at this hour of success had denied our scientists the knowhow and materials essential for the space odyssey, citing reasons like Missile Technology Control Regime as they were afraid of our nation overtaking and eclipsing their monopoly in space. The uniqueness of ISRO is its low-cost missions that have made space travel accessible to even poor countries. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle developed by India have brought down the cost of space missions manifold and this has put a question mark on the monopoly of other space-faring nations.



Congratulating the space scientists for doing the country proud, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that Gaganyaan (manned mission to space) and Shukrayaan (mission to Venus) are on anvil. Though these declarations are music to ears, one should not forget the fact that India is still far away from NASA, ESA and the Russian Space Agency. Team ISRO is yet to perfect its heavy-duty GSLV though the last couple of missions were successful. It may be a strange paradox, but the truth is that the country which is yet to develop a civilian aircraft is dreaming of designing and building spacecraft to send human beings into space. Yes, India has not developed a transport aircraft of its own to date. There are other inherent drawbacks, too. We do not have a desi motor car of our own, though India is credited with building the world's least costly car. The pluralism about which our leaders are so vocal has gone only as far as to mean pluralistic weather, while one part of India gets inundated in flood, the other part is parched for drinking water. It is these issues which we should address. While the rover on board Vikram, the spacecraft, would hold a probe into the presence of water on the lunar surface, back home Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are engaged in a battle for water from Kaveri. The real Amritkaal will become a reality only when these problems are addressed.

PICTALK



Models depicting an astronaut and an Indian spacecraft at a kids' zone at the Parade Ground, in Dehradun

PTI

Dentist President inflicts pain in Pakistan

It is good timing for showmanship by the dentist-politician as he was destined to be relegated to footnotes of history after his term ended



BHOPINDER SINGH

The cheeky dental pun goes, 'a dentist is a man who tries not to get on your nerves.' But anyone with a smidgen of memory of visits to the dentist would know otherwise, especially with the image of the dentist with a drilling machine in their hand. However, the pain can multiply infinitely and across the spectrum, if the dentist also happens to be a politician, like the Pakistani President, Dr Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi.

Dr Alvi's dental lineage is traced back to his dentist father who was supposed to be Nehru's dentist. Dr Alvi has now been in recent news for inflicting unbearable pain upon the Pakistani 'establishment' (Pakistan Military) and their caretaker government, by wielding the constitutional drilling machine, as it were. The former senator and Presidential appointee of Imran Khan's Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) - Dr Alvi found himself in a piquant situation as his political mentor, Imran Khan was virtually ousted by the 'establishment' (under his hapless nose) and a vindictive approach was undertaken to coerce the PTI into insignificance, with Dr Alvi rendered to a mute spectator to the proceedings.

As part of the 'establishments' ongoing agenda of tightening the noose by bestowing itself even more controlling powers with changes to the Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan Army Act, the bill (approved by the Senate and Parliament) was sent for Presidential assent, to Dr Alvi's secretariat. This was the moment of the proverbial visit to the dentist's office with his ability to make the patient uncomfortable, which the good doctor did not waste.

Dr Alvi claims to have refused to sign his assent on the bills and supposedly conveyed the same to his staff, but since he did not ink any observations or issue a press statement, then - as per the caretaker government authorities, it was 'deemed' approved. Interestingly, Dr Alvi did not concur with that viewpoint and in an unprecedented move that typifies the palace intrigues underway in Pakistan, the President tweeted his dis-



pleasure against his government and his staff!

"As God is my witness, I did not sign the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 & Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 as I disagreed with these laws. I asked my staff to return the bills unsigned with stipulated time to make them ineffective. I confirmed from them many times that whether they have been returned & was assured that they were. However, I have found out today that my staff undermined my will and command. As Allah knows all, He will forgive IA. But I ask forgiveness from those who will be effected". This tweet by the President has drawn passionate reactions of beholden-partisanship and conduct unbecoming of a President - but the reality is more complicated, as the 'establishment' has sought to undermine the PTI with the ferociousness that hardly looks democratic, or even constitutional. Expectedly, PTI has given a big thumbs-up to the Presidential dissent, whereas almost all other political forces and the 'establishment' have dissed him for the same, as the battlelines get clearer, before the impending national elections.

This move ends any pretence of 'neutrality' of the Pakistani Military towards the competing politicians as the

THIS MOVE ENDS ANY PRETENCE OF 'NEUTRALITY' OF THE PAKISTANI MILITARY TOWARDS THE COMPETING POLITICIANS AS THE 'ESTABLISHMENT' NOW SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT ANY PTI DISPENSATION OR ITS ROLE IN GOVERNANCE, GOING FORWARD

'establishment' now simply cannot accept any PTI dispensation or its role in governance, going forward. It may just be the last hurrah for the incarcerated Imran Khan who is building himself as a 'martyr' to the national cause. The pressure on the residual PTI bandwagon (that has survived the mass exodus of ranks) will only increase, as the sleight afforded by Dr. Alvi is not expected to go down well. The already ceremonial role of the President of Pakistan does afford immunity from the old-fashioned pressures of the 'establishment' till the time he holds office (till 9th September 2023), the office of Sadr-i-Pakistan will be made even more inconsequential, hereinafter.

However, the clever dentist-politician will have to brace for some creative headwinds as he has set the cat amongst the pigeons with his grandstanding and may posture himself to be constitutionally eligible for 'extension', as all provincial assemblies with the national assembly (electoral college for Presidential elections) are dissolved and Article 44 does mandate continuation, till a new President can be elected, which is only possible after the elections! He is unlikely to throw in the towel and given his recent move of publicly embarrassing his gov-

ernment and the 'establishment', a further showdown is inevitable. He may just draw the 'establishment' to undertake certain moves that discredit their claims of 'neutrality' and commitment to democracy towards making Imran Khan an even bigger hero in the public eye, even if Imran is disallowed from winning, by whatever means the 'establishment' deploys.

It is good timing for showmanship by the dentist-politician as he was destined to be relegated to footnotes of history after his term ended, as even his parent PTI would have accused him of timeserving and ungratefulness. The one-time senator and now President, has suddenly guaranteed himself of legitimate political relevance and bragging rights, with what is arguably, the most popular political party in Pakistan, still. Dr Alvi has made a long-term move but will pay with short-term consequences. Dr Alvi's latest move has upped the ante for the 'establishment' to react, which it will, and the power struggle with electoral tamasha has only started.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EFFORTS TO CURB INFLATION

Sir - Assembly elections will be held in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh by December. Following that, Lok Sabha elections will take place early next year. The central government continues its efforts to control inflation. The inflation index in July reached its highest level at 7.44 percent.

Vegetables, spices, pulses, rice, wheat, and tomatoes were all expensive. The reason behind this is the irregular monsoon. The Center took numerous measures to reduce the increased prices of these commodities. Among them was the purchase of tomatoes from Nepal, export ban on rice other than Basmati, and import of wheat from Russia. While the prices of all these items are slowly decreasing, the price of onions has risen.

The government imposed a heavy export duty on onion exports, which affected onion producers. The Central Government recently started purchasing a few lakh tonnes of onions through NAFED. As a result, onion prices have started to come under control. While the whole world is grappling with inflation, India has aimed to provide relief to its people from inflation. Despite global recession, India has managed to mitigate its impact to a large extent. The common people are experiencing relief from overall inflation. This is a positive development. The Central Government will continue to strive to control inflation until the ruling party's elections. A few years ago, the BJP was defeated in the Delhi Assembly elections due to the high price of onions. This experience echoes the current situation for the ruling BJP.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

CAR CRASH TESTING PROGRAM

Sir - Referring to "India Unveils Car Crash Testing Programme," this is indeed a highly welcomed development. With our crash testing program, not only will our OEMs save costs, but

India on the Moon



A spectacularly proud moment for 140 crore Indians, as Chandrayaan 3 finally made a soft landing on the surface of the moon. It is with immense glee and joy that India reached this milestone, becoming the fourth nation to achieve a soft landing and the first in the world to reach the moon's extreme south pole. This is an extremely proud moment for India in the larger picture.

The hard work of ISRO since 2008 has finally paid off for us. August 23, 2023, will be marked as a historic day in world space history, as the Indian Tricolor reaches the unexplored part of our planet, the satellite moon. It is a moment of joy for India. Heartiest congratulations to our scientists for their success. We are now on the moon, surpassing extreme challenges and colonial hardships, as well as neighborhood clashes. This moment is filled with the ecstasy of joy and satisfaction.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

they can also provide better-rated vehicles to consumers. People are becoming increasingly aware of safety features in their cars, and with BHARAT NCAP, we will witness safer vehicles on the roads. Our road accident data is shockingly high, with as many as 422 deaths every day. Therefore, we should strive to manufacture the safest vehicles possible in the country, and Bharat NCAP can play a significant role in achieving that.

Bal Govind | Noida

POLITICS IN PLAYER SELECTION

Sir - During his tenure as the coach of Team India, Ravi Shastri brought a clear and forthright approach, infusing aggression into the team's game, which was particularly evident against England and Australia. However, despite selectors emphasizing youth development, squad selection often favors senior players, which can be a downside. This trend was evident in India's recent Asia Cup squad announcement. Sanju Samson was

designated as a backup player without a provided explanation for his exclusion, even though his average is better than Suryakumar Yadav in ODIs. Notably, spinner Chatur Chahal was also omitted from the squad. Ajit Agarkar indicated that this decision was rooted in the belief that Chahal and Kuldeep cannot be fielded together. This rationale is puzzling, considering their successful partnership under the captaincy of Dhoni and Virat. The concern arises that political considerations might be influencing player selection, a scenario that should be avoided. To maintain fairness, all players should receive equal treatment, preventing preferential treatment for some at the expense of others. Hence, selectors ought to reflect deeply and exercise careful consideration in their decisions.

Imdadullah | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Students must use the AI-based learning techniques

Students need to learn AI-based emerging technologies to speed up their learning process and understand the concepts to make it big in their career

The education sector is at a very interesting cusp of development. With technology penetrating the industry at various levels, it holds a lot of scope to revolutionize the sector by acing the entire learning process for students. But there seems to be a lot of scepticism about the actual usefulness of technology. Where students are finding solace in the introduction of various AI tools in the market, the teachers contemplate the entire situation more from a prismatic view.

Here, it is important to understand that, though AI comes with some breakthrough advantages, it has its own set of limitations as well. The only way to navigate this unpredictable terrain is to get a comprehensive insight into the technology.

This will help teachers harness the benefits of AI optimally and, in turn, provide proper guidance to students to use the technology to the best of its capacity.



essential skills in students right from their formative years to make them future-ready. With the perennially evolving technology, there arises a need to constantly hone the digital expertise of the students. Keeping in mind the rapidly changing world, introducing AI to the classroom helps acustom students to the latest technology and makes them adept at exercising its myriad applications seamlessly.

AI to bolster teaching
Dwelling upon complex algorithms, AI technology comes with the proficiency to elevate the entire teaching and learning process for teachers as well as students. It can -

Save Time - AI comes in handy in automating repetitive tasks that relieve teachers from the unnecessary burden of doing manual work. It

saves a lot of time, which can be dedicated to devising more ingenious strategies for elevating teaching processes.

Personalization of education - Understanding that every student comes with their own pace of learning and capacity to retain knowledge, educators can harness the benefits of AI to customize the teaching process as per the individual needs of the students. By interpreting the data points of students' performance, teachers can get an insight into a student's learning habits.

Limitations of technology
Induces a lack of critical thinking - At present, teachers are majorly concerned about the over-dependency of students on technology. Though it can provide students with easy access to knowledge and information, it can compromise their critical and creative thinking. Technology can impede the inculcation of valuable learning skills in students, such as research, writing, problem-solving approaches, and many more aspects. As a whole, there are chances that it can decline the learning capacity of students.



NITIN VIJAY

Limited context understanding - Though AI opens the gateway to an entire storehouse of information, it cannot comprehend the content correctly. It might decipher the entire content in different contexts, which might be misleading for the students. Understanding the diverse aspects of AI in education calls for the wise integration of technology into teaching pedagogy. For which, it is expected for the teaching community to be proficient at using the technology. This will help them provide better guidance to the students and, at the same time, assist them in being vigilant enough to identify any use of AI in the student's work. By gaining proper knowledge of AI, educators will be able to incorporate advanced tools into their teaching. It will help familiarize the students with the optimal use of technology and give them a clear picture of its limitations, which, if left unattended, could decline the learning capacity and intellect of children.

(The writer is Founder & CEO of Motion Education Pvt. Ltd)



FIRST COLUMN

ETHICS IN INFLUENCER MARKETING

Striking a balance between transparency and promotion is a good marketing strategy



SAHIL CHOPRA

Influencer marketing has become one of the most potent weapons in any marketer's arsenal, enabling brands to connect with their target audience through credible voices. However, with its sudden rise, we must consider its ethical implications. Ensuring transparency alongside promotion is critical for a brand's reputation.

- **Understand the Ethics of Influencer Marketing**

Influencer marketing is not just about promotion; it's about building genuine relationships with your audience. Misrepresentation can lead to a loss of trust and potential legal consequences.

- **Be Clear with Sponsored Content**

Transparency is key. Consumers expect to know when they're viewing sponsored content. Always disclose sponsored content. Use clear ad labels, and ensure that influencers use appropriate hashtags, such as #ad or #sponsored, to highlight sponsored posts. Collaborate with influencers who genuinely resonate with your brand. Their endorsement should come across as honest and authentic to their audience.

- **Prioritize Consumer Welfare**

Ethical influencer marketing is not just about being transparent; it's also about respecting and valuing the consumer. Build campaigns around the principles of protection, equality, and respect. Offer genuine value and communicate trustworthiness.

- **Form Authentic Relationships with Influencers**

Choose influencers who align with your brand's values and ethos. Ensure that the influencer has a genuine interest in your product or service. This ensures authenticity in their promotions.



- **Educate and Train Influencers**

Regularly update influencers about your brand's ethical guidelines and expectations.

Encourage them to be transparent about their relationship with your brand and the nature of their promotions.

- **Monitor and Review Campaigns Regularly**

Review influencer campaigns regularly to ensure they adhere to ethical standards. Take feedback from consumers seriously. If they feel a campaign is misleading or inauthentic, take corrective action.

- **Stay Updated with Industry Standards:**

The influencer marketing landscape is dynamic. Stay updated with the latest industry standards and best practices to ensure your campaigns remain ethical.

While influencer marketing offers immense potential for brands, it's essential to approach it with an ethical mindset. By prioritizing transparency, authenticity, and consumer welfare, brands can build lasting relationships with their audience and ensure long-term success in influencer marketing.

(The writer is Founder & CEO, iCubesWire)

That unflinching entrepreneurial spirit

Young entrepreneurs have good understanding of the modern technology. They are well-versed in the grooming industry's various aspects and have the right attitude



DINESH SOOD



Splendour, well-being, and grooming have always been aspirations and important components of lifestyle, particularly for younger workforce aspirants who see themselves earning first-rate profits and living a luxurious lifestyle inside their destinies. Can anyone believe a professionally trained hairdresser's income is more than an MBA or an MBBS health practitioner's? Even a pre-appointment to get groomed in their dressing lounge is much awaited, more so than a pre-booked consultation with a notable super specialist doctor of a multispecialty corporate sanatorium.

Global exposure to social media makes youths capable of envisioning beauty and well-being as a profession of the future. Salons and spas have seen a fast boom during the last couple of years. Whether for beauty services or products, the demand has expeditiously multiplied, spurring the entrepreneurial spirit among the youngsters.

The Indian beauty and personal care market is very obviously growing undeterred at a whopping \$ 26.07 billion according to 2022 figures. The market is anticipated to increase annually by four. 64 per cent (CAGR 2022- 2025). While it is a recognized reality that salons and spas in metropolitan towns have been swiftly developing, with a plethora of alternatives for purchasers, the aggressive marketplace within these cities is now slowly hitting its saturation point. Hence, beauty and health now have a new address -- not inside the growing skylines of metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi or Bangalore, but within the tucked away tier-II towns and



WHETHER IT'S A CITY OR A VILLAGE, THE LOCATION DISADVANTAGE IS NO LONGER A FACTOR

The writer is a Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member, of India International Skill Centres)

towns like Chandigarh, Mohali, Ludhiana, Ambala and Karnal.

These emerging markets in tier-II and tier-III cities aren't unexpected, as this trend is being witnessed globally. In India itself, Ludhiana in Punjab and Surat in Gujrat lead the luxury car market, and the beauty and wellness industry is close behind. Approximately 38 per cent of the demand for beauty- -wellness in terms of D2C (direct-to-customer) services and products lies in tier II and tier III cities, which makes these markets extraordinarily possible.

This is one of the most interesting marketplace trends of the last two decades. The shift may be determined by the young people in those smaller cities. Among youth learning about modern technology is more out-of-the-box, they're self-aware and educated about the industry's aspects, and they have sturdy expert power. The perception is converting, and these smaller cities are rapidly evolving. You can no longer categorize them as earlier community-based hairdressers who were simply attracted to the fulfilment of the fundamental needs of life. Professionally skilled young hairdressers are savvy entrepreneurs, travel fanatics, and fashion-forward thinkers who devour and provide exceptional and trendy services as in the international market.

Tier-II and tier-III cities have a big ability, but an underdeveloped marketplace is ready to be explored through the beauty-wellness area. Research indicates that skilled professionals in Tier-II cities are quite privy to cutting-edge traits, merchandise, and hair services that can be had no longer only in India but also worldwide. One of the most important impacts of this lifestyle change has been the invasion of social media and its ability to affect the lives of the younger populace.

Whether it's a city or a village, the location disadvantage is no longer remembered because each person is on social media in one way or another. This allows youths to have access to trendy traits in devices, technology, fashion, beauty and well-being. It's a fallacy to assume that fashion consciousness or the need for grooming is also one of the significant priorities that is only possible in large, metropolitan towns. It will be soon before people from tier II and tier III cities choose and demand world-level offerings.

Another aspect that makes those smaller cities and towns profitable for the salon and spa business is their decreased belongings prices. Even though the real estate market in tier II and tier III cities is on the rise, it is relatively low compared with metropolitan cities and even a

few tier II towns like Chandigarh, Ludhiana, and Mohali, where rents and other overheads can skyrocket. You're essentially supplying the identical services with an equally trained workforce at comparable, but aggressive fees. However, you can hold your continuing expenses of operation lower than metropolitan states. In basic terms from a business attitude, this proves to be profitable as the return on capital tends to be better due to the lower overhead charges.

Lastly, the scope of work in tier II and tier III towns is constantly growing. Young customers as well as young experts are open and excited to experiment with more recent trends and an expansion of services in the beauty and well-being industry. They are all about staying up to par with the bigger towns, which in turn increases the demand for several in-salon services.

Unlike metropolitan towns, recruitment inside these smaller cities will be lots easier -- a talented young workforce to hire and more importantly inclined to research and enhance their ability set. Beauty-wellness and grooming are now a crucial part of every person's lifestyle, be it in metropolitan towns or smaller cities across India, people are ready to reach out to professionals to fulfil their desired makeover.

Revolutionising India's financial landscape

The future of financial-technical services in India is brimming with promise. The technological advancement have pushed the boundaries of financial inclusion

India's financial landscape is undergoing a profound transformation. Fintech, a portmanteau of "financial technology," refers to the innovative use of technology to deliver financial services in ways that are more efficient, accessible, and customer-centric. This revolution is not only reshaping how financial services are delivered but also driving financial inclusion and empowering common man and businesses across the country.

This has gained significant momentum over the past decade. Enabled by advancements in digital infrastructure, increasing smartphone penetration, and supportive government policies. These startups are addressing various pain points in traditional



ARVIND KUMAR

(The writer is Director General, Software Technology Parks of India)

financial systems. These startups span a wide range of domains, including payments, lending, insurance, wealth management, personal finance, and more.

With the government's push towards a cashless economy and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) revolution, these startups have created innovative payment solutions. Companies like Paytm, PhonePe, Billdesk and RazorPay have enabled seamless peer-to-peer transactions, bill payments, and even merchant transactions, simplifying the financial lives of millions. This shift towards digital payments not only offers convenience but also contributes to reducing the informal economy and increasing transparency. Lending is another segment

that has witnessed a significant disruption. Insurance technology, or Insurtech, is also transforming the insurance sector. India is poised to become one of the largest digital markets in the world. According to the Economic Survey 2022-23, Indian Fintech firms have adopted financial inclusion with a staggering rate of 87 per cent beating the global average of 64 per cent. Digital financial services were accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic alongside a solid foundation of India Stack, UPI, and JanDhan, Aadhar, and Mobile (JAM) trinity. In digital payment transactions, India stands at first place in 2022 as per the data published by MyGov. According to the Invest India report, India is the fastest-

growing Fintech market in the world with a market size estimated to be \$150 Billion by 2025.

As per the inc42 report, India has around 4200 active finance technical startups and 22 unicorns and they are playing a crucial role in empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. By providing them with easy access to credit, digital payment solutions, and automated accounting tools. These new companies are enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of these enterprises. This has a cascading effect on economic growth, as a thriving MSME sector contributes significantly to job creation and GDP growth.

The government and regulatory authorities have been

proactive in supporting the growth of the Fintech startup ecosystem. Initiatives like 'Startup India' and 'Digital India' have provided a conducive environment for startups to innovate and scale. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced progressive regulations, enabling finance-technical startups to operate with clarity and transparency. Furthermore, to nurture these startups, the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), a premier organization under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), has established a Centre of Entrepreneurship (CoE) called FinBlue in Chennai. FinBlue is actively engaged with Fintech startups, facilitating their growth through incubation, seed funds, mentorship, and

access to infrastructure such as Sandbox.

However, this emerging sector also faces challenges. Data privacy and security are critical concerns, especially given the sensitive financial information involved. Ensuring robust cyber security measures and compliance with data protection regulations is paramount.

The future of financial technical services in India is brimming with promise. With the fast adoption of technological advancement, the Fintech ecosystem is set to enhance the boundary of financial inclusion further. Open banking initiatives will encourage collaboration between traditional financial institutions and startups, creating comprehensive and personalized financial

solutions. Regulators will play a pivotal role in maintaining a balance between innovation and consumer protection through adaptable policies. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 will create positive optics for the financial-technical ecosystem. With ongoing advancements in technologies like Blockchain, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, the Fintech outlook in India looks sanguine. The synergy between technology, supportive policies, and investor interest has created an environment ripe for innovation and revolution. As the ecosystem continues to evolve, it holds the potential to shape not only India's financial future but also its broader socio-economic landscape.

Sunak apologises for code breach

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has apologised to the UK parliamentary watchdog after an investigation concluded that his failure to declare wife Akshata Murty's business interest in a childminding agency arose "out of confusion" and was "inadvertent".

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Daniel Greenberg, had opened an inquiry into allegations that when discussing the government's financial incentive scheme for people joining the childminding workforce, Sunak failed to declare that his wife held shares in one of six childminding agencies selected by the government to provide its new members with an enhanced financial incentive.

Sunak, 43, told the parliamentary watchdog that he had declared the interest on the Ministerial Register and



Greenberg concluded that he was satisfied that Sunak had confused the concept of registration with the concept of declaration of interests.

"I formed the view that the failure to declare arose out of this confusion and was accordingly inadvertent on the part of Mr Sunak," noted Greenberg in his inquiry report released on Wednesday.

"In view of this, I decided to conclude my inquiry by way of the rectification procedure available to me under Standing Order No. 150," he said, which

stops short of a formal report to be tabled with members of Parliament in the House of Commons to determine a course of action.

Under the requirements of the Standing Order, Sunak acknowledged and apologised for the breach of the rules.

"I apologise for these inadvertent errors and confirm acceptance of your proposal for rectification," Sunak wrote in his letter to the Commissioner.

"I welcome your confirmation that your investigation related to declarations of interests; there is no question that I correctly registered my wife's shareholding," he said.

"I am also grateful that during our helpful discussion, you accepted that my response during the Liaison Committee hearing on March 28, 2023, complied with the rules on the declaration, given that at that time, I had no idea of the connection between Koru Kids

and the Childminder Grants Scheme policy. It was only after the hearing that I became aware of the link, as set out in my subsequent letter to Sir Bernard, the Chair of the Liaison Committee, dated April 4, 2023," he said.

In his correspondence, the British Indian leader also noted that should such a scenario arise again, he acknowledges a duty to write to the committee after an appearance before a parliamentary appearance to correct the record. "I accept and once again apologise that my letter to the Liaison Committee on 4 April 2023 was not sufficiently expansive, as it confused the language of registration and declaration," he said. The issue had dominated the headlines in the wake of the Spring Budget in March, which included a pilot scheme of incentive payments of 600 pounds for childminders joining the profession, a sum that doubles to 1,200 pounds if they sign up through an agency.

Koru Kids was one of six childminder agencies in England listed on the government's website when the policy was announced, and Akshata Murty was listed as a shareholder in the most recently filed paperwork for the business on Companies House.

Asked at a Commons Liaison Committee hearing if he had any interest to declare when talking about how the policy was formed, Sunak said: "No, all my disclosures are declared in the normal way."

Opposition Labour Party's deputy leader Angela Rayner while reacting to the development said: "This is just further evidence that the system needs a full overhaul." The Labour Party has promised to set up an Ethics and Integrity Commission with greater powers to launch investigations and determine where parliamentary rules have been broken if they are elected.

Moscow court extends arrest of WSJ reporter: News agency

AP ■ MOSCOW

The arrest of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich on espionage charges has been extended to November 30, Russian state news agency Tass said.

Gershkovich arrived at the Moscow court Thursday in a white prison van and was led out handcuffed, wearing jeans, sneakers and a shirt.

Journalists outside the court were not allowed to witness the proceedings. Tass said they were held behind closed doors because details of the criminal case are classified.

The prosecution had asked to extend his arrest from August 30. He has appealed against the extensions to his detention.

A 31-year-old US citizen, Gershkovich was arrested in Yekaterinburg while on a reporting trip in late



March. Russia's Federal Security Service said Gershkovich, "acting on the instructions of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex."

Gershkovich and his employer deny the allegations, and the US government declared him to be wrongfully detained. Gershkovich's case has been wrapped in secrecy.

Russian authorities haven't detailed what — if any — evidence they have gathered to support the espionage charges.

Earlier in August, US Ambassador to Russia Lynne Tracy made her third visit to Gershkovich and reported that he appeared to be in good health despite challenging circumstances.

Gershkovich was being held at Moscow's Lefortovo prison, notorious for its harsh conditions.

Gershkovich is the first American reporter to face espionage charges in Russia since September 1986, when Nicholas Daniloff, a Moscow correspondent for US News and World Report, was arrested by the KGB.

'Norway to donate F-16 jets to Ukraine' Ukraine marks I-Day

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

NATO-member Norway will donate F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine, whose forces are embroiled in a difficult counteroffensive against Russia, Norwegian media said Thursday. The reports came as Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store was visiting Kyiv. There was no official confirmation of the plan, which was reported by Norwegian broadcasters NRK and TV2.

Norway would be the third European country after the Netherlands and Denmark to donate F-16 planes.

Ukraine has long pleaded for the sophisticated fighter jets to give it a combat edge. It recently launched a long-anticipated counteroffensive against the Kremlin's forces without air cover, placing its troops at the mercy of Russian aviation and artillery. But Gahr Store didn't confirm the media reports, making no mention of any F-16 handover in a speech on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day. In

February, oil-rich Norway announced that it is donating 75 billion kroner (USD 7 billion) to Kyiv as part of a five-year support package, making Norway one of the world's biggest donors to Ukraine.

The money will be split evenly between military and humanitarian assistance over five years, broken down to 15 billion kroner (USD 1.4 billion) annually. On Thursday, Norway announced it would donate anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine, saying "air defence is critical to Ukraine's ability to protect both the civilian population and front-line infrastructure and military units against any type of Russian air attack." This is one of the largest Norwegian donations of military material to Ukraine to date, Gahr Store said in a statement. The Norwegian government has long said it is considering sending F-16s to Ukraine.

In January, Norway received the first of its F-35s it has ordered. The new fighter jets are to replace Norway's fleet of F-16.

Ukraine on Thursday marked its second Independence Day since Russia's full-scale invasion, with officials vowing to keep up their fight to drive out the Kremlin's forces and local people remembering their fallen loved ones. The national holiday coincided with the war's 18-month milestone, giving a somber mood to the commemorations. "We remember everyone who gave their lives for freedom and independence, for the free future of Ukraine," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post. He said that an independent Ukraine is "what we are fighting for." In the northeastern Kharkiv region, families visited a cemetery where fallen Ukrainian soldiers are buried. Kateryna Krotchenko, the mother of Serhii Krotchenko who was

killed near Bakhmut, cleaned his grave.

"He was an ordinary boy who loved life and dreamed of something," she told The Associated Press.

"Therefore, he did not accept the fact that war had come to our land and decided to (sign up) voluntarily," she said. "We agreed with his decision. We didn't think it would be like this."

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Ukraine was fighting for "the values we all stand for": sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. That battle has earned the support of foreign allies, especially NATO alliance member countries that have provided Kyiv with sophisticated new weaponry. The new weapons have allowed Ukraine to launch a grinding counteroffensive. The holiday was observed against a backdrop of continued fighting.

Fragmentation inevitable if global institutions don't reform: Guterres

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Fragmentation is inevitable if the global institutions do not reform in line with the demands of the 21st century and reflect today's power and economic realities, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday. Addressing the leaders of almost 50 nations at the Africa Dialogue taking place here on the periphery of the 15th BRICS Summit, Guterres said that there is a need for a strengthened multilateral architecture based on the UN Charter and international law.

"For multilateral institutions to remain truly universal, they must reform to reflect today's power and economic realities. In the absence of such reform, fragmentation is inevitable," Guterres said.

He said that today the global governance structures reflect yesterday's world. "Today's global governance structures reflect yesterday's world. They were largely created in the aftermath of World War II when many African countries were still ruled by colonial powers and were not even at the table. This is particularly true of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions," he said.

"As the global community moves towards multipolarity, we desperately need — and I have been vigorously advocating for — a strengthened and reformed multilateral architecture based on the UN Charter and international law," Guterres said.

Guterres said that only multipolarity was not enough to guarantee a peaceful or just global community.

"We are moving towards a multipolar world. But multipolarity in itself is not enough to guarantee a peaceful or just global community. To be a factor of peace, equity, and justice in international relations, multipolarity must be supported by strong and effective multilateral institutions," he said.

Guterres's comments are expected to give a big boost to the repeated call in the Declaration, adopted by the leaders of BRIC at the end of the Summit on Thursday morning, for UN organs, especially the Security Council, to be reformed.

"We cannot afford a world with a divided global economy and financial system; with diverging strategies on technology including artificial intelligence; and with conflicting security frameworks. The

IMF estimates that such a fracture could cost 7 per cent of global GDP — a cost that would be disproportionately borne by low-income countries, mainly in Africa," Guterres said.

"I have come to Johannesburg with a simple message: In a fracturing world overwhelmed by crises — there is simply no alternative to cooperation. We must urgently restore trust and reinvigorate multilateralism for the 21st century. This requires the courage to compromise for the common good. It requires full respect for the UN Charter, international law, universal values, and all human rights — social, cultural, economic, civil, and political. And it requires greater solidarity," Guterres said, conceding that all this would not be an easy task, but was essential, especially for Africa. Guterres highlighted that the African continent continues to confront grave injustice.

"The African continent, a historic victim of slavery and colonialism, continues to confront grave injustices. On average, African countries pay four times more for borrowing than the United States and eight times more than the wealthiest European countries.

Greece wildfires: Firefighters struggle to control blazes

AP ■ ATHENS

Firefighters struggled Thursday against strong winds and hot, dry conditions to tame multiple wildfires burning for days in northeastern Greece and on the fringes of the country's capital. The wildfires have left 20 people dead over the last week. Eighteen of those, including two boys aged between 10 and 15, are believed to be migrants who crossed the nearby border with Turkey. Their bodies were found by

firefighters near a shack in a burnt forest area in northeastern Greece. Sixty firefighters have been injured battling the flames, fire department spokesman Ioannis Artopoulos said Thursday.

Elsewhere in Europe, fires on Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands, northwestern Turkey near the border with Greece, Portugal and Italy were being brought under control, officials said. Greece's Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said arson was

to blame for some of the blazes near Athens. "Some ... arsonists are setting fires, endangering forests, property and above all human lives," Kikilias said in a televised statement. "What is happening is not just unacceptable but despicable and criminal." The minister said nine fires had been set in the space of four hours Thursday in the area of Avlona, in the northern foothills of Mount Parnitha near the Greek capital. "You are committing a crime against the country," Kikilias said. "You

will not get away with it. We will find you, you will be held accountable to justice."

Dozens of firefighting aircraft, including from other European countries, and hundreds of ground forces were faced with tackling numerous fires across Greece. On Wednesday alone, firefighters battled 99 separate blazes across the country, authorities said. In Greece's northeast, a major fire in the Alexandroupolis area that forced several evacuations, including of the city's general

hospital, was burning for a sixth day.

According to the European Union's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, the Alexandroupolis fire had scorched more than 723 sq km (280 square miles) by Wednesday, making it one of the largest on European soil in several years.

Copernicus is the EU space programme's Earth observation component and uses satellite imagery to provide mapping data.

Prigozhin plane crash seen as Kremlin's revenge

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and some of his top lieutenants were presumed dead in a plane crash — widely seen Thursday as an assassination to avenge a mutiny that challenged President Vladimir Putin's authority.

The founder of the Wagner military company and six other passengers were on a private jet that crashed Wednesday soon after taking off from Moscow, with a crew of three, according to Russia's civil aviation authority.



Rescuers found 10 bodies, and Russian media cited anonymous sources in Wagner who said Prigozhin was dead. But there has been no official confirmation. At Wagner's headquarters in St. Petersburg, lights were turned on in the shape of a large cross, and Prigozhin's supporters created an improvised memorial outside. By Thursday afternoon, a small pile of red and white flowers lay outside the building, along with Wagner flags and candles.

Meanwhile, police cordoned off the field where the plane crashed a few hundred kilometres (miles) north of Moscow, as investigators studied the site, including debris

from the plane. Vehicles were seen driving in to take away the bodies. Putin remained silent as speculation swirled. On Thursday, he addressed the BRICS summit in Johannesburg via videolink, talking about expanding cooperation among the groups' members. He didn't mention the crash and the Kremlin made no comment about it. As news of the crash broke a day earlier, he spoke at an event commemorating the WWII Battle of Kursk and hailed the heroes of Russia's war in Ukraine. While the headlines in Western media have been dominated by the crash, Russian state media have not covered it extensively and instead focused Thursday on the summit and

Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Prigozhin supporters claimed on pro-Wagner messaging app channels that the plane was deliberately downed, including suggesting it could have been hit by an air defence missile or targeted by a bomb on board. Those claims could not be independently verified. Russian authorities have said the cause of the crash is under investigation. Numerous opponents and critics of Putin have been killed or gravely sickened in apparent assassination attempts, and US and other Western officials long expected the Russian leader to go after Prigozhin, despite promising to drop charges in a deal that ended the June 23-24 mutiny.

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. 21,39,479/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Nine only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLDCN00280014**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **18.08.2023** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **19.08.2023** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **RAJESH GAIROLA, SANTOSHI GAIROLA and GURCHARAN KAUR RUPRAI**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 15,30,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,53,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF-2, FIRST FLOOR, LEFT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. C-249 BLOCK C, SLF VED VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201011.

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 : 21.08.2023
Place : GHAZIABAD

Sd/-
Authorized officer
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 of **Rs. 28,54,150/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Fifty Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLGN00480486**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **18.08.2023** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **19.08.2023** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **NITIN VERMA, RAKESH KUMAR, URMILA and RAJAT SHARMA**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 19,20,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Twenty Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,92,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Two Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. C-4, 2ND FLOOR, NORTH - EAST CORNER, PLOT NO. 18, NAYA KHAND-I, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201011.

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 : 21.08.2023
Place : GHAZIABAD

Sd/-
Authorized officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client, NEERAJ KUMAR PANCHAL Sh. Sh. Gaur Singh Panchal R/o Pichokra, Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh, 22646 is purchasing the property bearing address Plot No. 73, Khersa No. 381, situated at Indrapuri Colony, Village-dharoti Khuri, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Dist. Ghazabad, U.P. from Mrs. Raj Bala W/o. Mr. Hareesh who is registered owner of this property vide sale deed doc. no. 5035 dated 25.03.2019 SR-V, Ghazabad. This property was transferred by Ram Gopal to Mrs. Urmila Devi and Mr. Nitin Kumar vide indentured SPA, agreement for Gift and Will, dated 07.04.2010. This above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Hero Housing Finance Limited, any person/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/ Adv. Vishal Mehan E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110022 along with documentary evidence, under address through registered adt within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.
Vishal Mehan (Advocate)
E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110022
Mobile No. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE
This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Shikha Tyagi, Mr. Ayush Tyagi & Mr. Saarabh Tyagi & Mr. Karik Tyagi are in possession of the 1/4 share property bearing no. 57, area measuring 371 sq. yds. in Road-C-1, situated at colony known as D.L. Ankur Vihar in the area of Village Sadulpur, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Dist. Ghazabad (U.P.) by virtue of Surviving Member Certificate dated 14.03.2022 issued by Concerned SDM, after demise of Mr. Gaurav Tyagi, Now Mrs. Shikha Tyagi, Mr. Ayush Tyagi & Mr. Saarabh Tyagi & Mr. Karik Tyagi are selling said property to Sangeet Kumar and same approached Jana Small Finance Bank Limited for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be considered to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.
For Juris NextGen Law Offices
E-56, LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I
New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE
On behalf of my Client
Mr. Nitin Chainani
R/o 3-F, Geetanjali Enclave,
3rd Floor, New Delhi-110017
is hereby notified that my client has/is in no manner associated in any financial/non-financial transaction directly or indirectly with Mr. Hareesh Chainani, S/o Shri Sunder Meghraj Chainani, presently residing at: P.O. Palm View Dubai Hotel & Suites, Avani, Box 502624, Dubai Media City, TECOM, Dubai and neither is my client in any manner liable for any act performed by or on behalf of Mr. Hareesh Chainani.
Advocate
Bhawna Khanna
Enrl No: D-2066/17
M-65, G.K.-I, ND-48

APPENDIX-IV-A
(See proviso to rule 8 (6))
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029]** ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 26.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of **Rs. 11,29,361/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLDCP00494113**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **18.08.2023** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **19.08.2023** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **SUDEEP RANJAN and MEERA DEVI**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 90,000/- (Rupees Ninety Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. SF - 3 (L.I.G) HAVING AREA 27.87 SQUARE METERS EQUIVALENT TO 300 SQUARE FEET ON 2ND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), S.R. R.HS, CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. 64, BLOCK - E, SITUATED IN S. LAF VED VIHAR, VILLAGE SADULLABAD, PARGANA & TEHSIL LONI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD - 210102, UTTAR PRADESH.

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

Date : 21.08.2023
Place : GHAZIABAD

Sd/-
Authorized officer
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 of **Rs. 13,20,175/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLGR00240057**, 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 **VIJETA SHARMA (WIFE AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LT. DINESH SHARMA), CHITESH SHARMA (MINOR SON, AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LT. DINESH SHARMA, THROUGH NATURAL GUARDIAN), UDIT SHARMA (SON AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LT. DINESH SHARMA), FAJIR CHAND (FATHER AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LT. DINESH SHARMA) and PUSHPADEVI (MOTHER AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LT. DINESH SHARMA)**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 13,50,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,35,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. 103, SECOND FLOOR, REAR SIDE (FROM WEST SIDE), GURUDWARA ROAD, GALI NO. 14, NEW DELHI, DELHI - 110001.

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 : 21.08.2023
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/-
Authorized officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Rockslide near Dead Sea hurts 7

Jerusalem: An avalanche of rocks tumbled down a hillside in Israel near the Dead Sea on Thursday, Israeli medics said, injuring at least seven people, including children. Israel's rescue service said the victims ranged from 4 to 40 years old, including a 5-year-old boy in critical condition. A 4-year-old girl was in moderate condition and others were less seriously injured after layers of mud and rocks slammed into the hiking trail. It was not immediately clear what caused the rockslide, which typically occurs when torrential rains or earthquakes create fissures in a rocky hillside.

Prince Harry to return to UK on Queen's death anniversary

Prince Harry is expected to return to the United Kingdom next month to attend a charity awards ceremony on the eve of the first anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's death, the charity WellChild said Thursday.

Harry, a long-time patron of U.K. charity WellChild, will attend its annual awards ceremony in London on Sept. 7 to mark the achievements of seriously ill young people. He is not expected to be joined by his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex. The royal withdrew from the same charity awards ceremony last year, which took place on Sept. 8, the day that Elizabeth, his grandmother, died. She died

at Balmoral, her beloved Scottish country estate, at 96 years old after reigning for 70 years. Harry, who had flown in from the United States, flew to Scotland to be with other members of the royal family.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla are expected to mark the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's death privately at Balmoral. WellChild supports children and young people with long-term medical needs.

Its annual awards event aims to highlight their challenges and recognize the caregivers who support them. Harry is expected to mingle with winners at a reception before delivering a speech and presenting one of the awards.

Court adjourns hearing on Imran plea

TOSHA KHANA CORRUPTION CASE

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing until Friday on the appeal filed by Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan challenging his conviction and sentence by a sessions court in the Toshakhana corruption case.

A panel of judges comprising IHC chief justice Amer Farooq and justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri resumed the hearing of appeal against the conviction of 70-year-old Khan in the Toshakhana case. During the hearing, Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa offered his argument against the conviction, asserting that the verdict was given in haste and it's full of shortcomings. As the defence team completed arguments, the Election Commission of Pakistan lawyer Amjad Pervez started arguments. He told the court that he needed at least three hours to present his argument.

Later, the court adjourned the hearing until 11.30 a.m. Friday. Separately, the Supreme

Permission granted to police to arrest ex-PM in riot case

Lahore (PTI): In another blow to Imran Khan, a Pakistani court has granted permission to police to arrest and investigate the jailed prime minister in connection to the May 9 vandalism incident at Lahore's Corps Commander's House, better known as Jinnah House, it emerged on Thursday.

The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently lodged in the Attock District Jail in Punjab province after his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case earlier this month. The Anti-terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore issued the order to arrest and investigate Khan in relation to the vandalism inci-

Court also held a brief hearing and adjourned the case with remarks that it would wait for the outcome of hearing in the IHC.

A three-member apex court panel led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal

dent on May 9 at the Jinnah House in response to a petition filed by the Lahore police investigation chief, the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Thursday.

The police stated the necessity to probe and arrest the former prime minister for his alleged involvement in the Jinnah House arson case. An investigation team would be sent to Attock Jail to investigate the PTI chairman. The team would submit its report to the court, the report said quoting police sources.

The sources said for the time being Khan's arrest in the arson case would be kept on hold. Pakistan saw massive

over months, Judge Humayun Dilawar of the Islamabad-based sessions court on August 5 awarded a three years sentence to Khan for hiding the proceeds he got from the sale of state gifts. Khan within days had challenged the conviction in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking to suspend his

Khan Mandokhail conducted a hearing of the petitions in the Toshakhana case. The case was launched last year in October on the complaint of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) which had earlier disqualified Khan in the same case.

After hearing spanning

nationwide anti-government protests following the arrest of Khan by paramilitary Rangers in a corruption case on May 9. Khan was later released on bail. Dozens of military installations and government buildings, including the Corps Commander's House in Lahore and the military headquarters in Rawalpindi, were damaged or torched during the riots. Over 100 vehicles of police and other security agencies were set on fire. Following the violent protests, law enforcement agencies arrested over 10,000 PTI workers across Pakistan, 4,000 of them from Punjab province only.

County Star newspaper. He worked at the agency from 1986 to 2014, Brown said. Orange County authorities had not publicly confirmed details about the gunman, including his name, nor how the shooting unfolded but planned a news conference for late Wednesday. Four people, including the shooter, were pronounced dead on scene. Six others were taken to the hospital, five of them with gunshot wounds.

sentence and overturn the judgment. The court held the initial hearing on August 22 but adjourned the cases till August 24 after the ECP lawyer Amjad Pervez stated that he had not been provided with the record of the case and needed time to prepare.

Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa opposed the move by the ECP counsel and pressed for a hearing and grant of request to suspend the sentence of Khan. However, the panel of judges had granted the request of the ECP lawyer and adjourned the hearing until Thursday. Earlier, the Supreme Court on Wednesday hearing various petitions against the Toshakhana case observed that there were "shortcomings" in the judgment of the sessions court.

The panel observed that the verdict was given in haste and without giving right of defence to the accused. "Prima facie, there are shortcomings in the trial court verdict," the chief justice said. The apex court had also stated it would wait for the IHC hearing before giving its judgment. It resumed hearing Thursday but adjourned it without fixing any date after it was told that the IHC was holding a hearing.

Top official refuses to meet Alvi to discuss poll dates

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top election official on Thursday declined an invitation of President Arif Alvi for a meeting to set a date for the general elections, saying under the changed law, the head of the state has no role in determining the poll date and as such there was no use in having a meeting.

The president wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday, inviting him to meet "today or tomorrow to fix an appropriate date" for general elections. Alvi cited the constitutional requirement for the president to decide a date for general elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly (NA).

The National Assembly was dissolved on August 9 which makes it mandatory for the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold polls within 90 days after the dissolution. However, the ECP is set to delay the election in order to carry out delimitation in the light of the new census, which is also a constitutional requirement. Raja after consultations with officials of the Election

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) wrote back to the president to remind him that under the changed laws, Alvi has no role in determining the election date and there was no use in having a meeting.

Alvi, 74, was a senior member of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party before assuming the presidency. It is "imperative" to point out that Section 57 of the Elections Act had been amended by Parliament on June 26, empowering the ECP to "announce the date or dates for the general elections", Raja wrote.

"Where the president dissolves the National Assembly, at his discretion, as provided in Article 58(2) read with Article 48(5) of the Constitution then he has to appoint a date for the general elections. However, if the assembly is dissolved on the advice of the prime minister or by afflux of time as provided in Article 58(1) of the Constitution, then the commission understands and believes that the power to appoint a date or dates for elections rests exclusively with the Commission. "The commis-

sion believes with the utmost respect that the reliance placed on the provisions of the Constitution mentioned in your subject letter is not applicable in this context," Raja's letter said.

He said the ECP was taking its responsibility of holding general elections in the country "very seriously" and had also invited major political parties to give their views on the electoral map.

Raja underscored that the delimitation of constituencies, after the approval of the digital census, was one of the "foundational legal steps" towards holding polls.

"In view of the above, the commission (ECP) is of the considered view that participation in the meeting would be of scant consequence," he said.

Alvi, apparently stung by the letter, resorted to social media and said that he had sought the law ministry's advice on the letter by the ECP chief. "The Presidency has asked for advice on the Election Commission of Pakistan's stance that only it had the authority to decide the election date," he said in a statement on X.

3 killed in California gunfire

Trabuco Canyon (AP): Four people were killed and five others were wounded in a shooting on Wednesday at a Southern California biker bar, the Orange County Sheriff's Department said. The gunman was also killed by deputies.

The shooting occurred after 7 pm at Cook's Corner in rural Trabuco Canyon in Orange County, a popular longtime watering hole for motorcycle riders and enthusi-

asts who gather for live music, open-mic nights or just a cold beer after a long ride. Deputies were on scene two minutes after the first report of the shooting and quickly engaged in gunfire with the shooter, Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Frank Gonzalez said.

The gunman was a retired police officer with the Ventura Police Department, department Cmdr Mike Brown was told by Orange County authorities, he told the Ventura

County Star newspaper. He worked at the agency from 1986 to 2014, Brown said. Orange County authorities had not publicly confirmed details about the gunman, including his name, nor how the shooting unfolded but planned a news conference for late Wednesday. Four people, including the shooter, were pronounced dead on scene. Six others were taken to the hospital, five of them with gunshot wounds.

Seoul: Fear, frustration over radioactive water release

Seoul (AP): Seoul office worker Kim Mijeong said she intends to stop eating seafood because she deeply mistrusts the safety of Japan's release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea from its crippled nuclear power plant.

"We should absolutely cut back on our consumption of seafood. Actually, we can't eat it," Kim said. "I can't accept the Japanese plan because it's too unilateral and is proceeding without countermeasures."

Many foreign experts said the water discharge will have a negligible impact on the environment and human health. The International Atomic Energy Agency also said it has experts on the ground to ensure the release goes as planned. But with the discharge starting Thursday, public fears and frustration were being shared in its Asian neighbors, where many still bear strong resentment over Japan's World War II aggression.

In response to the release, China banned seafood from Japan. Ministry of Commerce spokesperson Shu Juejing called the discharge "extremely selfish and irresponsible" and said it would "cause damage and harm to the global marine environment that cannot be predicted."

Hong Kong and Macau said they were banning seafood from Fukushima and nine other Japanese prefectures. North Korea's Foreign Ministry called the release a "crime against

humanity" and said Japan would be wholly responsible its "catastrophic consequences." South Korean police detained 16 student activists Thursday for allegedly trying to enter the Japanese Embassy illegally to protest the release. The activists entered the building housing the embassy, shouted slogans and unfurled banners but failed to enter embassy offices, according to police. In South Korea, fierce domestic political wrangling has erupted over its

own government's endorsement of the Japanese plan. Liberal critics accused the conservative government led by President Yoon Suk Yeol of pushing to improve ties with Japan at the sacrifice of public health. "The Yoon Suk Yeol government and the ruling People Power Party are accomplices in the dumping of the wastewater," said Kwon Chil-seung, a spokesperson for the main opposition Democratic Party.

N Korea's second attempt to launch spy satellite fails

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said Thursday that its second attempt to launch a spy satellite failed again but vowed to make another attempt in October, demonstrating willingness to endure flops to acquire a key military asset coveted by leader Kim Jong Un.

The failed launch prompted neighboring Japan to issue brief a "J-alert" ordering some residents to evacuate to safe places as the North Korean rocket flew over its southern-most islands of Okinawa to the Pacific Ocean. The North's space agency said it used the new-type carrier rocket Chollima-1 to put the reconnaissance satellite Mallyongong-1 into orbit. It said the flights of the rocket's first and second stages were normal, but the launch eventually failed due to an error in the emergency blasting system during the third-stage flight, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

The National Aerospace Development Administration said it would make a third launch attempt in October after studying what went wrong with Thursday's launch. The agency added that "the cause of the relevant accident is not a big issue in terms of the reliability of cascade engines and the system."

"Kim may have licked his wounds after this second failure, but he's already dusting himself off and moving on," said Soo Kim, an expert with Virginia-based consultancy LMI and a former CIA analyst. "In previous cases where the North has failed a weapons demonstration, we never saw them give up but show greater perseverance in view of their longer-term ambitions."

Earlier on Thursday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it detected the rocket flying above international waters off the Korean Peninsula's west coast after its liftoff at the North's northwestern Tongchang-ri area at 3:50 a.m. The site is where North Korea's main space launch center is located. The North made a failed launch of a spy satellite there in late May.

South Korea's military said the launch of the rocket violated UN Security Council resolutions that ban any launches by North Korea using ballistic technologies. Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Hirokazu Matsuno, called the North Korean launch a "threat to peace and stability."

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House's National Security Council, said the United States strongly condemns the launch, adding that it involved technologies directly related to the North's intercontinental ballistic missile program. Watson said Pyongyang must immediately cease its provocative actions and instead choose engagement.

South Korea's military said the launch of the rocket violated UN Security Council resolutions that ban any launches by North Korea using ballistic technologies. Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Hirokazu Matsuno, called the North Korean launch a "threat to peace and stability."

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House's National Security Council, said the United States strongly condemns the launch, adding that it involved technologies directly related to the North's intercontinental ballistic missile program. Watson said Pyongyang must immediately cease its provocative actions and instead choose engagement.

All private chairlifts in Pak province face shutdown

Peshawar (PTI): Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to temporarily shut down all privately operated chairlifts, locally known as "Dolly", in the mountainous areas of the province, officials said on Thursday.

The move was taken in the wake of Tuesday's incident in which eight people, including six schoolchildren, were left stranded 900 ft mid-air for over 13 hours when two out of the three wires of a chairlift snapped in Battagram districts Allai tehsil. All the people were later rescued by the Pakistan Army. The children were on

Lost & Found
I. DAUDVAL KOTHARI SON OF SHRI SHIVA NARAYAN JI KOTHARI RESIDENT OF 55, RAJDHANI NIKUNJ, PLOT NO. 94, I.P. EXTENSION, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092. Inform That my Original Document such as Possession Letter, Allotment Letter and Share Certificate issued by the Rajdhani Nikunj Society in respect of Flat No. 14, Second Floor, Rajdhani Nikunj, Plot No. 94, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 has been lost/misplaced Madhu Vihar Market. The FIR was complaint on 11/11/2022 Vide FIR No. LR No. 936516/2022 P.S. Crime Branch Delhi-14.
DAUDVAL KOTHARI

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Madhu Tayal is the owner of Piece of Land area measuring 80 Sq. Yds., out of Khara No. 962, situated at Village Ghonda, Gurang Khadar, in the abadi of Jai Prakash Nagar, Gali No. 03, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi, vide GPA, ATS & Will dated 13.12.1989. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its Sale/ Mortgage/lienation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 203, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Meri Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28. legal@knaalgal.com

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. 17,03,923/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00465381, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PAWAN JAIN and SONIA JAIN.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 16,10,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,61,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty One Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF-1, (FRONT RIGHT SIDE), 1ST FLOOR, PLOT NO - 14, BLOCK A-2, DLF, ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, 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. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Regd. Office: 456, Aggarwal Metro Heights, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034
CIN: L65993DL1990PLC040101
Ph.: 011-45645347, Email: info@cubfinser@yahoo.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of the Company shall be held on Thursday, 28th September, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Video Means (VC/OAVM) facility in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular Nos.14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 10/2022 dated 8th April 2020, 13th April 2020, 5th May 2020 and 28th December 2022, respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated 5th January, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.
The Notice of the 33rd AGM and the Annual Report for the year 2022-23 including the financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2023 ("Annual Report") will be sent only by email to all those Members, whose email addresses are registered with the Depository Participants or Company in accordance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular. Shareholders who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to get their email addresses registered by following the procedure given below:

For Members holding shares in physical form
Please provide necessary details like Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to cubfinser@yahoo.com/betairla@gmail.com

For the Members holding shares in demat form
Please provide Demat account details (CDSL-16 digit beneficial ID or NSDL-16 digit DPID + CLID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to cubfinser@yahoo.com/betairla@gmail.com. Or you can contact to your depository participant and register your Email id as per the process advised by them.

Member can join and participate in the 33rd AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining the 33rd AGM and the manner of participation in the remote electronic voting or casting vote through e-voting system during the 33rd AGM are provided in the Notice of the 33rd AGM. Members participating through VC/OAVM facility shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Notice of the 33rd AGM and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company i.e. www.http://www.cubical90.com. The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the Members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circular.

For Cubical Financial Services Limited
Sd/-
Place: New Delhi
Date: 24 August, 2023
Ashwani Kumar Gupta
(Managing Director)

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Tender Reference No. GNDU/Gen/11/2023
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:-
Sr. No. Item Quantity
1. Photocopier 5150 Ream Paper
Closing date & time: 13-09-2023 at 5:00 p.m.
For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.
Assistant Registrar (General)
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
NA/12/18362/2023/27043
Dated CHD - 8/23/2023

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Notice
Applications forms for allotment of hostel Canteen/ Shops for Session 2023-24 upto 30-06-2024 of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur, Regional Campus are invited till 01-09-2023. The details, terms & conditions and forms can be downloaded from the university website link: https://online.gndu.ac.in/tenders-notice.aspx
Dean Students' Welfare
NA/12/18364/2023/27046
Dated CHD :- 8/23/2023

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. 29,58,381/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00308715, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from CHANDRA PRAKASH YADAV and SEEMA YADAV.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 17,00,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,70,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
ENTIRE 2ND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) ON PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 51, AREA MEASURING 75 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 13/3 SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE MATIALA, IN THE ABADI KNOWN AS SEWAK PARK, BLOCK -B-2, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI -110059 TOGETHER WITH COMMON BIKE PARKING SPACE AT GROUND FLOOR AND WHICH IS BOUND/AS UNDER:-
EAST : OTHER'S PROPERTY NORTH : P. NO. B-2/50 (SCHOOL)
WEST : ROAD 20 FEET SOUTH : P. NO. B-2/52

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

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. 35,93,100/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLLAJ00486354 (Earlier LAN Code 00044598 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRADEEP KUMAR, BHARAT SINGH and JAMOTRI DEVI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
BUILT UP NORTHERN SIDE THIRD FLOOR (LHS) WITH ALL ITS ROOF RIGHTS, WITH PROPORTIONATE AREA MEASURING 75 SQUARE YARDS ON PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NUMBER 48, TOTAL AREA MEASURING 150 SQUARE YARDS, OUT OF KHASRA NUMBER 410 SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE NAWADA IN THE ABADI KNOWN AS MOHAN GARDEN IN ELBOCK - H. UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI - 110059 WITH COMMON CAR PARKING SPACE ON AT STILL FLOOR ALONG WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, INDIVISIBLE AND IMPARTABLE OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN THE LAND / PLOT AND WHICH IS BOUND/AS UNDER:-
EAST : PORTION OF PLOT H-48, WEST : ROAD 20 FEET,
SOUTH : UNIT OF RHS AND ROAD 20 FEET, NORTH : OTHER'S PROPERTY

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. 17,03,923/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00465381, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PAWAN JAIN and SONIA JAIN.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 16,10,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,61,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty One Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF-1, (FRONT RIGHT SIDE), 1ST FLOOR, PLOT NO - 14, BLOCK A-2, DLF, ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, 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. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Regd. Office: 456, Aggarwal Metro Heights, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034
CIN: L65993DL1990PLC040101
Ph.: 011-45645347, Email: info@cubfinser@yahoo.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of the Company shall be held on Thursday, 28th September, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Video Means (VC/OAVM) facility in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular Nos.14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 10/2022 dated 8th April 2020, 13th April 2020, 5th May 2020 and 28th December 2022, respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated 5th January, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.
The Notice of the 33rd AGM and the Annual Report for the year 2022-23 including the financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2023 ("Annual Report") will be sent only by email to all those Members, whose email addresses are registered with the Depository Participants or Company in accordance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular. Shareholders who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to get their email addresses registered by following the procedure given below:

For Members holding shares in physical form
Please provide necessary details like Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to cubfinser@yahoo.com/betairla@gmail.com

For the Members holding shares in demat form
Please provide Demat account details (CDSL-16 digit beneficial ID or NSDL-16 digit DPID + CLID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to cubfinser@yahoo.com/betairla@gmail.com. Or you can contact to your depository participant and register your Email id as per the process advised by them.

Member can join and participate in the 33rd AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining the 33rd AGM and the manner of participation in the remote electronic voting or casting vote through e-voting system during the 33rd AGM are provided in the Notice of the 33rd AGM. Members participating through VC/OAVM facility shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Notice of the 33rd AGM and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company i.e. www.http://www.cubical90.com. The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the Members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circular.

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED
CIN : L65910PB1981PLC023058
Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003 PB, Ph.: +91-161-5066605, Email: kovalam@owmmahar.com
NOTICE OF THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM), BOOK CLOSURE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Kovalam Investment and Trading Company Limited (the Company) will be held on Monday, the 25th day of September, 2023 at 04:00 PM, through Video Conferencing (VC)/ Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) to transact the businesses, as set out in the Notice convening the 41st AGM of the Company. In view of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) is convened through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") in accordance with the General Circular numbers 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020, 02/2021, 19/2021, 21/2021, 2/2022 and 11/2022 dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020, January 13, 2021, December 08, 2021, December 14, 2021, May 05, 2022 and December 28, 2022, respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") and Circular numbers SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, SEBI/HO/CF

Stock markets snap 3-day gaining streak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty pared early gains and settled lower after a volatile trade on Thursday due to selling in index major Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

The BSE Sensex closed 180.96 points or 0.28 per cent lower at 65,252.34 with 18 of its constituents ending in the red. During the day, it hit a high of 65,913.77 and a low of 65,181.94.

The NSE Nifty declined 57.30 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 19,386.70 as 35 of its stocks declined while 16 advanced.

Sensex and Nifty opened higher following overnight gains in US stocks and positive cues from Asian markets. However, the indices failed to hold onto gains due to losses in IT, oil, and banking shares.

From the Sensex pack, Jio Financial Services fell the most by 4.99 per cent. Reliance Industries, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank also declined.

IndusInd Bank, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, Nestle and Axis Bank were among the gainers. "While markets were volatile in early trades, it turned rangebound with a negative bias thereafter and finally ended on a subdued note as investors are not taking any chances by betting big in an uncertain global economic environment."

"Investors will continue to take cues from global markets for direction as nobody wants to get caught off guard in case of any negative developments," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Optimism in the domestic market was more visible in the IT sector, though sentiments were reversed in other major sectors, likely influenced by the prevailing global uncertainties, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.21 per cent and midcap index gained 0.11 per cent. Among the indices, en-



Sebi slaps ₹20 lakh fine on SIMR for flouting regulatory norms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has levied a fine of Rs 20 lakh on Star India Market Research (SIMR) for allegedly flouting regulatory norms.

Star India Market Research (SIMR) is a Sebi-registered investment adviser. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) conducted an examination of SIMR before issuing a show cause notice on July 11, 2023, for alleged violations.

In its 52-page order on Wednesday, Sebi found that SIMR charged arbitrary fees from clients, sold multiple prod-

ucts in a short span to the same client and also sold products for overlapping periods.

This was done to defraud clients and earn maximum fees, the order said, adding that the noticee did not act honestly, fairly, and diligently in the best interests of its clients, thereby violating the code of conduct of Investment Advisers (IA) regulations.

Further, Sebi observed that SIMR induced its clients to trade in the market, contravening the Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) rules.

"I note that there were 24



unique complaints pending against the noticee (SIMR). The said complaints were forwarded to the noticee by Sebi, however, it failed to redress the complaints, and did not file ATR

(Action Taken Report).

"By failing to redress the complaints it is established that the noticee has violated the provisions of IA Regulations," Sebi's Adjudicating Officer Amit

Kapoor said in the order.

In addition, the noticee did not submit accurate facts to the capital markets watchdog at the time of seeking registration as an IA and it was not appropriately qualified to seek registration, the order said.

Sebi also found that the noticee was supposed to carry out the risk profiling of the client for ascertaining the client's risk tolerance, income, loss absorbing capacity, capacity of accepting loss of capital, liabilities/borrowings, etc.

However, it failed to do the same, resulting in violation of provisions of IA rules, Sebi said.

Likely impact of food price shock on overall inflation prompted RBI to keep benchmark rates unchanged

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The possibility of a second round impact of food price shocks on the overall inflation prompted Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das to opt for the status quo on benchmark interest rate at the bi-monthly monetary policy review earlier in the month.

The Reserve Bank at its last bi-monthly monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting on August 10 decided to keep the benchmark interest rate (repo rate) unchanged at 6.5 per cent citing inflationary concerns.

All six members including M D Patra, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Rajiv Ranjan voted for status quo on the policy rate.

"Our task (of containing inflation) is still not over. Given the likely short-term nature of the vegetable price shocks, monetary policy can look through the first-round impact of fleeting shocks on headline inflation."

"At the same time, we need to be ready to pre-empt any second-round impact of food price shocks on the broader inflationary pressures and risks to anchoring of inflation expectations," opined Das, as per the minutes of the



meeting released by the RBI on Thursday.

According to RBI Deputy Governor Patra, ensuring the sustained easing of core inflation was crucial to the MPC's objective of bringing inflation down to the target.

"This objective should not be undermined by supply shocks that show any signs of persisting and getting broader-based," he argued while voting for maintaining the status quo on the policy rate and for persevering with the withdrawal of monetary policy accommodation.



India to clock highest growth rate among top 5 global economies in foreseeable future: Finance Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance secretary T V Somanathan on Thursday said India will continue to clock the highest growth rate among the top five economies in the world in the foreseeable future and asked Indian diaspora to act as a catalyst and supplement government efforts in making India the biggest opportunity.

India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world. The top four are US, China, Japan and Germany.

An S&P Global report had earlier this month projected India's economy to double to USD 6.7 trillion by 2031, from USD 3.4 trillion currently.

"India is already the world's fifth largest economy and it is the largest country by population. India's rate of growth by any measurement is much faster than the top four. Today we can safely say that all four are likely to have lower growth rates than India in the foreseeable future."

"... In terms of the size of opportunity, India is arguably the biggest development opportunity of the future because we are large and we are growing faster than the other large economies," Somanathan said in his address at the Indiaspora G20 forum.

The Indian economy grew at the rate of 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 and economists peg

GDP growth to be in the range of 6-6.5 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March).

The top bureaucrat in the finance ministry asserted that India is the "most beautiful opportunity in the world" and the extent to which India harness this opportunity will mainly depend not on diaspora but on India's domestic policies and domestic population.

He said there are three channels through which diaspora can influence — fund flow, trade and knowledge.

"If we do the right things, and we are doing the right things right now, then you can be a catalyst and a strong accelerator in what India can achieve," he said, adding in India's present stage of development knowledge transfer would be increasingly important.

India is the biggest country in terms of population and all challenges are of mega size. India is facing the challenges and we have the ability to tackle them. "You need to be patient with India... We can have a zig-zag line to progress, but we will keep progressing," Somanathan added.

In the coming years, investment may be more important than philanthropy, technology transfer may be more important than investment and your knowledge may be more important than money.



HDFC Bank's asset quality continues to be stable: Senior bank official

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Asset quality of the country's largest credit card issuer HDFC Bank continues to be stable even as many of its peers are facing challenges, a senior official said on Thursday.

The bank is witnessing "good traction" on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for credit cards, its head for payments business and consumer finance Parag Rao told reporters here. "We have not seen any rise (in defaults) or any stress in our portfolio. We continue to be stable even as we get out of the pandemic," Rao said, speaking on the sidelines of the launch of a co-branded credit card with Marriott Bonvoy.

Recently, there have been concerns over high growth in unsecured credit card portfolios by many players in the industry, which has also led to speculation about regulatory moves to take care of the concerns.

As per RBI data, state-run banks' gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) from the credit card segment have doubled to 18 per cent at the end of 2022-23. When asked about the likelihood of any such intervention by the regulator, Rao declined to comment, but acknowledged that there have been "discussions" on the spike in stress on unsecured lending.

The bank has always been prudent in its approach and has

not changed its underwriting standards, he said. Strategies like choosing whom to lend after running every case through an analytics engine and monitoring the portfolio regularly to spot early signs of stress and tracking the environment to understand the cyclical business have helped the lender, he added.

Nearly three-fourths of credit cards are sold to the bank's existing customers, while the rest are from the market, Rao said, adding that the trend will continue. Rao declined to share the exact number of NPAs from the credit card business, but added that the number is half of that of its nearest competitor.

As per official data, HDFC Bank had 1.83 crore cards in the market as of June 2023 and continued to be a leader despite a multi-week halt in new customer additions after being penalised by the Reserve Bank of India. The bank has been adding 25-30 per cent new cards every year, Rao said, adding that he hopes the numbers would be the same even in 2023-24. He declined to share a target on the newly launched offering, but said the bank will be looking at wallet share gains as it is a premium product.

Customers will have to pay an annual fee of Rs 3,000 to avail the card, which comes with a slew of features, including access to airport lounges, golf sessions and complimentary stays.

Jio, Airtel drive telecom subs base in India rose to 1,173.89 mn in June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom subscriber base in the country grew marginally to 1,173.89 million at the end of June on account of new customer additions led by Reliance Jio, sector regulator Trai said on Thursday. The subscriber base growth was driven by mobile telephony where Reliance Jio added over 2.27 million new customers and Bharti Airtel added 1.4 million customers.

"The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,172.57 million at the end of May-23 to 1,173.89 million at the end of June-23, thereby showing a monthly growth rate of 0.11 per cent," the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in its monthly subscriber report.

However, the overall growth



was mitigated by the loss of subscribers by state-owned BSNL, MTNL and Vodafone Idea (VIL). BSNL lost 1.87 million mobile subscribers, VIL lost 1.28 million subscribers and MTNL (1,52,912 subscribers).

The net addition in wireless subscribers of telecom operators in the month of June was 3,73,602. "Total wireless subscribers increased from 1,143.21

million at the end of May-23, to 1,143.58 million at the end of June-23, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.03 per cent," Trai said.

After a marginal decline in May, wireline connections increased in June.

The growth in the wireline segment was led by APFPL which added 6,56,424 new connections. It was followed by Reliance Jio with the addition of 2,08,014 connections, Bharti Airtel (1,34,021), V-Con Mobile and Infra (13,100), Tata Teleservices (12,617) and Quadrant added 6,540 connections in June.

The total broadband subscribers increased to 861.47 million at the end of June 2023 from 856.81 million at the end of May with a monthly growth rate of 0.54 per cent, the report said.

"Top five service providers constituted 98.37 per cent market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of June-23. These service providers were Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd 447.75 million, Bharti Airtel 248.06 million, Vodafone Idea 124.90 million, BSNL 24.59 million and Atria Convergence 2.16 million," the report said.

Monsoon a concern for ₹8,000 crore incense sticks market

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The NR Group, owner of the world's largest incense stick brand Cycle, on Thursday said monsoon rains will trigger the growth of the Rs 8,000-crore sector, though there are some concerns about normal rainfall as of now. "The sector's actual demand is driven in the second and third quarters of the year due to the festive season. With good monsoon, festivals are celebrated in a bigger way and so the demand for incense sticks and puja materials increases. Currently, there is some uncertainty about a normal monsoon,

which is a bit worrying for us," Cycle Pure Agarbathi managing director Arjun Ranga told PTI.

He was in the city to launch four new products unveiled by brand ambassador and former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly. Ranga said post-Covid, unorganised players have thrived, which is another headwind, albeit temporary, as they will eventually fade away. With the implementation of GST, most of the industry is becoming more organised as unorganised players are being wiped out due to limitations in their operations as they stay out of the tax net.

FSSAI amends alcoholic beverage norms, says no nutritional info on label except energy content

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Alcoholic beverages must not contain any nutritional information on the label except energy content in kcal. Such declaration related to energy content shall be voluntary," FSSAI said in the regulation.

In Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018, it was stated that alcoholic beverages should not contain any nutritional information on the label.

FSSAI, in its new regulations dated August 21, has said that "single malt whisky is a distillate obtained from fermented mash that uses malted barley without adding any other grain, which is distilled in pot still only and produced in a single distillery."

not include single malt whisky and blended malt whisky or blended grain whisky," FSSAI said.

In the 2018 regulation, single malt or single grain whisky was defined as a distillate obtained from fermented mash that uses one particular malted barley or malted grain, respectively, distilled in pot still only, and produced in a single distillery.

Whisky is an alcoholic beverage made by distilling the fermented extract of malted cereal grains such as corn, rye, barley, or using neutral grain spirit or rectified grain spirit, or neutral spirit of agricultural origin, or their mixture.



Single grain whisky is a distillate obtained from a fermented mash that uses malted or unmalted grain, and produced in a single distillery, it added.

"Single grain whisky shall

BUSINESS BRIEF

VIT-AP STANDS AS HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER CAMPUS
Amaravati: Today, VIT-AP University organized a program showcasing student achievements in campus placements and higher education. The event underscored the crucial role of the Career Development Centre (CDC) in guiding and training students for placements in leading companies both in India and abroad.

DRIVE TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE
New Delhi: Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), in partnership with BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) organised a camp, recently, to distribute aids and appliances to over 650 elderly persons and people with disabilities from disadvantaged sections of our society. The camp was inaugurated by the MoS for External Affairs & Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi. Senior BRPL officials were present at the event.

AEROFLEX INDUSTRIES IPO SUBSCRIBED 97 TIMES
New Delhi: The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of stainless steel flexible hose manufacturer Aeroflex Industries Limited was subscribed 97.07 times, driven by heavy demand from institutional buyers, on the last day of bidding on Thursday. The Rs 351 crore-IPO received bids for 2,25,37,18,090 shares against 2,32,17,667 shares on offer, according to NSE data.

Rupee rises 14 paise to settle at 82.58 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 14 paise to settle at 82.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, marking its third straight day of gains on the back of softening crude oil prices and foreign funds inflows.

The upward trend in the past three sessions led to a gain of 55 paise in the Indian currency, rebounding from its all-time low level of 83.11 against the greenback witnessed on Monday.

According to reports, the rupee's sharp gain was attributed to the Reserve Bank of India's move to prevent banks from short-term trading in offshore currency markets.

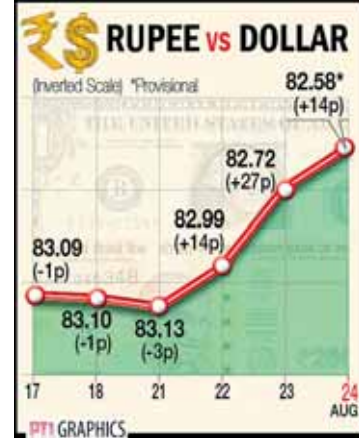
The cautious move by investors ahead of the BRICS summit and US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's

speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium restricted the upward movement of the dollar even as negative sentiment in the domestic equity markets weighed on the Indian currency, forex analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened strong at 82.55 and moved in the range of 82.36 and 82.61 against the American currency. It finally settled at 82.58 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 14 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee registered the highest single-day gain in more than two months and appreciated by 27 paise to close at 82.72 against the dollar. Earlier, the domestic unit witnessed the maximum intra-day gain of 35 paise on June 16 this year.

Anuj Choudhary, Research



US dollar and easing crude oil prices. The rupee also gained on reports that the Reserve Bank of India has asked banks not to indulge in short-term trading in the offshore markets."

On Wednesday, the dollar initially gained on disappointing PMI data from the Eurozone and the UK but lost its initial gains on weaker-than-expected manufacturing and services PMI from the US.

Choudhary said the rupee is expected to trade with a "slight positive bias on extended weakness in the US dollar and retreating crude oil prices". However, weak domestic markets may cap the upside.

"Traders may remain cautious ahead of weekly unemployment claims and durable goods orders data from the US while investors may remain cautious ahead of Fed Chair

Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium tomorrow. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.20 to Rs 82.85," he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.20 per cent to 103.62.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures climbed 0.37 per cent to USD 83.52 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex closed 180.96 points or 0.28 per cent lower at 65,252.34. The broader NSE Nifty declined 57.30 points or 0.29 per cent to 19,386.70.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net buyers in equities on Wednesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 617 crore, according to exchange data.

Messi into another final after inspiring Miami comeback

AFP ■ MIAMI

Lionel Messi inspired Inter Miami to come back from 2-0 down to beat Cincinnati on penalties after their thrilling US Open Cup semi-final ended 3-3 after extra-time in Ohio. Miami, who won the Leagues Cup on penalties against Nashville on Saturday, are now one win away from their second trophy since Messi joined the club last month.

The US Open Cup is American soccer's oldest and most important knockout competition, dating back more than a century to 1914 and is similar to England's FA Cup or Spain's Copa del Rey. Miami will host the Houston Dynamo in the final on September 27 after the Texan side beat Real Salt Lake 3-1 after extra-time.

A month ago Cincinnati, who are top of Major League Soccer's standings while Miami are bottom, would have been clear favourites. But the Florida team are now a very different side to the one which was winless in their 11 league games before the arrival of the Argentine.

In the intense heat, with temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) at kick-off, Miami's unbeaten run since the signing of Messi and Spanish pair Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba looked to be coming to an end. Inter trailed 2-0 with 22 minutes remaining before the Argentine delivered two perfect assists to striker Leonardo Campana to take the game into extra-time.

Messi's compatriot Luciano



Acosta had put Cincinnati ahead in the 18th minute and American striker Brandon Vazquez doubled the home side's lead with a fine strike from the edge of the box in the 53rd minute. In the 68th minute, Messi whipped in a free-kick from the left which was headed home by Campana to breathe some life into what had been a tired display from Gerardo Martino's

side. Cincinnati thought that they had made it 3-1 but Yuga Kubo's effort was ruled out for handball. In the seventh minute of stoppage time Messi, from deep on the left, swung in a ball to Campana at the back post and again the Ecuadorian forward found the net to force extra-time. Miami went ahead in the

first period with Benjamin Cremaschi sliding an excellent pass into the path of Josef Martinez and the Venezuelan made no mistake with a precise finish. But Cincinnati bounced back in the second period with Japanese winger Kubo firing a right-foot shot into the far corner past the diving Drake Callender. The teams were at 4-4 in the

shoot-out when Callender saved Nick Hagglund's penalty for Cincinnati and Cremaschi converted the next to book Miami's place in the final. The 18-year-old Miami-born Cremaschi, whose parents are Argentine, was congratulated by Messi after his match-winning spot kick. "I'm living a huge dream," he told CBS Sports, "Sometimes I

Messi says he wants to 'enjoy every moment' of career

AFP ■ MIAMI

Lionel Messi says he wants to "enjoy every moment" of the remainder of his career and has no date in mind for when he will finally hang up his boots.

The Argentine World Cup winner won his first trophy with his new club Inter Miami with a penalty shoot-out win over Nashville, scoring his 10th goal in seven games since moving to the Florida club in the Leagues Cup final.

The 36-year-old signed a two and a half year contract with Miami last month but he said he hadn't even begun to think about his future beyond that deal.

"I'm not thinking about it (retirement) yet, to be honest. I like to play, I enjoy being with a ball on the field, competing, training," said the seven-times Ballon d'Or winner in an interview with Apple TV+.

"I don't know how much more I'll play, but I'll try to take advantage until I can, until I'm well and then I'll see. For later there is time to think, to analyze and choose," he said in the interview, recorded before Saturday's triumph for his new Major League Soccer club.

"Today the most important thing is to enjoy what's left, whatever it is, it can be little or a lot," he said.

"Enjoy every moment, especially because this is not coming back and then I don't want to regret anything," he added. Messi said that his experience so far with Inter Miami left him convinced he had made the right move when his contract with Paris Saint-Germain ended and he repeated his disappointment at his time in the French capital.

Signing for Inter, he said, "was a family decision, (to) try to look for the good of the fam-

ily. We had spent two complicated years, the truth is that we had not been doing well, we had struggled," he said.

"It was a bit like going back to what we were when we were in Barcelona, enjoying the day to day, the kids, the family being well. I enjoyed the day-to-day in sports, which was not happening to me," he explained. "My trips to the national team were my happiest moments because I enjoyed the place where I was, my teammates and I wanted to come here and find the same thing," he said.

"Today, after some time has passed, I can say that we were not wrong and we were right when we said this was the right place," he added.

Messi was due to be back in action later on Wednesday when Inter travelled to Cincinnati in the semi-final of the U.S. Open Cup.



Rubiales WC kiss not behaviour of a federation boss: Ancelotti

AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti criticised Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales on Thursday for kissing a female player on the lips after Spain won the World Cup. The federation (RFEF) chief kissed midfielder Jenni Hermoso during the gold medal ceremony on Sunday in Sydney after Spain beat England to win the World Cup, provoking outrage. Hermoso released a joint statement Wednesday with her players' union Futpro, which called for action to be taken against the president — the RFEF have called an emergency meeting on Friday and started an investigation into the incident. "It's a very delicate topic, like most people it was behaviour that I obviously did not like," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"It was not the behaviour of a president of the federation." The Italian coach would not be further drawn on the issue. "I don't know if he should resign or not, I think he will take the most adequate decision,"

added Ancelotti. Real Madrid play Celta Vigo in La Liga on Friday and the Galicians' manager Rafa Benitez also spoke about Rubiales. "The success of the national team is the news and unfortunately it's been relegated to the background," said Benitez. "We all agree we have seen behaviour which was not correct and the competent authorities are there to take decisions."

Rubiales initially attacked his critics before eventually apologising but the criticism of his behaviour has not abated. Hermoso released a joint statement Wednesday with her players' union Futpro, which called for action to be taken against the president — the RFEF have called an emergency meeting on Friday and started an investigation into the incident. "It's a very delicate topic, like most people it was behaviour that I obviously did not like," Ancelotti told a news conference.

Spanish prime minister Pedro Sanchez previously said that Rubiales' apology for the kiss was "not enough". Spain's women's football league, Liga F, on Wednesday demanded Rubiales be sacked.

Praggnanandhaa's run in World Cup will boost Indian chess



PTI ■ BENGALURU

The wonderful run of R Praggnanandhaa in the FIDE Chess World Cup will power Indian chess to further heights globally, said a set of players and officials. Praggnanandhaa finished runner-up to world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen on Thursday in the Chess World Cup at Baku, Azerbaijan.

"This is a wonderful moment for Indian chess. It doesn't matter that Praggnanandhaa could not win the World Cup. He showed tremendous fight against strong player like Carlsen on a big occasion," DP Anantha, vice-president of Indian Chess Federation and secretary of Karnataka State Chess Association, told PTI. Anantha said Praggnanandhaa's feat will propel the profile of Indian chess in international stages.

"India is slowly becoming a chess powerhouse globally. Now, we have a World Cup finalist after (Viswanathan) Anand.

Earlier, nations like Russia, USA and Europeans were dominant in chess. Now, it is changing.

"We already have more than 70 Grand Masters in India and the day is not far away when we (will) have over 100 GMs. I am certain that Praggnanandhaa's effort will work as a motivation for all upcoming players like (D) Gukesh, Arjun (Erigaisi) etc," added Anantha. Pranav Anand, who became India's 76th Grand Master in September last year, said the effort of Praggnanandhaa will serve as a motivation for young players like him.

"I have been closely following the matches at the World Cup. Praggnanandhaa has been impressive throughout. Beating top players like (Hikaru) Nakamura and (Fabiano) Caruana is no mean feat," said the 16-year-old Pranav from Abu Dhabi, where he was playing in a Masters event. The Bengaluru player said the emergence of a strong, young crop of chess players will give India an edge in

top level competitions in the days to come.

"I am proud to be a part of a line of players like Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Arjun, Nihal (Sarin) etc who have already touched some heady heights.

"It is beneficial to Indian chess. I am sure Praggnanandhaa's performance is just a beginning and we will see many other Indian players now joining him at the big stages," added Pranav.

GN Gopal, the Grand Master from Kerala, said Praggnanandhaa's effort to reach the World Cup final was exceptional.

"It is amazing for a young player to reach the final of an intense event like the chess World Cup. It tells volumes about his mental strength.

"It also shows that Indian chess is progressing in the right direction and hopefully, we will have many such bright moments," said Gopal, a team bronze medal winner at the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.



Mumbai City grouped with Neymar's Al Hilal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai City FC players can fancy rubbing shoulders with Brazilian superstar Neymar in the upcoming AFC Champions League season after the Indian Super League team was clubbed with Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal in the group stage of the continental club showpiece.

Al Hilal, the third-place finishers in the 2022-23 Saudi Pro League, had recently signed Neymar, a former Barcelona FC — with whom he won UEFA Champions League title — and Paris Saint German player. Neymar's new Saudi club is also the most successful team in the AFC Champions League history, having won the title four times, besides being runners-up on five occasions.

Al Hilal have bolstered their squad for the upcoming season with some big-name signings including Neymar Jr, Kalidou Koulibaly, Ruben Neves, Sergej

Milinkovic-Savic, Yassine Bounou and Aleksandar Mitrovic.

The group stage of the AFC Champions League is a home-and-away affair and thus it will be interesting to see if Neymar is seen in action at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune, Mumbai City FC's home venue. If Neymar travels to Pune, it would be an opportunity of a lifetime for Indian fans to catch a glimpse of him playing in the country.

FC Nassaji Mazandaran of Iran and PFC Navbahor Namangan of Uzbekistan are the other two sides in Group D.

The draw of AFC Champions League 2023-24 group stage was held at the Asian Football Confederation headquarters in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Mumbai City FC made it to the AFC Champions League group stage for the second straight season, following their League Shield win during the ISL 2022-23 and the subse-

quent play-off versus Jamshedpur FC. Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo's Saudi side Al Nassr were drawn with Persepolis FC of Iran, Al Duhail SC of Qatar and FC Istiklol of Tajikistan in Group E. The 10 group winners, along with the three best runners-up across the five West Zone groups, will make it to the round of 16.

Last season, Mumbai City FC scripted a couple of victories over Al Quwa Al Jawiya of Iraq, finishing in second place in Group B with seven points.

From next season onwards, no Indian club will get a direct entry into Asia's top-tier club competition as a result of a revamp in the competition structure, the Asian Football Confederation has said earlier.

In the second-tier AFC Cup draw, Indian clubs Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant have been clubbed with Bashundhara Kings of Bangladesh and Maziya S&RC of Maldives.

Satwik-Chirag duo enters quarters

PTI ■ COPENHAGEN

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stood one step away from another World Championships medal after reaching the quarterfinals with a three-game win over Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin here on Thursday.

The world number two pair, which had claimed a maiden bronze in the last edition, bounced back from a mid-game slump to outwit Carnando and Marthin, ranked 10th, 21-15 19-21 21-9 in the round of 16 match that lasted a little over an hour. The Commonwealth Games champions, who won four titles this season, will meet either 11th seeds Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen from Denmark or Malaysian seventh seeded combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi next.

Earlier, the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who reached the semifinals of the All England Championships in the last two editions, couldn't sustain the attack and went down 14-21 9-21 in 42 minutes against top seeded Chinese duo of Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan. It was only the second meeting between Gayatri-Treasa and the Chinese pair with the Indians having lost to the world number one Chinese team at the German Open last year.

Chen and Jia are three-time gold medalists at the World Championships, won three BWF titles, and finished runner-up twice this season.



Satwik and Chirag showed great anticipation and execution to dish out an attacking game.

Chirag was simply superb with his interceptions as he glided through the court and punished any weak returns from their rivals.

The Indian pairs had a slow start but Chirag and Satwik soon stepped up, bringing more discipline in their approach.

The Indians rained down their cross court returns with Chirag patrolling the front court. Soon Satwik unleashed his explosive smash to grab a three-point lead at the breather.

The Indonesian tried to fight back with a couple of points but couldn't break the strong defence of the Indians, who quickly extended the lead to 15-10. Satwik and Chirag got into position quickly and kept the intense pressure on their rivals. The Indians were on the money during the flat cross fast exchange

UWW suspends WFI for delaying elections

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

UWW, the world governing body for wrestling, has suspended the WFI for not conducting its elections on time, a development which will not allow Indian grapplers to compete at the upcoming World Championships under the Indian flag. The Indian wrestlers will have to compete as 'neutral athletes' at the Olympic-qualifying World Championships, starting September 16 as the ad-hoc panel, led by Bhpender Singh Bajwa, did not honour the 45-day deadline for conducting the elections.

The development has come a day before the ad-hoc panel conducts the World Championships trials in Patiala.

The IOA had appointed the ad-hoc panel on April 27 and the committee was supposed to hold elections within 45 days.

UWW had on April 28 warned that it could suspend the Indian federation if the deadline to hold elections is not hon-

oured. "The UWW communicated to the ad-hoc panel on Wednesday night that WFI has been suspended for not holding elections to its executive committee," an IOA source told PTI. Meanwhile ad-hoc panel member Gian Singh told PTI that they are being kept in the dark by Bajwa on the related developments and that they are not part of decision making anymore.

"I have also heard that WFI has been suspended but I can't tell you what the ad-hoc panel will do now. Mr Bajwa does not call us for discussion any more. I did not even know how the criteria were finalised for the Worlds trials," Gian told PTI. "Mr Bajwa is too busy, it seems," he added, indicating that the ad-hoc panel has failed to properly manage issues at hand.

Bajwa was contacted for a comment but he did not return calls or respond to text messages.

The Indian women's team at the recent U-20 World Championship in Amman had won



the team title for the first time in the Indian wrestling history ahead of powerhouses like Japan and USA. The wrestlers earned points because they were representing their country but now at the senior world championships in Serbia, the Indians will compete as 'neutral athletes' and their performances will not be counted as India's.

The wrestlers, though, can compete under the Indian flag at the Asian Games, starting September 23 in Hangzhou, since it's the IOA which has sent entries and not the WFI.

At the Worlds, it is the WFI

which has to send entries after selecting a team through trials.

Originally, the WFI was to hold elections on May 7 but the Sports Ministry had declared the process as null and void and subsequently IOA installed an ad-hoc panel to run the sport in the country.

The elections have been delayed several times after that with multiple disgruntled and disaffiliated state bodies moving the court, seeking the right to participate in the polls.

MULTIPLE DELAYS
The Returning Officer had

originally set July 11 as the date for WFI elections but the Assam association moved the Gauhati High Court and succeeded in getting a stay on the polls on June 25 and the next hearing was set for July 28.

However, the Andhra state association challenged the decision in the Supreme Court which quashed the Gauhati High Court decision on July 18, paving the way for the conduct of the polls.

The Returning officer then declared August 12 as the new poll date but a day before the elections, Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed the process on an application moved by Haryana Wrestling Association (HWA), which was led by Deepinder Singh Hooda before being suspended by WFI. HWA had challenged the move to allow Haryana Amateur Wrestling Association to cast votes in the WFI polls. Now this case is also pending in the Supreme Court and is likely to be heard on Friday.

Indian cricketers undergo Yo-Yo test at conditioning camp

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Ahead of the Asia Cup 2023, Indian cricketers on Thursday underwent rigorous fitness drills, including the Yo-Yo test which was aced by the players in attendance here.

The exercise is a part of the six-day conditioning and skill-set enhancement camp, and, not surprisingly, Virat Kohli scored a high 17.2 in the test.

The BCCI mandated fitness parameter is 16.5.

Apart from Kohli, it is learnt that skipper Rohit Sharma and ODI vice-captain Hardik Pandya among others have participated in the drills at the KSCA-Alur grounds here, and successfully completed the tests.

"The tests were successful and the reports will be sent to the BCCI soon," a source following the developments told PTI.

Four players — Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma - are expected to join the camp on Friday.

The quartet is flying out of Dublin to Bengaluru after the three-match T20I series against Ireland at Malahide.

While the drills were largely restricted to indoor sessions on this day, except the Yo-Yo test, there will be increased outdoor activities from Friday.

However, those returning from Ireland might not be put under the Yo-Yo test as they will be put through the skill-set segment of the camp.

The PIT had reported on Wednesday that several param-



eters of players will be checked during the camp including lipid profile, blood sugar (fasting and PP), uric acid, calcium, Vitamin

B12 and D, creatinine, testosterone and Dexa tests etc.

Apart from the fitness routines, the outdoor events will

also include match simulation sessions monitored by batting coach Vikram Rathour and head coach Rahul Dravid.

However, the progress of KL Rahul will be keenly followed by the team management. It is understood that Rahul was also

part of the fitness drills on this day but the Bengaluru batter was not included in the Yo-Yo test.

Rahul has been conditionally named in India's Asia Cup squad, as chief selector Ajit Agarkar said the wicketkeeper batter is carrying a "niggle"

which is unrelated to his previous injury.

Sanju Samson was named as a travelling reserve in the Asia Cup squad as a cover for Rahul.

While the team management and NCA staff are quite satisfied with Rahul's batting fitness as evidenced by those sessions in the match simulation process last week, they still need more clarity on his readiness to handle the wicketkeeping duties.

In the coming days, the top brass will be watching how the 31-year-old is progressing in this regard. But as things stand now, Rahul could miss the initial phase of the Asia Cup to be played in Sri Lanka.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer was given an all-clear by the NCA authorities, but he will be watched closely, considering the Mumbaikar is also returning from an injury.

The conditioning camp is scheduled to conclude on August 29 and the Indian team is expected to depart to Colombo the next day.



No better limited-over spinner currently in India than Chahal: Harbhajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh considers Yuzvendra Chahal as the best limited-over spinner in the country currently and said the selectors erred in not picking him for the Asia Cup to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 30.

Chahal failed to make the India squad for the tournament as the selectors gave preference to Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel over him.

"The one thing I feel little bit lacking and wrong in the team is the absence of Yuzvendra Chahal. I thought his presence in this team (for Asia Cup) was necessary,"

Harbhajan said on his YouTube channel.

"Chahal is a leg-spinner who can get the ball to turn away. If you talk about genuine spinner, I don't think there's any spinner in India better than Chahal in limited over formats. Yes, his last few games weren't good, but that doesn't make him a bad bowler," said the 43-year-old former off-spinner, who took 711 wickets in the three formats before retiring in 2016.

The 33-year-old Chahal has been in and out of the national side in recent times, and Harbhajan is hoping that he would return to the team for the 50-over World Cup to be held in India in October-

November. "I hope the doors aren't closed on him. It's important to consider him for the World Cup because the tournament is in India."

"Chahal is a proven match-winner. I can understand his form isn't good, so you may have rested him. But I think if he was with the team, his confidence would've stayed intact. Any player who comes back after being dropped, the pressure to perform is always there," said Harbhajan.

Chahal had an average outing in the recent T20I series against the West Indies as he picked up just five wickets in as many matches, and leaked runs in the last three games.

Srikanth questions KL Rahul's selection in Indian squad for Asia Cup 2023



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former chairman of the selection committee Kris Srikanth expressed his disappointment over the selection of India wicket-keeper KL Rahul for the upcoming Asia Cup 2023. Srikanth wasn't pleased with KL Rahul's return to the squad despite carrying a niggle.

On Monday, The Board of Control for Cricket announced the squad for the upcoming Asia Cup where both KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer are the part of team. Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar mentioned that KL Rahul is still carrying a niggle and will miss the first game of the tournament which will be played against arch-rivals Pakistan on September 2 in Sri Lanka.

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain, who recently recovered from a thigh injury which he sustained during the match against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the recent-

ly concluded Indian Premier League 2023 (IPL).

The development didn't go well with Srikanth, he slammed the selectors, saying that a player shouldn't be picked if he isn't fully fit at the time of selection.

"It's being said that KL Rahul has a niggle. If you have a niggle, don't pick him in the squad. If a player is not fit during selection, you shouldn't pick him. That was our policy. On the day of selection, if a player is not fit, don't select him. If you want to pick him for the World Cup, select him for the World Cup. That's a different issue. Now they are saying that he might play after a couple of matches and that's why we have picked Sanju Samson as a travelling reserve. What's all this?" Kriss Srikanth said in a video on his YouTube channel.

India's middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer, on the other hand, is fully fit and will be available for selection from the first match of the continental tournament.

Onus on batsmen to end India's decade-long ICC trophy drought: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A global title may be eluding India for a decade now, but former captain Sourav Ganguly said on Thursday that there is no need to press panic button while placing the onus on batters to win the World Cup at home. India have not won an ICC event after the MS Dhoni-led side triumphed in the Champions Trophy beating England in 2013.

Since then, India have featured in eight knockout matches, including semifinals and finals, in the ICC tournaments but failed to win a title. "You cannot win World Cups all the time, there will be bad times, there will be gaps," Ganguly said during the launch of Cycle Pure Agarbathi's new products to mark its 75 years.

India have lost two successive World Test Championships Finals in 2021 and 2023, while they exited in semifinals of the ODI World Cup in 2015 and 2019, besides losing the Champions Trophy final in 2017.

It's the same story in T20 World Cups. They lost the final in 2014 and were bundled out in the semifinals twice -- 2016 and 2022.

However, India will be taking a shot at Cup glory during this World Cup at home, and Ganguly said their batsmen must deliver. "They will have to bat very well, if they bat well they will win," Ganguly, who led India to the 2003 World Cup final, said. India's preparation will



begin with the Asia Cup 2023 where they will face Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan before playing a three-match series against Australia at home.

Ganguly, however, said each tournament would carry its own dynamics.

"The World Cup is different, Asia Cup is different and the Australia home series is different. Every tournament depends on how they play that particular moment. India are a strong side; but they have to play well during the World Cup," he said.

'AXAR PICKED FOR HIS BATTING'

India have picked a 17-member squad for the Asia Cup and the selectors decision to omit premier leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has raised many eyebrows.

"They have picked Axar Patel ahead of Chahal because of his batting. So I think it's a good

selection. Chahal can still come back if someone gets injured. This is a 17-member squad, two, in any case, will have to move out," said Ganguly.

Key batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer made returns from injuries. Rahul, however, is still carrying a niggle. "He's fit, not injured anymore," he said.

Commenting on the absence of a left-arm pacer in the squad, Ganguly defended the selection, saying, "They picked (players) on form, they picked their best fast bowling side. It's the best pace attack."

"I think it's a very fair side, the right side they have picked. It's just that they have to play well now."

Pakistan will start the Asia Cup ahead of India as the No 2 ranked team, and they may even have a chance to become No 1 in ODIs if they beat Afghanistan 3-0 in the on-going series.

Stumping controversy during Ashes made people speaking about cricket: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Rewinding his thoughts to Alex Carey's controversial stumping of Jonny Bairstow during the recent Ashes, Australian captain Pat Cummins said the whole episode prompted fans to get actively involved in Test cricket.

During Day 5 of the second Test at Lord's, England's Bairstow had dodged a bouncer from pacer Cameron Green and inadvertently walked out of the crease, and Carey hit the stumps at Bairstow's end.

The on-field umpires, Ahsan Raza and Chris Gaffaney, went upstairs, and TV umpire Marais Erasmus declared the Englishman out.

Fans came up with furious reactions against the Aussies on social media, while the crowd at the ground booed the visitors throughout the day.

Some of the Australian players were also subjected to verbal



assault from Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) members in the famous Long Room of the venue. Interacting on Channel Seven's Sunrise show, Cummins said, "I think the great thing was how many people were speaking about cricket. It was the middle of winter (Down Under), and cricket was the main sport for a couple of months."

"So personally, I loved how much people were focusing on Test cricket and loving the contest each day. And also, the old rivalry between us and them, every Ashes series seems to drop something."

Elaborating on the verbal duel between MCC members, Usman Khawaja and David Warner, Cummins was not entirely surprised by it, terming it an "old tantrum".

"It certainly was a fair old tantrum. I haven't experienced anything like that before. But, I will say across my career, I've seen that type of dismissal at least 20 times, and it is always out."

"Davey (Warner) and Ussie (Khawaja) went back at a few of the members following some comments. It was getting pretty heated," he added.

"I got the gossip from the other guys, (and) then, we all took a deep breath and looked to stay composed. We had a break, and then reset," said Cummins. England lost the Lord's Test as Australia took a 2-0 lead in the series before the hosts bounced back in the third Test at Headingley.

However, rain forced a draw in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, allowing the Aussies to retain the Ashes urn. The hosts came out on top in the final Test at the Oval, finishing the series with a 2-2 score-line.

Umesh Yadav signs for Essex



PTI ■ CHELMSFORD

Indian pacer Umesh Yadav has signed with Division One English County side Essex for the remainder of the 2023 championship.

With three matches remaining, he has replaced injured New Zealand pacer Doug Bracewell and became the team's second active foreign player for the season after Simon Harmer

of South Africa. It would be Umesh's second County stint, with his first coming last season with Middlesex in Division Two, where he grabbed four wickets at an average of 71.50.

However, his term was cut short after three matches as he suffered a quadriceps injury during a One-Day Cup game versus Gloucestershire.

Umesh will be in contention to make it to the playing XI in Essex's remaining contests against Middlesex (home), Hampshire (home) and Northamptonshire (away).

"I am really pleased to join Essex and make what I hope will be some valuable contributions to the team's success this year," he said in a media release issued by the club.

"I enjoyed playing in England with Middlesex last sea-

son, and it will be good to return and test myself in those conditions again, especially in the midst of a title race."

Umesh has represented India in 57 Tests, 75 ODIs and nine T20Is, scalping 288 international wickets.

His last outing for India with the red ball came a couple of months back during the ICC World Test Championship Final against Australia at The Oval, where he grabbed two wickets for 131 in a losing cause.

Speaking about having Umesh in the side, Essex head coach Anthony McGrath stated, "Umesh is a superb signing for us, and we all know what he will be able to bring to our attack at a crucial time of the season."

"He is vastly experienced and has taken wickets at the top levels of the game for more than a decade now, so as well as contributing during our run-in, we hope he can pass on some of his wisdom to our young players too."

Second-placed Essex's next County fixture is against Middlesex on September 4.