

OPINION 6
CORBETT'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN HIS PARK

WORLD 9
KREMLIN DENIES ROLE IN PRIGOZHIN PLANE CRASH

MONEY 10
'INDIA'S GROWTH JOURNEY WILL SHAPE WORLD'S FUTURE'

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PUTIN TO SKIP G20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the G20 summit to be held in New Delhi on September 9-10 as he has a "busy schedule" and the format of his participation in the high-profile event would be determined later, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced in Moscow on Friday.

"No, the President has no such plans," the official Tass news agency quoted the Kremlin spokesman as saying.

The format of Putin's participation would be determined later, Peskov said. He also said Putin has a "busy schedule" and the main focus is still the "special military operation" in Ukraine. Peskov also said Putin participated in this week's BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg remotely. He was represented at the summit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

"Well, and after all, now he

really has a busy schedule. And, of course, the main focus is still the special military operation. So direct travel is not on the agenda right now," the Kremlin spokesman was quoted as saying by the official Tass news agency.

The G20 world leaders' summit is expected to be one of the largest gatherings of world leaders in India. India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia.

President Putin decided against attending the first in-person BRICS summit after Covid-19 as the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him in March over an alleged scheme to deport Ukrainian children to Russia.

South Africa is an ICC signatory and was expected to help in Putin's arrest if he was present in the country. Putin had not attended the G20 summit in Indonesia last year.

Since India is not a signatory of the International Criminal Court (ICC), President Putin would not have



been arrested on his arrival. So, that is not the reason for him deciding again visiting Delhi.

However, after the brief Wagner coup and the recent death of Wagner's chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in an air crash, there is a lot of speculation on President Putin being behind the ill-fated air crash is baseless. These are all total lies," Peskov said adding that Putin had said all necessary evaluations will be conducted including DNA tests of passengers on board.

One of the US and Western officials who

described the initial US assessment said it determined that Prigozhin was "very likely" targeted and that the explosion falls in line with Putin's "long history of trying to silence his critics."

Britain's defence ministry said on Friday that the presumed death of Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin in a plane crash could destabilise the Wagner Group.

Russia, in the meantime, will have a busy year ahead as it has just taken over the chairmanship of the BRICS group and will host the next Summit in Kazan next year. With six additional countries that will become full-time members in January 2024, there is a lot that Russia would do to make the 16th BRICS Summit a success, a source added.

The G20 summit is likely to be attended by 29 heads of State as well as top European Union (EU) officials and invited guest countries and 14 heads of international organisations. A G20 Leaders' Declaration will be adopted at the conclu-

sion of the New Delhi Summit.

On August 23, Washington announced that President Joe Biden will travel to India from September 7 to 10 to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit.

Biden and G20 partners will discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, including on the clean energy transition and combating climate change, mitigating the economic and social impacts of the Ukraine conflict, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Increasing the capacity of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, to better fight poverty, including by addressing global challenges will also be discussed, the official added.

While in New Delhi, President Biden will also commend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership of the G20 and reaffirm the US commitment to the G20 as the premier forum of economic cooperation, including by hosting it in 2026, Jean-Pierre added.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are likely to participate in the high-profile event. Australia has announced that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will participate in the summit.

Trump surrenders at jail in poll fraud bid case

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Embattled Donald Trump has surrendered to authorities in Georgia on charges of plotting to overturn the State's 2020 election results in an arrest that saw the first-ever mug shot of a former US President.

Trump, 77, spent about 22 minutes inside the Fulton County Jail on Thursday where he was booked on felony charges of racketeering and conspiracy linked to his alleged efforts to overturn his 2020 reelection loss in Georgia.

Trump was released pending trial after paying a USD 200,000 bond his lawyers negotiated earlier this week with Fulton County prosecutor Fani Willis.

His surrender in Georgia marks the fourth time this year the former president has turned himself in after criminal charges were brought against him by federal and state officials. But it's the first time he was subjected to a mug shot.

No previous US President has been charged with criminal offences. But Trump is now facing 91 charges across the four indictments for his alleged actions before, during and after his single-term presidency ended in January 2021.

Trump, a Republican, also posted the mug shot to his X



Former US President Donald Trump walks over to speak with reporters before departure from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta AP/PTI

account, formerly known as Twitter, as well as to Truth Social, both posts with the words "election interference" and "never surrender."

It marked Trump's first tweet since January 8, 2021, two days after the Capitol riots.

The Fulton County Jail released a mugshot picture of him, which soon went viral. The jail authorities recorded him as being 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighing 215 pounds (97 kg), with blond or strawberry hair and blue eyes. His inmate number was P01135809.

Trump, the leading Republican contender for the

dential nomination, told reporters that he has done nothing wrong. "What has taken place here is a travesty of justice. We did nothing wrong. I did nothing wrong, and everybody knows that," Trump said.

"What they're doing is election interference," he said. "We did nothing wrong at all, and we have every right, every single right, to challenge an election that we think is dishonest," Trump added. The conditions of the agreement in part prohibit Trump from intimidating his co-defendants, witnesses or alleged victims in the case, including on social media.

India, China differ on who sought talks



RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had an interaction in Johannesburg and discussed the tense situation at the border in Ladakh, India on Friday said China had sought this bilateral meeting.

This assertion came amid reports that New Delhi had requested for this interaction on the sidelines of the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) summit in the South African capital.

Modi and Xi held the conversation on Wednesday. The conversation was not a structured bilateral meeting and was an informal one.

There was a pending request from the Chinese side for a bilateral meeting, sources in the Indian side said hours after the Chinese Foreign Ministry released a readout on the Modi-Xi conversation that said it was held at the

Indian side's request.

"The two leaders, however, had an informal conversation in the leaders lounge during the BRICS summit," said a source. The Chinese readout said, "President Xi Jinping talked with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit at the latter's request on August 23."

In his conversation with Modi, Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves common interests and it is conducive to peace and stability of the world and the region, it said.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Thursday said Modi conveyed to Xi India's concerns on the "unresolved" issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, underlining that maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas was essential for normalisation of India-China ties.

Continued on Page 2

Sharad says Ajit is NCP leader, later retracts remarks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Friday set the cat among the pigeons by first claiming that there was no split in his party and that nephew Ajit Pawar was his party leader, and later retracting his earlier statement and clarifying, "I have not said that Ajit is our leader."

Within hours after he made the sensational claim, he said, "I have not said that Ajit is our leader. If my daughter Supriya, being Ajit's cousin sister, has made such a remark in an off-the-cuff manner, not much should be read politically into her statement."

Interestingly enough, even NCP's working president and MP Supriya Sule — who had said initially that "Ajitada is our leader" — clarified saying, "What I said was Ajit is a big leader in Maharashtra."

Amid the controversy over Pawar's flip-flop on his nephew, Ajit chose to remain silent. "No comments" was all he had to say when media persons button-holed him for a comment.

More than seven weeks after the vertical split in the NCP that saw breakaway group leader Ajit walk out of the party and join the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance Government as a deputy Chief Minister, Sharad's reported double-speak has somewhat eroded his credibility as the chief architect of the Opposition Maha Vikas



Aghadi (MVA).

Reacting to Sharad's first statement that there was no split in the NCP and that Ajit was his party leader, Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut — who is considered to be a close confidant of the NCP chief himself — said the position taken by Sharad was akin to putting feet in two boats and that the people would take a call on the stand taken by the latter.

Earlier, the day began with Sharad claiming that there was no split in the NCP and that Ajit was his party leader.

Interacting with media persons in his hometown of Baramati in Pune district, Sharad said, "Ajit is our party leader. There is no doubt about it. If a party gets separated at national level, then it is called split. No such split has taken place in the NCP. Some people (meaning Ajit, his supporters) have taken a different stand. They have the right to take such a stand in a democratic set up like ours."

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Metro only lifeline during G20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police on Friday advised people to use the metro for commuting during the two days of G20 Summit as bus movement will be restricted in the Lutyns' Delhi.

The summit will be held at the newly-built Bharat Mandapam convention centre in Delhi's Pragati Maidan under India's presidency. The restriction order will come into effect from September 7 midnight and will stay on till September 10 midnight.

Those who live in the New Delhi area will be allowed to move freely, but those coming from other districts of Delhi, or tourists from other places, will have to show valid hotel bookings to enter the area.

The entire area of New Delhi District will be consid-



ered as "controlled zone-I". However, bonafide residents, authorised vehicles and emergency vehicles will be allowed to travel on the road network of New Delhi District.

The entire area inside Ring Road (Mahatma Gandhi Marg) will be considered as "Regulated Zone". Commuters are requested to avoid journey to places falling in Regulated and Controlled Zones.

Addressing a Press confer-

People are advised to use the Metro for commuting to their destination," he said.

The Delhi Traffic Police will also keep cargo trucks out of Delhi for three days, said Yadav. They will be diverted to the Eastern and Western peripheral expressways. But vehicles with permission or carrying important cargo will be allowed to enter the national capital, he added. Interstate buses will also be allowed entry into Delhi.

All types of goods vehicles, commercial vehicles, interstate buses and local city buses such as DTC buses and DIMTS buses will not be allowed to ply on Mathura Road (beyond Ashram Chowk), Bhairon Road, Purana Quila Road and inside Pragati Maidan Tunnel from September 7, 8 to September 10.

Continued on Page 2

Divya

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Centre, State differ over West Bengal Day date

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Controversies have erupted over the decision of Centre and the State to mark different days as West Bengal Day. While the Centre has earmarked June 20 to celebrate the West Bengal Day, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wants to mark Poila Baisakh or the first day of the month of Baisakh — according to the Vangabda calendar — as the Paschim Banga Divas.

She has also proposed a song like many other States as the State Song so to say. In while convening an all-party meeting on August 29 to arrive at a consensus Banerjee has also written a letter to the Centre criticizing its “unilateral decision” to declare June 20 for the purpose. “I did not hear that West Bengal was established on June 20.

The Centre’s unilateral decision is surprising and alarming” Incidentally June 20 is associated with the infamous Radcliffe Award partitioning eastern frontiers of India and Pakistan — in this case West Bengal and East Bengal or Bangladesh.

In an apparent view to shoot down the BJP’s attempt to get June declared as the State Day the TMC Government has written a letter to all the parties inviting them on August



29 for a meeting on the issue.

“The CM will be holding an all-party meeting on August 29 on Paschim Banga Divas. She wants to know the opinions of other political leaders

on holding the statehood day on Poila Baisakh,” the letter reads. A panel in this regard — comprising Deputy Speaker Asish Banerjee, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, Education Minister Bratya Basu, Urban Development Minister and Kolkata Mayor

Firhad Hakim etc with its advisor Harvard University Professor and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s grand nephew Sugata Bose — has proposed a ‘state song’.

Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s ‘Banglar Mati Banglar Jol’ (Bengal’s earth and Bengal’s water) is one of the songs that have reportedly been shortlisted for the

State song, sources said.

While the BJP leadership said the idea of a West Bengal Day was first given by the saffron outfit which proposed June 20 as the day “the TMC is unnecessarily trying to hijack the idea ... how can it justify its claims.”

The leader however would not reply as to whether his party would send any representative to the meeting called by Banerjee. Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said: “It was on June 20, 1947, that the legislative assembly of Bengal met and took a decision on the Bengal partition.

This is history. We cannot deny it.”

The Left on the other hand said that it was more interested in solving the State’s issues “like unemployment, price rise, law and order issues, corruption, infrastructure and basic services to the people rather than diverting the public attention on ‘trivial issues.’”

“It is better to develop West Bengal, bring industries, generate employment, curb corruption, provide right prices of crops to the farmer, bring down prices of essential commodities than to fight on a specific day,” said Samik Lahiri a CPI(M) leader adding these were all tactic to divert attention from real issues “both by the Centre and the State” ahead of the general elections.

Choudar village mourns death of migrant workers in Mizoram

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ MALDA/BAHARAMPUR

Kichu Nai Barite Taito ... Amar Parar Kharoch Jogate Kaje Giye Chilo ... Ekhn Khabo Ki ... (My brother went there (Mizoram) as we have nothing ... he wanted to educate me ... now what will we eat and how will I go to school)...

That is how a hapless fifteen-year-old girl wailed for her dead brother who went to Mizoram as a migrant labourer and died when an under-construction Railway bridge collapsed off Aizawl.

Like this hapless teenager hundreds of others, at Choudar village mourned the death of their migrant workers. Smriti Sarkar, another elderly woman has turned into a lifeless stone in the past two days. She only murmurs intermittently.

“I have lost all the men in my life ... Till Wednesday my life was like any other person ... today it has no meaning for me,” she says as a Asiful a neighbor informs “she has lost her father, husband, son and brother.”

Out of 24 residents from Malda district who have perished in the Mizoram accident, this tiny hamlet — with an assortment of a few dozen of thatched huts — alone accounts for 13, locals said. “There is not a single home where food has been cooked for the past three



West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose meets families of migrant workers killed in the Mizoram rail bridge collapse, in Malda district on Friday

days sir ... we do not know how life will go on after this,” said Moti Sheikh a villager. Ratau, Ingrez Bazaar, Gazole are villages in Malda district which have never dug so many graves or lit so many funeral pyres in one go. Not even during the corona pandemic. “Most of us have no earning.

Whatever lands we have are just not enough for bare survival as we do not get the correct procurement price for our paddy ... as a result we have to migrate to other States to earn Rs 500 to Rs 700 per day ... here the earning is less than Rs 400,” said Rabiul Sheikh. When informed that Governor CV Ananda Bose had promised to hold talks

with the Railways and the State Government to provide Government jobs to the next to kin of the deceased, Sarkar asks “what will I do with the jobs or the money ... pour them on my funeral pyre.”

Known for the prompt actions he takes Bose on Friday visited Malda and met the family members of the victims.

“It is not possible to bring back who have gone but I will certainly be by their side ... let us see what can be done ... some proposals of providing these people with jobs have come ... that will certainly be taken up by the Railway authorities and the State Government,” he said while handing out cheque of Rs 10 lakh to the relatives of the dead.

CBI raids at agent’s premises in French Embassy visa fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CBI has conducted searches at the premises of a private person (an Agent), based in Ludhiana, in an on-going investigation of a case related to visa fraud in the French embassy here.

“During search, incriminating material was recovered. A cash of approximately Rs 70.10 lakh (in denomination of Rs 2,000) was also recovered from a bank locker at Ludhiana,” the CBI said in a statement.

During investigation of the said case, involvement of one agent Balwinder Singh Bartia based at Machhiwara, Ludhiana in facilitating issuance of Schengen visas to the applicants also came to light, the agency

alleged. It was alleged that he collected cash amounts ranging from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 45 lakh from each visa applicant for getting Schengen visa from the French embassy here.

CBI had registered a case against six private persons including two who were earlier working in the visa department of the Embassy of France here and others on the allegations of fraud.

It was alleged that the two accused working in the visa department of the embassy conspired with others and perpetrated a visa fraud during the period from January 1, 2022 to May 6, 2022. It was further alleged that as part of the said conspiracy, applicants from Punjab and Jammu submitted

fake and forged letters purportedly written by a private company based at Bengaluru to the Consulate General of France, Bengaluru for issuing Entry Visas, for joining private companies in Port-Le-Havre, France.

On being approached by the applicants the said two officials in the Visa Department allegedly issued Entry Visas in favour of three other accused after taking illegal gratification at the rate of Rs 50,000 per visa, without the knowledge and approval of the Head of Visa Department, French embassy, New Delhi. It was also alleged that after issuance of Entry Visa, the said two officials displaced/destroyed the documents/files from the Visa Department.

Parl panel asks members to submit suggestions on 3 laws in 15 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A BJP MP on Friday called for legal provisions to act against those involved in vandalising Indian assets and insulting its flag abroad at a Parliamentary panel meeting here to debate three proposed laws to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act.

With members of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs offering a host of suggestions, its Chairperson Brijlal asked them to submit their views in writing in 15 days, drawing protest from Digvijay Singh of the Congress who claimed it was a short period to study such a complex issue, sources said.

Citing recent targeting of

Indian embassy and consulate by Khalistani separatists, BJP member Dilip Ghosh suggested that legal measures should be put in place to act against those involved in such activities as he noted that some of them are Indian passport holders as well, sources said.

The national flag is also disrespected by them, he added. These incidents insult the country and pain Indians, he said during the deliberation on the three bills — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, introduced by Home Minister Amit Shah in Lok Sabha during Parliament’s Monsoon session.

The House had referred them to the standing committee. These bills cater to the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people, Shah had said, describing the existing 19th century laws a “colonial legacy”.

Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankar 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.

The committee began its scrutiny on Thursday, with Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla making a detailed presentation on the bills, lauded by the BJP for its emphasis on speedy justice and factoring in modern tools in investigation.

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India, China...

From Page 1

The Chinese readout described the conversation between the two leaders on Wednesday as “candid and in-depth. On August 23, Xi and Modi had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on current China-India relations and other questions of shared interest on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit,” it said.

“President Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves common interests of the two countries and peoples, and is also conducive to peace, stability and development of the world and the region,” it said.

“The two sides should bear in mind the overall interests of their bilateral relations and properly handle the border issue so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border region,” the statement released by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said.

Kwatra said the two leaders agreed to direct their relevant officials to intensify efforts at “expeditious disengagement and de-escalation.”

He also said, “On the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the Prime Minister had interactions with other BRICS leaders. In a conversation with President Xi Jinping of China, the Prime Minister highlighted India’s concerns on unresolved issues along the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas.”

“The Prime Minister underlined that maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas and observing

and respecting the LAC are essential for the normalisation of the India-China relationship,” the Foreign Secretary said.

“In this regard, two leaders agreed to direct their relevant officials to intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement and de-escalation,” Kwatra added.

It was the first interaction in public between Modi and Xi after their brief encounter on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November last year. The two leaders met briefly at a formal dinner hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo on November 16.

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

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

India has consistently maintained that peace and tranquility along the LAC were key for normalisation of overall ties.

Modi held a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, at the end of which South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE will become a part of the bloc from January 1, 2024.

Rahul hits out at UP teacher asking students to slap boy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday came out strongly against a teacher in Uttar Pradesh who allegedly asked her students to slap a class 2 student from a minority community.

He said a holy place like a school is being turned into a “marketplace of hatred” His reaction comes after a video of the school teacher’s act went viral on social media. “Sowing the poison of discrimination in the minds of innocent children,



turning a holy place like a school into a market place of hatred — there is nothing worse a teacher can do for the country,” Gandhi said on microblogging site X in Hindi. “This is

the same kerosene spread by the BJP which has set every corner of India on fire. Children are the future of India - do not hate them, we all have to together teach love,” he added.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also expressed her dismay over the viral video, saying “what kind of classroom and society do we want to give to our future generations.” “Where there is talk of technology to go to the moon or things that build a boundary wall of hatred.

Sharad says...

From Page 1

Coming as it does at a time when the State Assembly and Lok Sabha Speakers have yet to give a ruling on the letter written to them by him seeking disqualification of nine MLAs, including Ajit, and two MPs, Sr Pawar’s remarks triggered a major confusion within his party as well as the Opposition MVA circles.

Surprisingly enough, the legislative group headed by Ajit has not been recognised yet by the Assembly nor has such recognition been given to the breakaway faction led by Ajit in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

Given that he has faced flak over his repeated meetings with Ajit on the pretext of being a family, the latest controversy has put Sharad on the defensive - especially in the run up to the third Opposition India alliance meeting scheduled to be held in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1, 2023.

Commenting on Sharad’s flip-flop, Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Raut said: “Going with the BJP is nothing joining hands with a party with dictatorial tendencies. The leaders taking such a stand have no place in the MVA. Whoever is scared of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can go with the BJP.”

Such people could be from my own Shiv Sena or the NCP. Like Sharad Pawar said ‘we are in a democracy’. The people concerned are responsible for whatever decisions they take. But, people choose to put their

Efforts on to calm anger in J&K after detention of Yuva Rajput Sabha leaders

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A head of the call for Jammu Bandh on Saturday, the Union Territory Administration Friday fielded two senior most officers of the Jammu division to cool down the tempers and prevent any flare up as the situation remained volatile following continued detention of Yuva Rajput Sabha leaders.

In the absence of their release from the police custody since Monday evening, a large number of their supporters launched an indefinite hunger strike during day long Samba bandh on Friday.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jammu (CCII) had on Thursday given a call for a bandh on August 26 to protest against the installation of smart electricity metres in Jammu. The traders have also demanded that the process of collection of toll on the highway in Samba district be kept in abeyance.

“We have given a bandh call in Jammu on Saturday. Jammu will be shut down. I want the entire Jammu region to observe a bandh. All organisations are with us,” CCII President Arun Gupta had earlier said.

In Jammu Additional Director General of Police Jammu range Mukesh Singh while addressing a joint press conference along with Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar made it clear that the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) leaders were arrested for breach of peace.

He said that the detained leaders can only be released only after getting assurance that they would not breach the peaceful atmosphere again. At least 27 of its activists were

detained for violating restrictions around the toll plaza. Authorities had imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which forbids the gathering of four or more people at a particular place, in and around the toll plaza late Monday night.

The YRS is demanding the removal of the toll plaza on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway in the Samba district, claiming that it was illegally set up to collect toll fees from the common people.

As far as the release of YRS leaders is concerned, ADGP Mukesh Singh Friday said that “... prominent people should come forward and give a guarantee that the peace will not be breached again. No issues, they can be released in the matter

At the same time, the local leaders of the Bharatiya Janta Party continue to face heat over undue delay caused in sorting out the genuine grievances of commuters and power consumers.

Referring to hunger strike in Samba, Singh said that “The causes of hunger strike are being addressed that is why the NHA team is coming (to Samba-Kathua) to look into the issues raised by the people.

Yesterday, the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had chaired a high-level meeting addressing the grievances of Toll Plaza at Sarore.

To address the grievances of the transport association, Jammu Bar Association, local BJP leaders or everyone’s concern was considered, and accordingly, the matter was taken up with the Government of India.

“I and Divisional Commissioner Jammu were also part of that meeting.”

Nuh riots act of some anti-social elements: Gurugram’s top cop

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In his media interaction with the media on Friday, the newly appointed Gurugram Police Commissioner Vikas Arora said that the recent violence that erupted in Nuh and spread to several other districts of Haryana was not religious but was an act of some anti-social elements.

“Some anti-social elements were behind the communal clashes. However, police will not spare anyone and those involved in the violence will be arrested and police will trace every case. He also added that Gurugram police will not tolerate hate speech. Police have already taken action against people involved in hate speech and sent them behind bars,” Arora said.

The commissioner further said that to deal with Nuh-like incidents, 5 companies will be deployed in the city on the lines of the Rapid Action Force (RAF). These companies will be deployed in each of the 4 zones of the district and 1 company



will be deployed at the headquarters level. Each company will consist of over 100 policemen. “These teams will be trained like RAF. For this, a training center will also be set up at the police line or other place. Along with training, all equipment will also be provided to deal with crowd management. These companies will be formed within two weeks,” he added.

He asserted that to tackle cybercrime, a cybercrime help desk has already been installed at each four cybercrime police stations in Gurugram. Policemen will be given training to investigate cyber crime cases and help will be taken from corporates and training sessions will also be organised for effective action.

Delhi Metro only...

From Page 1

However, there will be no restriction on vehicles deployed in emergency services and ambulances. It is important to note that Mathura Road, Bhairon Marg and Purana Qila Road will be closed for traffic. Further, except ambulances, no other vehicles - including DTC buses - will be allowed in the New Delhi area.

All the malls and markets in the New Delhi area will remain shut. General traffic, including all types of commercial vehicles and buses already present in Delhi shall be allowed on Ring Road & Road network beyond Ring Road towards the borders of Delhi. TSRs and taxis will be allowed to ply on the road network outside New Delhi dis-

trict. However, taxis carrying bonafide residents and tourists having valid bookings in hotels located inside New Delhi district will be allowed to ply on the road network inside New Delhi district.

Aalap Patel, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, New Delhi, said people living in Lutyens’ Delhi or tourists with hotel bookings there will be allowed to commute through auto rickshaws and taxis.

Officials said inter-State buses will be allowed to enter Delhi but not allowed to terminate at the Inter-state Bus Terminals. “For ambulance assist service, people can call 6828400604. The service will be launched from the night of September 7,” Patel said.

Advisory issued for travel to airport

G20 Summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday issued an advisory saying road travel to Indira Gandhi International Airport will be affected from September 8 to 10 in view of the G20 summit and suggested people to use the metro's Airport Line for smooth and hassle-free movement.

However, for those who still want to travel to airport from different parts of the city and NCR areas by their own vehicles, special arrangements have been made for them, police said.

According to the advisory, from 12 am on September 8 to 11.59 pm on September 10, road travel to the Indira Gandhi International Airport would be affected.

In case passengers travelling to the airport opt to travel by road instead of the metro, they are advised to make travel plans with sufficient time in hand, the advisory said.

Those who are travelling via road from Gurgaon to Terminal-3 of IGI Airport can take NH-48 - Rao Gajraj Singh



Marg - Old Delhi Gurugram Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road, it said. Similarly for reaching Terminal-1, commuters can take NH-48 - Rao Gajraj Singh Marg - Old Delhi Gurugram Road - UER II - Service Road

NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road - Service Road NH-48 - Sanjay T-Punt - Ullan Batar Marg, it said. From Dwarka to T3, commuters can use Dwarka Sector-22 Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road. For T1, they can travel

via Dwarka Sector-22 Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road - Service Road NH-48 - Sanjay T-Punt - Ullan Batar Marg, the advisory stated. Those who are travelling from New Delhi and south

Delhi to T3 and T1 can use AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Moti Bagh Chowk - RTR Marg - Sanjay T-Point - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road and from Sanjay T-Point to Ullan Batar Marg and Terminal T1, it said.

Similarly, from west Delhi to T3 and T1, the commuters are advised to take Punjabi Bagh Chowk - Ring Road - Raja Garden Chowk - Najafgarh Road - Pankha Road - Dabri-Dwarka Road - Road No. 224, Dabri-Gurugram Road - Sector-22, Dwarka Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road/Ullan Batar Marg and Terminal T1, the advisory said.

From north and east Delhi to T3 and T1, commuters can use ISBT Kashmere Gate - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Rohtak Road - Punjabi Bagh Chowk - Ring Road - Raja Garden Chowk - Najafgarh Road - Pankha Road - Dabri-Dwarka Road - Road No. 224, Dabri-Gurugram Road - Sector-22, Dwarka Road - UER-II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road/Ullan Batar Marg and Terminal T1, the advisory stated.

80 teams of doctors, 130 ambulances ready to handle medical emergencies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Eighty teams of doctors and a fleet of 130 ambulances will be handling any medical emergencies during the forthcoming G20 Summit in the city.

In a review meeting with top officials on Thursday, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said the next seven days would be crucial for the preparedness for the mega event on September 9-10, Raj Niwas officials said. The LG was assured by the officials during the meeting that foolproof security arrangements were put in place to deal with any kind of threat — terror, nuclear, biological, chemical — as well as anything arising out of the general law and order situation, officials said.

The LG was informed that work has already commenced for installation of G-20 logos and flags of all participating countries on different streets and roads beginning from Palam Technical Area, hotels and Summit venue.

Eighteen locations have been identified and two more are likely to be added for the purpose and 43 flags, including those of some international bodies, would be installed.

A total 66 fire tenders have been kept ready and will be parked at Summit venue Pragati Maidan and designated hotels to meet any eventuality, they said. By the next week, signages on roads and streets will be installed. Police have also started booking those involved in defacing of public property. Steps are also

being taken to ensure that stray cattle and street dogs are suitably handled and the police along with civic bodies are carrying out the task, the LG was informed by the officials in the meeting. For any medical exigencies, the LG was informed that all government hospitals have been fully prepared and equipped.

There are altogether 80 teams of doctors and trained medical personnel with three teams in each hospital.

A total of 70 advanced and 60 well equipped ambulances would be deployed for the event. Private hospitals have also been directed to be ready in case of need.

Verification of all teams have been done and medical kits are ready. Ambulances would also be stationed at the Summit venue and all designated hotels where dignitaries would be staying.

All medical personnel have been instructed to be in proper uniform, stated officials. The fire department has been directed that fire tenders should be parked at the designated hotels. The LG directed that audit of fire safety at hotels be carried out on priority basis.

Altogether, 66 fire tenders have been kept ready. Five fire tenders would be stationed at the Summit venue and there would be some standby fire tenders also.

Allotment of flat to Kejriwal's bodyguard cancelled

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Public Works Department (PWD) has cancelled allotment of flat to Ram Kumar Jha, personal bodyguard and bouncer of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Jha was among 437 private persons appointed by the city Government as advisers, consultants, fellows, advisors in different departments, autonomous bodies and PSUs, removed by the Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena last month.

In an order issued by Deputy Secretary (Allot), PWD, "Consequent upon discontinuation of services of Ram Kumar Jha from July 06, 2023 vide DUSIB office order dated 06.07.2023, the allotment of government accommodation no. 33/3, Type-IV, DA Flats, Rajpur Road, Delhi in name of Ram Kumar Jha stands cancelled from August 06, 2023 under provisions of Delhi Administration Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool) Rules, 1977."

The order further stated that Jha is hereby informed to hand over the vacant possession of the government accommodation no. 33/3, Type-IV, DA Flats, Rajpur Road.

Delhi to concerned JE, PWD immediately failing which eviction proceedings will be initiated as per the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971."

Jha is also liable for payment of penal rates/damage rates in respect of the premises for the period of overstay beyond August 6, 2023.

Trouble mounts for AAP MLA in 'cash for ticket case'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Department of Vigilance on Friday wrote to the Secretary, Delhi Assembly, seeking prosecution sanction against AAP MLA Akhileshpati Tripathi under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PoC) in the 'cash for ticket case'.

Meanwhile, Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel has claimed that he was yet to receive any communication from the LG office seeking his prosecution sanction against AAP MLA. Goel also alleged that information on the matter was leaked to the media before it reached him or officers of the Assembly.

Tripathi, the AAP MLA from Model Town, is accused of demanding Rs 90 lakh from a woman to allegedly secure her a party ticket for last year's Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls, as per the Vigilance Directorate letter.

Three people, including a relative of the MLA and his personal assistant, were arrested

on November 16 in the matter. "It is to bring to the notice that as per the Doctrine of Nemo Judex in Causa Sua nobody should be judge in his own case or cause.

Hence, the Speaker, DLA, may kindly be advised to examine this case objectively based upon the evidence and also keeping in view the statements under Section 164 of Cr.Po before the court and accord permission for Prosecution Sanction u/s 19 of PoC Act, 1988 with respect to FIR No. 11/22 dated 15.11.2022," YVVJ Rajasekhar, Special Secretary (Vigilance) said in the letter addressed to Secretary, Delhi Assembly.

The vigilance department said that AAP MLA did not cooperate in the investigation and did not answer the questions asked to him properly.

The complainant named the accused AAP MLA Tripathi in his complaint as well as in his statement U/s 164 Cr.P.C. recorded before the court. "The facts/ evidences both human as well as technical evidences strongly indicates serious complicity of the MLAs

and other persons in this bribery case.

Hence, it is recommended that the Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly is requested to accord permission for Prosecution Sanction u/s 19 PoC, 1988," reads the letter.

Earlier this week, Raj Niwas officials said Lt Governor VK Saxena has referred a Vigilance Directorate request for the Delhi assembly speaker's prosecution sanction in a case of corruption against Tripathi.

"I learnt from the media that the LG has referred the matter of prosecution sanction for criminal proceedings against Tripathi under the PoC to me. You would be surprised to know that till date I have not received any communication from the LG seeking my sanction," Goel said in a press conference.

Under Section 19 (1) of the PoC, sanction of the competent authority (Speaker) for prosecution in case of offences charged under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is necessary before court can take cognisance of the offences.

Govt-Chief Secretary row escalates; Atishi seeks LG's opinion

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The ongoing power struggle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi and the bureaucratic establishment escalated once again on Friday. Atishi, in a letter addressed to LG Vinai Kumar Saxena, alleging that the chief secretary has refused to comply with her directives to establish a coordination mechanism for meetings of the newly established National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA).

Atishi said she issued an order on August 16 to facilitate coordination between various departments of the Delhi government and the NCCSA, but the chief secretary refused to acknowledge the order in a ten-page letter dated August 21.

In her letter, the Minister also sought the opinion of the LG on the issue. In her letter to the LG, the Minister stated that

related to "Services" and "Vigilance" will lie with the Central Government and the LG, and not with the elected government. However, the elected Government disagrees with this legal interpretation.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva has criticised Atishi's letter, saying the Kejriwal Government has started a new power struggle with bureaucracy and it is on the expected lines. He said the Kejriwal Government's bid for absolute control over bureaucracy and police is not to ensure development but to make the administration a tool to raise electoral funds for party expansion.

Minister questions delay in release of ₹100 cr for Govt-funded DU colleges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Higher Education Minister Atishi has questioned the Finance Department over the nearly "one-and-a-half-month delay" in the release of Rs 100 crore to 12 fully funded colleges of DU by the city Government. In a note, she said the fund was approved in June but it has not reached the colleges.

The Minister asked the finance department about the delay between the announcement and the implementation of her order. Atishi directed that the second quarterly grant of Rs 100 cr should be released without any further delay and it must be found out the reason



for such a delay between announcement and the implementation.

"The faculty and the ministerial staff of these colleges cannot suffer due to administrative technicalities and the finance department should have facilitatory approach over these financial issues," she said.

Govt to add 2,026 e-buses by end of December 2025

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites are likely to breathe easy and experience less pollution in the coming winter months as the national Capital is witnessing a rapid rise in the share of electric buses.

The State Government intends to add a total of 2,026 electric buses by the end of December 2025. Currently Delhi is the leader in the faster adoption of e-mobility in public transport.

Earlier this month the Union Cabinet approved the decision on deploying 10,000 electric buses worth Rs 57,613 crore. This will reduce CO2 emissions to a large extent and help India move towards its commitment on Net Zero. Delhi will also get a decent share of this number which will



further help curb the pollution level. According to an analysis by New Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment, the winter of 2022-2023 was the cleanest for Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) since 2018, when large-scale air quality monitoring started. The city-wide winter average for Delhi stood at 160

µg/m for October-January. The national capital's pollution levels peaked at 401 µg/m on November 3, 2022.

This was 26 per cent lower than the highest recorded winter peak — 546 µg/m in the winter of 2019-20. Downward trend is a shot in the arm for the government but more efforts are needed to sustain the momentum, according to the study.

"Incidentally, each electric bus saves around 2.4 kg of CO2 per km. Electric buses have been running in the national capital since May 2022, roughly for over 1.5 years and have saved almost 50,000 tons of CO2 in this period," says Anil Sharma, Director, CCSL Consulting, a Sustainability and CSR consulting firm based in New Delhi.

Termination of advisers derailed 20L job generation, claims Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP Government on Friday claimed that several projects including, Delhi Budget announcement initiatives aimed at generating 20 lakh new employment opportunities in the Capital, have been derailed due to the abrupt termination of advisers, consultants and fellows appointed by the Kejriwal Government. The fallout has cast a shadow over the redevelopment of six markets, three food hubs, and the implementation of five key policies designed to uplift the city's socio-economic landscape.

Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj expressed his concern over the removal of the Chief Minister's Urban Leader Fellowship and DRC. He stated these fellows come from prestigious educational backgrounds.

In order to cite a few examples, one fellow completed her MBA from an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and did her graduation from Jesus and Mary College. He said the second fellow was a graduate in commerce from

Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) and then from the Delhi School of Economics she completed her MA in Economics. One fellow had a degree of Master's in Public Policy from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

The fourth fellow who used to work for us had a degree in Master's of Social Work from Delhi School of Social Work. "All of these fellows were qualified professionals who were educated at the esteemed universities.

These fellows used to contribute significantly to the industries department. Generally, the consultants we hire at government levels are supposed to pay them in lakhs in a month.

These fellows used to work closely on the public policies of the government."

"They used to coordinate with the IAS officers and other DANICS officers (The Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services) used to do research on the issue. "Fellows used to study sim-

ilar policies from other states, what these policies lack and what their advantages are to the people.

"At each step, they used work for smooth and quick developments. But since these fellows have been sacked, a lot of governmental work has been stopped.

"With this intention, these fellows have been removed so that development work for the people could be stopped," he said.

According to AAP Government, these fellows, advisers, consultants, and other experts played a crucial role in identifying and addressing the key challenges faced by the people of Delhi.

Their role encompassed extensive market research, data-driven insights, and the formulation of targeted solutions to alleviate the hardships experienced by the people.

As specialists in fields of economics, data analysis, social impact, strategy & implementation, these fellows provided end to end solutions for the toughest of the problem statements faces by the Government of the NCT of Delhi.

Capital to get campuses for 2 varsities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital will get two new campuses in Narela, north-west area soon. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the allotment of 25 acres of land each to the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and the Delhi Teachers' University for setting up campuses in Narela.

Saxena also gave his nod to the proposal of the universities to purchase flats from the DDA in Narela for staff housing and student accommodation. The move will give a big developmental boost to the area. The Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) was facing a severe



space crunch and had written to the DDA requesting allotment of land for its new residential North Campus. It had also requested allotment of DDA flats at Narela to meet the residential requirements of its staff and students.

The Delhi Teachers' University, established in January last year and functioning out of a school building in Outram Line in Mukherjee Nagar, had written to the DDA requesting 25 acres of land in Narela for the establishment of its campus along with allotment of DDA flats for housing its staff and students, officials said.

"In consideration of these requests, the LG who is also the Chairman of the DDA, has

approved the allotment of 25 acres of land each to the two Universities by DDA, as also allotment of 200 flats each to them for their housing/accommodation needs," official said.

"Saxena has been focussing on the all-round development of the hitherto neglected Narela sub-city. Consistent efforts by him had led to allotment of land and construction of a new Court Complex, Police Station, School, MCD Dispensaries and other institutions like the National Institute of Homeopathy, etc. DTC connectivity from the area had also improved and fresh impetus had been provided to Metro connectivity in its Phase-IV, in the area," official added.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi University on Friday approved waiver of up to 90 per cent fee for those students coming from families having less than four lakh annual income. Such student can further be provided assistance under the Financial Support Scheme for economically weak students. At the 1267th meeting of the Executive Council of DU meeting it was approved that students whose parent's income is between Rs 4 to 8 lakh, will get 50 per cent fee waiver.

The meeting was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Yogesh Singh where the recommendations made in the meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on August 17, 2023 were approved.

Under this, the university's un-audited annual accounts, hall and hostel, provident fund and national pension scheme were approved unanimously

for the financial year 2022-23. Apart from these, the revision of budget estimates of some departments for the financial year 2023-24 was also approved.

During the EC meeting, the recommendations made in the 1015th meeting of the Academic Council (AC) were considered.

Under this, among other things, the syllabi for the fourth, fifth and sixth semesters for various departments and colleges according to the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework-2022 (UGCF-2022), was approved.

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India, Greece review bilateral ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ATHENS

India and Greece on Friday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens and elevated their ties to the level of strategic partnership.

The two leaders also agreed to give a new momentum to the relationship, especially in areas of defence and security, trade and emerging technologies. Greek President Katerina N Sakellariopoulou conferred upon him the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour.

In a tweet, Modi thanked President Sakellariopoulou, and the Government and people of Greece for conferring upon him The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour.

"This shows the respect the people of Greece have towards India," Modi said, sharing a picture of the event.

As regards talks with his Greek counterpart, Prime Minister Modi said both sides also set a target of doubling bilateral trade by 2030 and decided to firm up a migration



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by the President of Greece Katerina Sakellariopoulou, in Athens, on Friday

"We have decided to boost cooperation in areas of defence and security, infrastructure, education, new and emerging technologies, and agriculture," Modi said. He said both sides also focused on enhancing cooperation to combat terrorism. In the area of defence and security, both the countries agreed on strengthening defence industrial cooperation apart from military ties, he said. Referring to the Ukraine crisis, Modi said India and Greece support diplomacy and dialogue to resolve it.

He also thanked people of Greece and the country's President Katerina N Sakellariopoulou for awarding him with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour award.

On his part, Mitsotakis said both sides are ready to move forward to deal with various challenges, "especially in a period of upheaval and war in Ukraine".

In recent years "our relations have greatly improved and there is scope for a very wide-range of bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, defence, culture and tourism", he said. "Our first objective is to double our bilateral trade," he said.

and mobility partnership pact soon to facilitate skilled migration between the two countries. "Prime Minister Mitsotakis and I decided to take India-

Greece relations to the level of strategic partnership," Modi said after his talks with his Greek counterpart. In his media statement,

the PM said it was agreed that there should be an institutional dialogue framework between India and Greece at the level of national security advisors.

China has taken away our land, Govt denial false: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping reportedly talked on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in South Africa, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday raked up the Indo-China border crisis. Addressing a public meeting at Kargil in Ladakh, Rahul said Modi is "lying" that not an inch has been doled out to China whereas every individual in the Union Territory knows that China has "taken away our land".

"I visited the whole of Ladakh on my motorcycle over the past week...Ladakh is a strategic place and when I was at Pangong lake, one thing was clear that China had taken over thousands of kilometres of Indian land. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister during an Opposition meeting makes a statement that not an inch of our land was taken away which is 'absolutely false'," Rahul said in his address on the last day of his nine-day tour of Ladakh. "Every individual of

Ladakh knows that China has taken away our land and the prime minister is not speaking the truth," he alleged. This is the second time during his Ladakh tour that the Congress leader has raked up the border issue with China.

Rahul's statement fuelled political attacks with few Opposition leaders questioning Modi on cede of Indian land to China under the NDA regime.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi demanded that Centre call a special session of Parliament to discuss the loss of 2,000 km sq territory to China and questioned why was Prime Minister has been keeping the countrymen in the dark. "Why is the Prime Minister keeping the citizens of the nation in the dark about what's happening on the Ladakh border?" said Owaisi who is Lok Sabha MP from Hyderabad.

Shiv Sena (udhvv) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi regretted the fact that in last few Parliament sessions the Members have been demanding a debate and discussion on China border issue but in vain.

"It is the responsibility of the government of the day to present facts pertaining to territorial integrity and strategic affairs," said Chaturvedi. Retrospectively, the Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

Rahul Gandhi also extended support to Leh-based Apex body and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), which are fighting for full statehood and safeguards under sixth schedule of the Constitution, and said his party would not allow the BJP to hand over the resource-rich land of the union territory to its corporate friend.

Rahul is now scheduled to reach Srinagar for a private two-day and will be joined by his mother former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Sources said the two senior leaders will have no political engagement or meeting with any party leaders in Srinagar during the "family tour".

Confiscate property of Khalistani terrorist: Court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A NIA Special Court here ordered the confiscation of the property of absconding pro-Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa in village Kirian, Tarn Taran, Punjab.

The gangster-turned-terrorist, who is learnt to be living in Canada since 2017, is the mastermind in several cases of terrorism, including the 2022 RPG attacks on the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters and the Sarhali police station in Punjab, among other cases of terror attacks in India," the NIA said in a statement.

As per the court's orders, passed under the relevant Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, property of Landa in village Kirian, Tarn Taran, Punjab is confiscated to the State. He was earlier declared a Proclaimed Offender on July 27, 2023.

Landa was chargedsheeted by the NIA on July 22, 2023 following investigations into his antecedents, which also include masterminding the conspiracy to kill Punjab Police Sub Inspector Dilbagh Singh in August, 2022.

"Initially involved in criminal and gangster-related activities, Landa has been continuing his anti-India activities from Canada.

He has been working for Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and its Pakistan-based gangster-turned terrorist operative Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda," the agency said.

NIA is investigating the terror activities of chiefs/members of proscribed pro-Khalistan terrorist organisations, such as the BKI, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) among others.

It had registered a suo moto case on August 20, 2022



NIA arrests another accused in LTTE revival conspiracy case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested another accused in the LTTE revival conspiracy case involving illegal drugs and arms trade in Sri Lanka and India.

With the arrest of Lingam A alias Adi Lingam, a key conspirator in the case in Tamil Nadu, a total of 14 persons have so far landed in the NIA net in the Srilankan illegal drugs and arms trade case registered by the agency here in July 2022.

"A resident of Chennai, Lingam was a close associate of another accused,



Gunasekharan, and acted as a benami for the latter's illegal transactions relating to laundering the 'proceeds of drugs and arms trade' in India and Sri Lanka.

and has, since then, initiated several actions to nab the terrorists and foil their terrorist and secessionist anti-India designs, it said.

Landa and other foreign-based pro-Khalistani terrorists have been found to be engaged in smuggling of terrorist hardware, including

arms, ammunition, explosives, and custom-made ready-to-use IEDs, along with other types of contraband, including drugs, from across the border.

They are also involved in carrying out terrorist activities in India, as per NIA investigations.

Rahul's charges baseless: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rejecting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charge that China has encroached on Indian territory, the BJP on Friday accused the Congress governments since the time of Jawaharlal Nehru of allowing Tibet to go to Beijing and even feeding Chinese occupational forces in Tibet in 1952 which, it said, was then sharing borders with India and not China.

Addressing a Press conference here at the BJP headquarters, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that Congress government's flip-flops on Chinese issues have left many legacy issues to be resolved by the present dispensation. He said it is the opposition party which has committed "historic, unpardonable crime" in dealings with Beijing.

"Rahul is prone to making baseless, absurd comments said the ruling BJP reacting sharply to the allegations of Rahul who during his ongoing Ladakh visit accused that "China has snatched away thousands of kilometers of India's land".

Trivedi quoted from select-ed works of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to say that his government had sent over 3,500 tonnes of rice in 1952 for the consumption of the Chinese Army which was "starving". He also asked the Congress to release its reported agreement with the Chinese Communist Party when the UPA was in power.

The BJP spokesman alleged that the decision to send rice for the Chinese Army when India's relations with China had started getting strained was not a mistake but a "historic and unpardonable" crime. India had then borders with Tibet and not with China, Trivedi said.

(In 1959 Tibetan leader Dalai Lama had fled from Tibet, taking refuge in India.) Trivedi said that the former Congress president makes remarks on India, its people and the RSS in a similar vein.



The BJP leader recalled as how, recognizing the "splendid services" rendered by the RSS during the 1962 war with China, Nehru had invited the RSS to the Republic day parade on January 26, 1963, and also "effusively praised" it.

Trivedi asked Rahul to clarify whether Nehru was correct in his assessment of the RSS in assessing its services or 'Deshbhakti' to the Nation. The Congress leader should decide if he is right or Nehru was, Trivedi said.

The BJP spokesman asked the Congress leader to come clean on its agreement with the Communist party of China. During the Doklam crisis, Trivedi said the congress leader had met the Chinese ambassador. The BJP leader asserted the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has notched up unprecedented success in its handling of India's military, diplomatic and economic affairs.

The Congress has always tried to weaken the country when in the opposition, he said and asked the party to learn from the BJP which supported the then governments during crisis involving neighbours be it Pakistan or China.

While the Congress government refused to punish Pakistan for its support to terrorism as it thought that this will harm peace talks, Modi's policy is that terror and talks cannot go together. There is an atmosphere of peace and security while terror blasts routinely happened under the UPA, he said. Trivedi also mocked the opposition's criticism of a national award for 'The Kashmir Files'.

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

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

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Babita./ Vinod/ Vishal/ LBGUR00004932921	Plot No. R 362, Sector MT, Bus Stand, Bhattu, Fatehabad, Haryana/ August 22, 2023	June 23, 2021 Rs.1,42,59,584/-	Delhi/ NCR

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/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the general public that I, Bhuvan Chand Bhatt S/o Shri Hari Dutt Bhatt is the owner of Flat no. C-2, 1st Floor, Covered Area 72.46 Sq. Meters, Plot No. 21, Block-C, Shalimar Garden, Pasanda, Ghaziabad and I am selling the subject property to Mr. Mahendra Singh S/o Mr. Paramjit Singh, and all the original papers related to the above property have been lost by me, for which online FIR no. 591303/2020 dated 21/09/2020 & 518515/2023 dated 24/08/2023 has been registered. Shri Mahendra Singh S/o Shri Paramjit Singh is taking the housing loan from Muthoot Fincoo Ltd. for the purchase of the above said property.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Court Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075
M:- 9899013918

WII to Army: Curb roaming of dogs in eco-fragile region

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army, which recently got a nod for re-notification of the crucial Mandal Thang Field Firing Range (MTFFR) in Galwan's Shyok Valley in Ladakh, has a word of advice from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) experts: Take steps to curb proliferation of dogs roaming in the eco-fragile region.

They have also suggested the Army to adhere to adequate protocols to prevent littering and food waste out of the riversides and wildlife habitat, which often encourage habitation and contamination of the pristine habitat given that the entire area of MTFFR falls within the Karakoram wildlife sanctuary, a home to the rare flora and fauna.

"The canine can cause threat to wildlife in terms of

predation, genetic hybridization and disease spread in the eco-fragile region," the experts from the Dehradun-based WII said in their report 'Biodiversity Impact Assessment of military firing and other associated activities in Mandal Thang Field Firing Range in Union Territory of Ladakh'.

"As the Army is the only establishment with permanent presence in many hostile areas, it is advised that, in collaboration with concerned organisations, free-ranging dogs which are often seen in the vicinity of army establishment near the Galwan Valley and along the DS-DBO road may be systematically removed through scientific and ethical means Trap-Neuter-Release i.e. possibly through an animal birth control measures or prevention of provisioning of food waste around such establishments."

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

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

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kiran International/ Anita Chauhan/ Raj Kumar Chauhan/ 025005500902	Dda LIG Flat-832, Third Floor Phase-II, GRP-3, Pocket-1, Radhika Apartment Sector-14, Dwarka Delhi/ August 23, 2023	October 14, 2022 Rs. 18,57,034.00/-	Delhi/ NCR

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/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it inform you the General public notice at large that the D.D.A original Conveyance Deed in respect of flat no. 162 on second & third floor duplex cat-III SFS with Car garage no - 162 at Mandakini Enclave Alaknanda, Kalkaji New Delhi 110019 vide D.D.A file no. 35(289)81/SFS/ME issued & executed by D.D.A has been lost at Alaknanda main market ND-19 market whoever find the above said document may kindly return to Deputy director LAB (H) SFS, III floor D- block D.D.A office INA N.D 110023 or Mrs. Nalini Anand w/o late Shri Suresh Chandra Anand R/o Flat no 162 second & third floor Mandakini Enclave Alaknanda, Kalkaji, New Delhi 110019.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh
Email : sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 4869 / 208C-03(Yata 'D')/2023 Dated : 24/08/2023

Short Term National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date 29-08-2023 at 5.00 Pm onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (₹)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Maintenance work of Dhunaghat Bhingrada to Kharahi motor road transferred from PMGSY Lohaghat (One time maintenance)	6.10	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	06	Category A & higher for road works, in state Govt./ Govt. of India

Carnivores, insectivores & granivores on wane more rapidly than omnivores: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Habitat specialists — particularly birds of grasslands and other open habitats like bustards and coursers, wetlands, and woodlands — are declining rapidly while in terms of diet, carnivores, insectivores, and granivores are on the wane more rapidly than omnivores or fruit-and-nectar eaters.

Also, migratory bird species appear to be under greater threat than non-migrants while species endemic to the Western Ghats-Sri Lanka region are faring worse than others. These are some of the disturbing findings revealed in a recently released report 'State of India's birds.'



Overall, of the 338 bird species studied in India for changes in numbers over the last 30 years, 60 per cent have experienced a decline, as per the data based on observation of about 30,000 birdwatchers across the country. The scenario is not encouraging in the short-term as well, with the report stating that 40 per cent (142) of the 359 species evaluated for change

over the last seven years have declined. The assessments rely on three indices: two are related to the change in abundance -- long-term trend (change over 30 years) and current annual trend (change over the past seven years) -- and the third is a measure of distribution range size within India.

Of the total of 942 species evaluated, long-term trends could be determined for 338 species. Of these, 204 species have declined, 98 are stable and 36 have increased, says the report published by a group of 13 government and non-government institutions, including the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

Reddy: G20 CMM to catalyse collective actions for accelerating progress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G Krishna Reddy said the G20 Cultural Ministers' Meeting (CMM) to be held on Saturday will be an opportunity to catalyse collective actions for accelerating progress on the four priority areas articulated by the Indian Presidency- protection and restitution of cultural property, harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future, promotion of cultural and creative industries and creative economy and leveraging digital technologies for the protection and promotion of culture. He was talking to mediapersons on the eve of G20 CMM here on Friday.

He said that in 2020 under the Saudi Arabian Presidency, the culture ministers met for the first time on the sidelines of the G20. In 2021 Culture was formalised as a working group during the Italian Presidency, leading to the inaugural G20 CMM and the consequential Rome Culture Ministers' Declaration. The 'Bali Declaration' of 2022 under the Indonesian presidency further stressed the role of culture in sustainable development. In Varanasi, this would be the fourth time that the Culture Ministers of the G20 members and invitee countries would be meeting. According to him, the CMM will also adopt the Draft Declaration which was discussed by the Cultural Working Group (CWG) during its two days meeting in this holy city. He said that 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. Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi said that the gathering provided all of us to have a cultural connection, make a collective and positive commitment, adopt cultural diplomacy for understanding each other better and set a global narrative for sustainable development. She also attended and addressed the fourth



Union Culture Minister G Krishna Reddy telling about G20 Cultural Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi on Friday.

delegates from G20 states, invited countries and six international organisations. The delegates who visited Sarnath a day ago watched the Ganga Aarti in the evening during the day. They will also watch the G20 Global Orchestra performance titled 'Sur Vasudha' celebrating the rich musical knowledge and heritage of G20 member nations and invitee countries at Rudraksh International Convention Centre on Saturday.

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. She said this holy city which is known as the cultural capital of the country is a better place for such a meeting in which 159

delegates from G20 states, invited countries and six international organisations. The delegates who visited Sarnath a day ago watched the Ganga Aarti in the evening during the day. They will also watch the G20 Global Orchestra performance titled 'Sur Vasudha' celebrating the rich musical knowledge and heritage of G20 member nations and invitee countries at Rudraksh International Convention Centre on Saturday.

CM ARRIVING TODAY

Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath will arrive in the

city here on Saturday. Apart from reviewing the progress of development works and doing on-site inspection of some projects, he is likely to meet the representatives of G20 countries who are taking part in the G20 Cultural Working Group (CWG) meeting here these days. Meanwhile, Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy arrived in the city on Friday and was welcomed by District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and other senior officers when he landed at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Babatpur. Before him Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi came here and attended the G20 CWG meeting.

Besides, there will also be a gathering of ministers from the Centre and state as Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal arrived in the city on Friday afternoon and he will return to Delhi on Saturday. UP Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh also came to Varanasi from Delhi during the day to attend the G20 meeting. Apart from them, Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister and Minister in-charge of Varanasi district Jaiver Singh will arrive in the city from Lucknow at 3.30 pm on Saturday. He will visit Sarnath at 6.30 am on August 27 and then return to Lucknow.

Teachers, students wealth of nation, says Himachal Guv

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said the teachers and students are the wealth of the nation and it is the responsibility of the society to take care of them. He was speaking as the chief guest at inaugural function of one-day national seminar on 'Independent India: Literature, Society and Cultural Journalism' organised on the occasion of 75th birth anniversary of Prof Prabhu Nath Dwivedi at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) here on Friday. The seminar was organised under the joint aegis of Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya Institute of Hindi Journalism of MGKV and Rajkumari Devi Smriti Shodh Sansthan. "The study and teaching of Prof Prabhu Nath Dwivedi was a university in itself. What a teacher and scholar he was as his creativity was clear and he expressed the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam through literature," he said, recalling the period of Emergency, Shukla said that the question mark on the editorial page of newspapers on June 26 reflects the social values of journalism. "Society and magazines are related to each other. The cultural value of new journalism is based on social values," he said. Highlighting the success of Chandrayaan-3, he congratulated everyone and said today our country is touching the sky under efficient leader-



Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla inaugurating a seminar at MGKV in Varanasi on Friday.

ship. He said that independent India's journalism was complete with Satyam Shivam Sundaram. Addressing the function as guest of honour, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' also recalled the contribution of Prof Prabhu Nath Dwivedi in Sanskrit literature. "Kashi is the centre of literature," he said. Presiding over the function, MGKV Vice Chancellor Prof Anand Kumar Tyagi said that Sanskrit is the language of science and today the entire education world is talking about knowledge. He said knowledge originated from the land of India. "We have to take our knowledge not only to ourselves but to the world level. India's knowledge traditions have to be maintained and developed. This will increase the pride of the nation," Prof

Tyagi said. At the beginning, a souvenir 'Na Kadapi Vismayam' was released in the memory of Prof Prabhu Nath Dwivedi. Along with this, Acharya Sadashiv Kumar Dwivedi of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was honoured with 'Sanskrit Seva Samman' for the year 2023. He was awarded with a cash amount of 111,000 on behalf of Rajkumari Devi Smriti Shodh Sansthan. Director of the institute Prof Anurag Kumar, programme coordinator Dr Nagendra Kumar Singh, Dr Dayanand, Dr Santosh Mishra, Dr Anand Kumar Singh 'Anu', Dr Shriram Tripathi, Dr Ravindra Pathak, Dr Jayaprakash Srivastava, Dr Jinesh Kumar, Dr Devashish Verma, Dr Shiv Kumar Yadav, Shailesh Chaurasia, Ramatma Srivastava, Mohammad Javed and others were also present.

UK minister meets BHU V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UK Minister for Arts and Heritage and Department of Culture, Media and Sports Lord Parkinson has said that there is a range of possible and promising areas in which British educational institutions can get engaged with Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The minister was speaking during a meeting with BHU Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Sudhir

Chancellors and V-Cs who are visiting India in a few weeks' time. The meeting was attended by top functionaries of the British Council, India, and senior officials of BHU. The two sides had a detailed exchange of ideas on possible areas of cooperation, including theatre, arts and design, music and dance, traditional health care, leadership programmes and others. The UK delegation acknowledged the immense

potential of BHU and the opportunities it offers, being a leading and pioneering institution of India. The university suggested a battery of areas that could be explored for mutual engagements so that stakeholders from the two sides are benefited. Welcoming the delegation on the campus, the V-C said BHU offers a wide range of disciplines for study and research. He added that performing arts, philosophy, culture, heritage, archaeology and traditional medicine are some areas where BHU's mastery is unmatched, hence, offering great opportunities for research and learning. "BHU

has certain areas of expertise which no other institution has. We become an ideal place for study and research in those areas and can offer wonderful opportunities", added Prof Jain. He said BHU will be happy to host and facilitate collaborative visits of British scholars, experts and academicians for the benefit of both sides. Prof Jain suggested that a leadership programme developed by the British Council designed to train university members could be very useful. He said that theatre is an important area that could be explored for bilateral cooperation as well. Alison Barrett MBE, Director, India operations of the British Council, said the council has multiple ongoing partnerships with several Indian universities. She also briefed about the various initiatives and schemes of the UK government to partner with Indian institutions. Alison Barrett MBE opined that there is always scope of designing specific programmes with educational institutions. Hailing the National Education Policy, 2020, she said the new policy paves way for smooth interaction of Indian institutions with their global counterparts and it has now become easier to collaborate and engage with each other. She said the meeting of British and Indian chancellors and V-Cs scheduled for next month could be a very good opportunity for educational heads of both the countries to zero in areas of cooperation and start working in that direction. Jonathan Kennedy, Director Arts, British Council India, informed there are a number of institutions and organisations that are working in the area of arts. He said UK institutions offer programmes in arts management which is an important area in the field of arts and offers bright avenues. He suggested this could be a shared area of interest between UK and Indian institutions to work together.

Prof SVS Raju, Coordinator, International Students, briefed about various international collaborations BHU is currently involved in. The visiting delegation also interacted with students and faculty members. The British delegation also included Hayley Raines, Team Lead, Cultural Diplomacy, DCMS, Jack Mattless, Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Parkinson, Paramita Chaudhuri, Senior Programme Manager, British Council India, and Sonjuhi Negi, Country Communications Manager, British Council India. From BHU, Prof Shashi Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Performing Arts, Prof Rajesh Shah, Prof Pravin Uddhav, Prof Sangeeta Pandit, Prof BC Kapri, Dr Vidhi Naagar, and Brig (Retd) Narinder Singh, Advisor to the VC, took part in the discussions.

Unique celebration to mark country's space success

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a unique celebration, about 11,100 school children blew 'shankhs' (conch shells) together for the success of Chandrayaan-3. Through the event the children also gave a message of universal brotherhood at Dehradun Public School located at Domri here on Friday. Under the leadership of eminent astrologer Pandit Shivpujan Shastri, president of the Vedic Educational Research Society, these children celebrated the country's space success and the entire area resonated with the sound of conch shell during the programme. The programme also marked the preparations for proposed Sri Lakshminarayan Mahayagya to be organised in Kashi from November 20 to 27 in the presence of leading scholar Lakshmi Prapanna Jeeyar Swami, disciple of Sant Shri Tridandi Swami. After almost a week's practice, when the children started blowing conch shells together, the entire atmosphere reverberated with its melodious sound. According to information, during Sri Lakshminarayan Mahayagya, about 11,000 disciples and devotees of Jeeyar Swami who have come from country and abroad will blow the conch together on November 25 for world peace and the event will also be recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records. Dr Dharendra Tiwari,



Children of a school at Domri celebrating Chandrayaan-3 success in Varanasi on Friday.

chairman of the school and secretary of the Yagya Committee, termed the success of Chandrayaan-3 as a symbol of nation's pride and wished for success in future space missions. School's Managing Director Bhagwan Pandey, principal Rahul Mishra, Yajnesh Tripathi, Hareram Ojha, Kumar Abhishek, Surendra Pandey, Vijay Tiwari, Satyendra Upadhyay, Dinesh Tiwari and others were also present. Earlier, in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), the officers and employees celebrated the success of

Chandrayaan-3 mission by the scientists of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in the presence of Work Manager of BLW Mukesh Karidhal, brother of Dr Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, one of the ISRO scientists engaged in Chandrayaan-3 Mission. The employees gathered in front of 'Kundan', an old locomotive displayed in BLW premises and celebrated the mission waving the tricolour in their hands and raising slogans like 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Vande Mataram', 'ISRO scientists Zindabad' and 'Har Har

Mahadev'. Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar said this is a big achievement of the country and with the successful landing of Vikram Lander on the lunar surface, India has moved towards becoming a world leader. Prominent among those present were Staff Council members Amit Yadav and Naveen Kumar Sinha, Arvind Srivastava, Amlesh Srivastava, Alok Kumar Singh, Gopal Ghatak, Rakesh Pandey, Anand Rai, Umesh Srivastava, Nilesh Kumar, Rajesh Singh and Brij Mohan Verma.

Pottery unit inspected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Matikala Board Om Prakash Gola Prajapati inspected a pottery unit at Bhatti village in Lohta area and during his visit a practical demonstration was done by the proprietor of the unit, Ramraj Prajapati, in which the latter made earthen pots, glasses, saucers, utensils and decorations etc here on Thursday. During the talks, the artisan informed the Matikala Board chief about the sale, saying he earned around ₹800 daily. Prajapati suggested to the artisan that in order to increase his earning and business. District Village Industries Officer UP Singh, Nagendra Prasad Singh, Aman Jaiswal and traditional artisans associated with local pottery units were also present. The Matikala Board chief gave necessary

guidelines to the departmental officers for promotion of employment in the Matikala profession and allotment of soil lease to the artisans. Meanwhile, according to an information, on the lines of state government's Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, the Central government is also going to launch Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana on September 17 in which boat builders, carpenters, traditional weapon makers, hammer and toolkit makers, sculptors (stone carvers, stone breakers), masons, basket/ mat/ broom makers, goldsmiths, potters, tailors, blacksmiths, washermen, cobblers, doll makers and 18 traditional trades like toy makers, barbers, locksmiths, garland makers, fishing net makers etc have been included and people doing their traditional work will be benefited. Deputy Commissioner (Industry), District Industry Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development Centre said that eligible people will be selected by the district level committee.

Ganga level starts rising again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After several days of receding trend, the water level of Ganga river which started rising again a day ago, continued the same trend on Friday though the river was recorded steady at upstream both at Phaphamau and Sangam (confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and invisible Saraswati) in Prayagraj.

According to the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of

Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level of Ganga was recorded rising in Varanasi at 8 am and was rising at a speed of one centimetre per hour. It was recorded at 64.96 metres, far below the warning level of 70.262 metres.

However, the river was recorded steady at upstream Phaphamau, Prayagraj and Mirzapur but was rising at downstream Ghazipur. It was constant in Ballia.

Progress of JJM reviewed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Divya Mittal reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) at Collectorate on Thursday. About Lauriadah Project the district magistrate said though it is a challenging job it has reached at the verge of the completion so the facility of potable water should be

provided as soon as possible. Additional District Magistrate (Namami Gange) Devendra Pratap Singh and other officials concerned attended the meeting.

'BHOOMI PUJAN': The 'bhoomi pujan' of the new building of historic Sankeertan Bhawan was held amidst the chanting of the Vedic shlokas at Ganeshganj on Thursday.

GM expresses happiness over success of NCR gymnast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Gymnast Ashish Kumar of North Central Railway (NCR) won bronze medal in Floor Exercise event in FIG International Pharaoh's Cup-2023 held at Cairo, Egypt from August 18 to 20. Ashish Kumar met General Manager Satish Kumar at NCR headquarters on his arrival here and apprised him of his medal winning performance. GM Satish Kumar expressed happiness over Ashish's success and motivated him to improve this performance in future.

On the occasion President North Central Railway Sports Association (NCRSA) and Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) Anoop Kumar Agarwal, Vice-President and Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME)/Planning Abhijeet

Singh, Treasurer and FACAO/C Vishnu Bajaj and other officials of the Sports Association were present.

Gymnasts from 12 countries participated in this event. Arjuna Awardee Ashish Kumar is the country's first medalist in gymnastics at Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. He has also received Laxman Award and Kanchi Ram International Award.

GANJA SEIZED: The Handia police seized a truck carrying around 61kg illegal ganja worth Rs 20 lakh near Kangapur village on Prayagraj-Varanasi highway in trans-Ganga area. The driver of the truck managed to flee from the spot. An FIR was registered against unknown person in connection with the incident.

Police here said a team of Handia police, while acting upon a specific tip off that a

truck was carrying around four bundles weighing around 61 kg ganja, intercepted the vehicle near Kangapur village. The drug consignment was hidden under the piles of scrap. As per information, the driver parked the truck on roadside after seeing the police vehicle and managed to flee from the scene taking the advantage of dark.

Initial police investigations claimed that the truck was coming from Odisha to deliver illegal drug consignments in eastern UP districts. The truck had registration of Nagaland. Further investigations are on, the cops said.

MOON MISSION: City-based senior railway officer Indra Jeet Katiyar and his wife Vinita have been busy receiving compliments from all corners of society ever since the Chandrayaan-3 lander module made a soft landing on the sur-

face of moon on Wednesday evening. It is because their 25-year-old only daughter Dishu Katiyar was part of ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network) team that helped the country's moon mission. Indra Jeet gives full credit to scientists of the country for the success of the mission.

"I feel very happy and proud for the Indian scientists who have created history. It's an incredible moment for all countrymen as India is the first country to land on moon's south pole," he said.

Speaking about his daughter, Indra Jeet said: "Dishi completed her studies up to class 12 in Sangam city before moving to NIT, Durgapur. She did her B'Tech (electronics & communication engineering) from NIT, Durgapur and joined ISRO, Bengaluru in 2022."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Expanding

With six nations likely to join BRICS, the organisation is set to become a major world player

The 2023 BRICS Summit concluded recently, marking another significant milestone in the cooperative efforts of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The summit, held against the backdrop of complex geopolitical dynamics and global challenges, showcased the importance of collective action and diplomatic engagement in shaping a better world. A major decision reached at the BRICS Summit was to expand its membership to include six new members. These six members are Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Now it would be a strong group of 11 countries and could well be a G20 in the making. However, before that happens it would have to work out a mechanism to iron out the differences amongst the members and share a common vision and roadmap. One of the standout moments of the summit was Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address and his crucial meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, both of which underscored the potential for collaboration and understanding even in the face of differences. The PM had interactions with other BRICS leaders, too. Modi highlighted India's concerns to Xi on unresolved issues along the LAC in the India-China border areas. The two leaders agreed to direct their officials to intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement and de-escalation. How far that happens on the ground is difficult to say at the moment but at least some headway has been made.



Prime Minister Modi's address at the BRICS summit captured the essence of the organisation's principles: cooperation, solidarity and mutual respect. He emphasised the need for BRICS nations to pool their strengths and resources to address common challenges such as climate change, economic inequality and the COVID-19 pandemic. Modi's call for greater technological collaboration and sustainable development resonated well, reflecting India's commitment to innovation and shared progress. However, the spotlight remained on the bilateral meeting between Modi and Xi. Their discussion held immense significance, given the history and complexities of India-China relations. In an atmosphere where geopolitical tensions have occasionally strained these ties, the meeting offered a platform for dialogue, understanding and constructive engagement. The meeting also showcased the diplomatic acumen of both leaders. Their willingness to engage in open dialogue, despite differences, demonstrates a mature approach to dispute resolution and the recognition that dialogue remains crucial in preventing escalation. While the meeting is not expected to resolve all outstanding issues, it laid the groundwork for future negotiations and confidence-building measures. The leaders' agreement on enhancing people-to-people contact and promoting cultural exchanges also reflects a recognition that deeper understanding between their nations can foster long-term goodwill and cooperation. The BRICS nations have sent out a clear message: Understanding and collective action remain the cornerstone of addressing global challenges.

PICTALK



Sex workers with a clay idol of Goddess Durga as they unveil it for the upcoming Durga Puja festival in Kolkata

Corbett's legacy lives on in his park

The legend of an outstanding hunter, who later turned conservationist in a big way, is alive and throbbing even 68 years after his passing away



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Born on July 25, 1875, Jim (Colonel Edward James) Corbett, was a legend in his lifetime to the villagers of the Terai and Bhabar of Kumaon, whom he delivered from the terror of man-eating tigers and leopards. Many decades after his passing on April 19, 1955, he remains a legend with men and women the world over who love the wilds and their denizens. India has rightly named after him its first and perhaps best-known national park—Jim Corbett National Park—and the wider Corbett Tiger Reserve of which it is a part.

One feels Corbett's astral presence long before reaching the park. From the Nayagaon junction on the Bazpur-Kaladhungi Road and Kaladhungi, where his erstwhile summer home has been turned into a museum, to Ramnagar, the town closest to the park, a host of dhabas, restaurants, home-stay establishments, hotels and resorts, bear his name. There is no doubt an element of commercialization here, an attempt to cash in on a famous name, but then there can be such an effort only if the name resonates with a certain respect and admiration.

The respect and admiration are widespread and reflected in the honours conferred upon him, such as the naming of a tiger sub-species as "Panthera Tigris Corbetti" in 1968. In India, apart from the naming of the park and the tiger reserve after him, the Government launched Project Tiger from the park on April 1, 1973. The move was followed by measures like the formation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority in December, 2005, following the Report of the Tiger Task Force: Joining the Dots earlier that year, and the establishment of the Special Tiger Protection Force. Thanks to these and other measures, there has been a significant increase in India's tiger population which had come down to 1,411 in 2006 from 40,000 at the beginning of the 20th century. According to the latest tiger census, Status of Tigers 2022, the country had 3,167 tigers.



It would be wrong to attribute all this to Corbett. He was, however, among the earliest to fire a warning shot, stating in the Man-Eaters of Kumaon, "A tiger is a large-hearted gentleman with boundless courage, and when he is exterminated - as exterminated he will be unless public opinion rallies to his support - India will be the poorer by having lost the finest of her fauna." Earlier, turning a conservationist in the late afternoon of his life, he had, among other things, played an active role in holding the All-India Conference for the Preservation of Wildlife in Delhi on January 28, 29 and 30, 1935.

Corbett, doubtless, has had his critics who have pointed out that he organized hunts for senior functionaries of the British government of India, including the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, who and his camp followers shot and killed several tigers, driven to their guns by beaters, during their annual visits. He also did trophy hunting like the killing of the large, majestic tiger, the Bachelor of Powalgarh, and the Pipal Pani Tiger, who were by no means man-eaters. In the case of the latter, however, one can say in mitigation

that there was an apprehension of its turning into a man-eater as it had been shot at and severely injured by a villager in Chhoti Haldwani near Kathgodam.

It is, however, unfair to judge past actions of men and women by standards that have evolved subsequently. Also, people grow and change. Corbett's actions need to be seen in that light. These benefited many. He killed 33 man-eaters—19 tigers and 14 leopards—between 1907 and 1938. These had, among themselves, killed over 1,200 people. He was a fearless hunter who often stalked the most feared man-eaters on foot and shot them at close range.

Besides, the very fact that a legendary hunter like him had turned into a conservationist sent a powerful message, which was further reinforced by the deep love for wildlife and forests that resonates through his books like Man-Eaters of Kumaon, My India, The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudrapur, The Temple Tiger and More Man-Eaters of Kumaon and Jungle Lore. His words reverberate through one's mind as mind when one is in Jim Corbett National Park, which sprawls

over an area of 1,318.54 square kilometres with a core area of 520.82 square kilometres and a buffer area of 797.72 square kilometres. The latter has eight safari zones—Dhela, Bijrani, Jhirna, Dhikala, Durga Devi, Gajriya, Sitabani and Phato.

The park abounds in animals—tigers, leopards, elephants, sloth and black bears, wild boars, spotted and barking deer, langurs and other monkeys, crocodiles, snakes (including pythons), a wide variety of birds and so on. Sighting is abundant in season but one is not without rewards even when it is negligible in the monsoon.

There is something mysterious and magical about its sights and sounds—the dense darkness under the forests, the play of sunlight and shadows on grasslands and bushes, the grandeur of the massed clouds during monsoons, and, besides the calls and trumpets of animals, the susurrant of leaves stirred by passing breezes and drumbeat of rain on tin roofs. Memories linger long after one has left all this behind.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION ARE WIDESPREAD AND REFLECTED IN THE HONOURS CONFERRED UPON HIM, SUCH AS THE NAMING OF A TIGER SUB-SPECIES AS "PANTHERA TIGRIS CORBETTI"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Caste-Based Census



The caste-based census hearing is ongoing in the Supreme Court, and I would like to quote some contents of the hearing that are self-explanatory and indicate the position of the government:

For the first time, the Union government is set to formally wade into the swirling debate around holding a physical count of castes, a version of which is underway in Bihar. During hearings on the state's caste survey in the Supreme Court on Monday, Solicitor General

Tushar Mehta said that the exercise held some ramifications on which the Centre would like to weigh in. The political resonances of Bihar's exercise are significant, not just locally but nationally. The ruling Janata Dal (United)-Rashtriya Janata Dal coalition feels that the survey's results will revive its Mandal-era alliance of backward castes and Dalits and throw a spanner in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s efforts to build a rainbow coalition of Hindu communities. The Opposition's Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) believes it to be a winning formula and has pressed for a caste count as one of its core demands. The BJP is yet to take a position on the issue — its local unit in Bihar has backed the survey, albeit gingerly. I express my views on this matter and request you to consider it for the Letter to the Editor column and oblige.

Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

released on August 24, the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Michael Debabrata Patra, emphasized the growing liquidity overhang in the Indian banking system and its potential to pose a direct threat to both the inflation target and financial stability. Patra stressed the importance of addressing the excess liquidity issue, stating that "Withdrawal of excess liquidity should engage primacy in the attention of the RBI going forward as it presents a direct threat to the RBI/MPC resolve to align India's inflation with the target, besides the potential risks to financial stability." The liquidity situation in the banking system has seen significant changes in recent months, particularly after the central bank's decision to withdraw Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation. This move led to an increase in liquidity due to deposits and the exchange of these notes. The RBI announced the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 currency bills from circulation on May 19. However, concerns regarding inflation have arisen due to recent spikes in food, metal, and energy prices, influ-

enced by international factors such as geopolitical tensions and local supply shocks.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

PHENOMENAL SUCCESS

Sir — Three cheers to Team ISRO for scripting a phenomenal scientific achievement. The successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 is a historic moment and a source of great pride for every Indian. The extraordinary feat holds potentially significant implications for India's aspirations of establishing a sustained human presence on the moon. Credit also goes to some remarkable Indian organizations like L&T, Godrej Aerospace, and BHEL, as they teamed up with ISRO to make this moon fantasy a reality. It is all the more significant for BHEL as it represents the delivery of its 100th battery to ISRO. Chandrayaan-3's success.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Digital Competition Law must be made proactive

Self-regulation and agility in the law must be encouraged to adopt best practices to enable companies in the evolving digital markets

The antitrust battleground for big tech is expanding beyond the US and Europe. With multi-

million dollar fines and business changing directions imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Google and MakeMyTrip, India is set to take centre stage and play a decisive role in determining the course of the Tech Industry. In so doing, the CCI has acknowledged the unique challenges of the digital markets and implemented legal principles that go beyond traditional competition frameworks. India's existing competition law framework, the Competition Act, 2002 (as amended), operates on an 'ex-post' basis, meaning that it only takes action against companies after they have engaged in anti-competitive practices, potentially after the damage has already occurred. With the growing prominence of digital markets in India, doubts have arisen regarding whether such measures lead to effective regulation, prompt market corrections, and the welfare of consumers, all of which are crucial objectives of



a robust competition law system. This led to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance (Committee) presenting its Report on 'Anti-competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies' (Report) in December 2022. The Report, among other things, recommended the introduction of an ex-ante regime through a new 'Digital Competition Act' (DCA), in line with the European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA), to ensure a "fair, transparent and contestable digital ecosystem" in-sync with the country's evolving start-up ecosystem and global policies.

The objective of the DCA would be to: (a) identify 'market winners' or 'Systemically Important Digital Intermediaries' (SIDIs) based on metrics such as revenue, market capitalization, and the number of active busi-

nesses and end-users; (b) impose ex-ante obligations on them to deter self-preferencing, deep discounting, anti-steering, exclusive tie-ups, and bundling and tying of services; and (c) allow for scrutiny of their potential mergers and acquisitions, and regulation of their internal advertising, data, and search policies.

Following the recommendations from the Committee, the Government has set up a Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) to examine the need for a separate law on competition in digital markets. The industry is anticipating a significant impact from the forthcoming report. Apart from this, with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) coming up with a Digital India Bill and CDCL working on the digital competition law, concerns arose within the industry about potential regulatory redundancies leading to adverse effects on stakeholders. To elevate the concern and to offer greater transparency to stakeholders regarding oversight and control, a consensus was reached between the

ministries that the MCA would handle matters related to competition within the digital market, while MeitY would tackle sector-specific and technical concerns.

Critics of the DCA raise valid concerns about its potential implications on innovation and investment in India. The core of their opposition lies in scepticism toward ex-ante regulations, as they argue that the existing competition law adequately addresses competition-related issues in the digital ecosystem, citing CCI's decision against Google and MakeMytrip. A receptive public consultation process on the proposed law is advisable. Further, self-regulation must be encouraged in tandem with infusing agility in the law to adopt global best practices that enable companies to navigate through the evolving trends in digital markets effectively.

(Sidharth Shankar is an M&A partner and Vaibhav Chouki is Partner and Head of Practice - Competition Law at JSA - Advocates & Solicitors. Views expressed are personal)

CHESS ICON

Sir — In a captivating conclusion, Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa secured second place in the 2023 Chess World Cup after a tense final match against the legendary Norwegian World No. 1 and five-time world champion, Magnus Carlsen. The championship showdown reached a deadlock, prompting tie-breakers after the initial classical games ended in draws on consecutive days. Carlsen, with his seasoned experience, won the first tie-break game on Thursday, leading Pragganandhaa to settle for a draw in the second, adding another title to Carlsen's illustrious career.

Pragganandhaa's journey to the finals captured global attention as the 18-year-old Indian Grandmaster showcased exceptional skill by defeating world No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura and No. 3 Fabio Caruana on the path to the championship match. Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his congratulations on Thursday, expressing pride in Pragganandhaa's outstanding performance at the FIDE World Cup. The Prime Minister's words resonated with warm wishes for the young Grandmaster's future endeavors.

For Magnus Carlsen, a dominant figure in chess for over a decade, this victory marked a significant milestone as he secured his first World Cup title. The second tie-break game, featuring a time control of 25 minutes plus a 10-second increment, ended in a draw after 22 moves. Carlsen, known for his unparalleled end-game skills, displayed a cautious approach in the tie-break, building on his victory in the initial Rapid Chess encounter. The intense battle between these two chess legends not only captivated fans but also highlighted the remarkable talent and competitive spirit that define the professional chess world.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

GROWING LIQUIDITY

Sir — As per the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) latest meeting



FIRST COLUMN

KRISHNA IS THE ULTIMATE TEACHER

Lord Shri Krishna imparts profound life lessons through his various divine actions



RADHANATH SWAMI MAHARAJ

There are special qualities that make Lord Shri Krishna the ultimate Guru. His capacity to navigate demanding situations with tranquility and composure is remarkable. Renowned for his profound wisdom and exceptional problem-solving abilities, he effortlessly handled intricate circumstances. His adeptness at adapting to various situations and identifying optimal solutions is evident throughout the Mahabharata, where he ingeniously resolves seemingly insurmountable issues. Furthermore, he possessed the skill to effectively communicate with individuals from all walks of life, mastering the art of persuasion to influence their opinions and actions.

Lord Krishna's ability to detach from material pursuits and focus on spiritual advancement remains noteworthy. He encouraged people to transcend immediate concerns and embark on a spiritual journey. His teachings underscored the significance of detachment, selflessness, and devotion to the divine. He believed that authentic happiness arises from aligning oneself with divine will and selflessly serving others. His message of love, compassion, and unity resonated universally and continues to inspire countless individuals till date and will continue to inspire in future also.

Amid the complexities of the contemporary world, Lord Krishna's teachings on dharma (righteous duty) and karma (action) hold particular relevance even today. His teachings emphasize the importance of adhering to one's moral duty and doing what is right, irrespective of personal sacrifices. By doing so, Lord Krishna indicates that individuals could attain spiritual enlightenment and cultivate inner tranquility and harmony.



Lord Krishna's finesse is a reminder that true leadership requires more than just brute force or raw power. It requires intelligence, empathy, and the ability to navigate complex situations with finesse and tact. Lord Krishna's example shows that true leadership involves putting the needs of others before one's own and using one's skills and abilities to serve the greater good and continue to inspire people for generations to come.

Lord Shri Krishna imparts profound life lessons through his various divine actions, known as "Leelas." These Leelas serve as allegorical narratives that convey essential moral and spiritual teachings. One such instance is seen in his friendship with Sudama, where Lord Krishna exemplifies the true essence of friendship and the behavior a friend should uphold, irrespective of social status. Through this story, the Lord illuminates the duty of a genuine friend, emphasizing qualities such as loyalty, compassion, and unwavering support.

Furthermore, Lord Krishna illuminates the genuine meaning of love. It's unveiled that love transcends mere acquisition and is deeply intertwined with selflessness and sacrifice. An example of this concept can be found in the eternal bond between Lord Krishna and Radha. Despite their profound love for each other, circumstances prevented them from being together for a lifetime. This poignant separation underscores the idea that love often demands sacrifice. In their case, their love story serves as an emotional reminder that true love involves giving and letting go, not merely gaining or possessing.

Lord Krishna's love for Radha underscores the profound truth that sacrifice is an integral facet of genuine love. It illustrates that true love is selfless and entails placing the well-being and happiness of the beloved above one's own desires. By presenting these narratives, Lord Krishna imparts the invaluable lesson that love is not merely about personal gratification, but about embracing self-sacrifice, devotion, and the well-being of others.

(The author is the Spiritual Guru of International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

No easy ticket to Union Cabinet via Rajya Sabha



TS RAMAKRISHNAN

The Prime Minister is right in asking his ministers from Rajya Sabha to enter Parliament through Lok Sabha following the 2024 general elections



The Prime Minister indicated that those who complete two terms as Rajya Sabha members and remain as a part of the Council of Ministers should identify the seats of their choice well in advance and contest the 2024 general elections. As per our constitution, it is not mandatory for the Prime Minister and his council of ministers to be members of the Lok Sabha alone. Although a bill can pass only when it sails through the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, it is the members of the Lok Sabha who alone can vote in confidence or no confidence.

The Prime Minister's hint has a larger meaning in the context of the BJP's organisational structure. For all that matters, the BJP is a cadre-based party, and its top leaders of the past and present have never shied away from facing the electorate, irrespective of the outcome. This is where it is different from left-wing parties—another cadre-based party. The politburo members or intellectual lot of the left parties have not been facing the electorate for reasons known to them, and they prefer to remote control the party and its legislatures and ministers, thereby enjoying power without accountability.

There are many inferences that can be drawn from what the PM said. The BJP does not have separate wings for intellectuals, administrators, and party-men like the left parties. There are no watertight compartments in which each group of partymen lives and works separately. Although RSS is the ideological parent of the BJP, RSS functionaries neither contest elections nor want to become legislators or ministers, unless otherwise asked by RSS to join the BJP and work for the party. Even then, they may work for the BJP without partaking of the fruits of election contests, victories, or ministerial berths. The BJP, however, gives tickets to new entrants to the



THE PRIME MINISTER'S HINT HAS A LARGER MEANING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BJP'S ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

(The author is a Public Policy Analyst)

party for various reasons, including their individual popularity, winnability, and what they can bring to the table during elections.

The BJP functions like the Mansabdari system of Emperor Akbar. As per the Mansabdari system, everybody is a soldier first and then only anything else. That is, even if they enter civil posts, they are liable to be transferred to military posts and participate in the war on behalf of the Empire. Every Mansabdar is supposed to maintain an army, which should participate in the war as a battalion of Akbar's army when the emperor wants them to participate while waging a war against any territory.

The mansabdar was given revenue collection rights over the land allotted to them (Jagirdars) and given honorary titles like Amir, Amir-al-Kabir, Amir-al-Umara, and Raja. They also became members of the emperor's court. There is no distinction between Raja Todarmal, the finance minister of Akbar, and Birbal, the Mukhya Senapati of his court and a man of wit and wisdom. When Akbar sent Birbal and his army to quell the rebellion of the Yusufzai Afghan tribe, the poor Brahmin Birbal, who does not know the art of warfare, and his 8000 soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Malandari Pass. In a democracy, success and failure in elections are part of the process and do not entail the loss of lives.

In the BJP, everyone is a karyakartha, irrespective of whether he is the PM, CM, or member of the council of Ministers. Party work takes precedence over legislative and govern-

ment responsibilities in general, and more so during election times. Contesting directly as a candidate from a constituency is the crux of the party's work. All the top leaders of the party—Vajpayee, Advani, Murali Manohar Joshi, Narendra Modi, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, and Yogi Adityanath—faced the electorate many times.

Why is the hint from the PM good for the BJP? The first reason is that although there are no visible grudges among the Lok Sabha MPs over the allocation of some of the key portfolios to the Rajya Sabha members, the ember of discontent must be there underneath. It is better to assuage the embers than allow them to engulf the party.

The second reason is that the administrators who get elected through the Lok Sabha keep their ears on the ground by listening to the various views of the electorate and partymen and understanding how their actions as administrators did or did not resonate with the public. Although administrative roles help the ministers learn a lot about the ministry by interacting with senior government officials, field experts, policy experts, unions, and businessmen, they only give one side of the experience. Only when they contest direct elections do they establish a good rapport with the partymen and the public at large.

The third reason is that the administrator role feeds the mind and the candidate role in the direct election feeds the heart, and one role complements the other and hence facilitates a balanced evolution as a politician and administrator, which

improves their administrative skills too.

The fourth reason is that although getting elected to the Rajya Sabha may happen indirectly, it all depends on the strength of the party in the state legislatures. For instance, any party could send one Rajya Sabha member only when they have at least 35 MLAs in their kitty in TN, and it varies from state to state. A Rajya Sabha member is not a free lunch for the party, although it may be a free lunch for the individual who gets elected to the Rajya Sabha. Hence, it is important for the administrators to put their necks deep into electoral politics and contribute significantly towards the same. For all that matters, only when the party wins elections does it get an opportunity to govern. In this backdrop, it is no surprise that the PM wanted his Ministers elected through the Rajya Sabha to get elected through the Lok Sabha.

The PM has been leading by example by being the administrator par excellence and being on the first line of defence whenever elections happen in any part of the country. A loss in the direct contest does not alter the ability of the person to become the administrator. When Arun Jaitley and Hardeep Singh Puri lost the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the PM was courteous enough to accommodate them in his cabinet. Given this, the PM has every right to hint that his Rajya Sabha members turned ministers to leave their cocooned spaces and put their best efforts into being elected through the Lok Sabha.

Unveiling India's space odyssey

ISRO's Success and private sector prowess can go hand in hand to make India a superpower in space

The resounding success of Chandrayaan-3's launch has once again underscored the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) prowess in space exploration, propelling India's cosmic aspirations to new heights.

The mission also highlights the growing prominence of the private space sector in India, with companies like Ananth Technologies, Skyroot Aerospace and Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd making noteworthy contributions. Ananth Technologies, based in Hyderabad, has played a pivotal role in the Chandrayaan-3 mission, providing essential components like power-switching



BISHAL KUMAR SAHAS

(The writer is a researcher. The views expressed are personal)

modules and navigation systems. Similarly, Hyderabad-based companies, Skyroot Aerospace and Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd, have left their mark in the space sector. Skyroot's Vikram-S rocket, launched last November, disrupted the government's long standing monopoly, paving the way for private players' entry in the space market. The global space industry, currently valued at over \$500 billion, is dominated by heavy spenders like the United States and China.

Despite India's presence in the global space market since the 1960s, its current share stands at a modest 2%, approximately \$9.6 billion. However, the country has set an ambitious target of reaching \$12.8 billion by 2025.

The projection for the global space launch services market, estimated to double to \$31.9 billion by 2029, indicates the sector's rapid growth potential. With the space sector offering vast opportunities, India must foster the right ecosystem to unlock its space potential fully. Companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic have transformed the space sector landscape by reducing costs and turnaround times significantly.

In 2020, the formation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center helped bridge the gap between ISRO and the private sector, while relaxed regulations further encouraged private



players to enter the market. India's focus on nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship in the space sector has led to the rise of over 100 spacetechnology startups, raising more than \$200 million in funding. According to Inc42,

the opportunity in the spacetechnology startup ecosystem is projected to reach \$77 billion by 2030. However, one challenge faced by private players is their lack of end-to-end capabilities, necessitating greater support from state governments and policymakers to enable their growth.

Telangana's government has already taken strides in positioning Hyderabad as India's spacetechnology capital by unveiling its Spacetechnology policy. This policy aims to create a conducive environment for startups and facilitate collaboration between various stakeholders, further bolstering the private space sector. ISRO's achievements extend beyond national borders, with suc-

cessful missions like placing 36 UK-based OneWeb's internet satellites into orbit and signing the Artemis Accord, with a vision to land the first astronauts on Mars.

Collaborations with international players, such as NASA, are also in the works, including a joint mission to the International Space Agencies. Former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan's proposal to establish an Asian Space Agency, similar to the European Space Agency, emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts and shared resources to conduct larger space missions. Strengthening ISRO's capabilities and fostering an environment that nurtures innovators across the country

will be crucial to realizing India's full potential in space exploration.

Chandrayaan-3's success has not only showcased ISRO's prowess but also highlighted the burgeoning role of private players in India's space sector. With the right ecosystem, support and collaborations, India has the potential to become a major player in the global space market, contributing significantly to space exploration and technological advancements. The future of India's space industry holds exciting possibilities, with opportunities for both the government and private players to work hand in hand and make space exploration the new frontier of scientific achievement.

Kremlin denies role in Prigozhin plane crash

AP ■ MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin's spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, on Friday rejected allegations that the Kremlin was behind a plane crash that is presumed to have killed mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose brutal fighters were feared in Ukraine, Africa and Syria and conducted a brief but shocking mutiny in Russia two months ago.

Prigozhin, who was listed among those on board the plane, was eulogised by Putin, even as suspicions grew that the Russian leader was behind a Wednesday crash that many saw as an assassination.

A preliminary US intelligence assessment concluded that the plane was downed by an intentional explosion.

One of the US and Western officials who described the initial US assessment said it determined that Prigozhin was "very likely" targeted and that the explosion falls in line with Putin's "long history of trying to silence his critics."

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment, did not offer any details about what caused the explosion, which was widely believed to be vengeance for the mutiny in June that posed the biggest challenge to the Russian leader's 23-year rule.

"Right now, of course, there are lots of speculations around this plane crash and the tragic deaths of the passengers of the plane, including Yevgeny Prigozhin," Peskov told



A woman reacts at an informal memorial next to the former 'PMC Wagner Centre' in St. Petersburg, Russia on Thursday.

reporters during a conference call. "Of course, in the West those speculations are put out under a certain angle, and all of it is a complete lie."

Asked by The Associated Press whether the Kremlin has received an official confirmation of Prigozhin's death, Peskov referenced Putin's remarks from a day earlier: "He said that right now all the necessary forensic analyses, including genetic testing, will be carried out. Once some kind of official conclusions are ready to be released, they will be released."

Britain's defence ministry said on Friday that the presumed death of Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin in a plane crash could destabilise the Wagner Group.

"The demise of Prigozhin almost certainly would have a deeply destabilising effect on the Wagner Group. His person-

al attributes of hyperactivity, exceptional audacity, a drive for results and extreme brutality permeated Wagner and are unlikely to be matched by any successor," the ministry wrote in a statement.

Wagner mercenaries were key elements of Russia's forces in its war in Ukraine, particularly in the monthslong fight to take the city of Bakhmut, the conflict's most grueling battle. Wagner fighters also have played a central role projecting Russian influence in global trouble spots, first in Africa and then in Syria.

"When it comes to the future (of Wagner), I can't tell you anything — I don't know," Peskov said. The jet crashed Wednesday soon after taking off from Moscow, carrying Prigozhin, six other Wagner members, and a crew of three, according to Russia's civil aviation authority.

UK: Russian mercenary chief's likely death could destabilise his pvt army

London (AP): Britain's defense ministry said on Friday that the presumed death of Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin in a plane crash could destabilise the Wagner Group, whose brutal fighters were feared in Ukraine, Africa and Syria and conducted a brief but shocking mutiny in Russia.

Prigozhin, who was listed among those on board, was eulogised Thursday by Russian President Vladimir Putin, even as suspicions grew that the Russian president was behind a Wednesday crash that many saw as an assassination.

Russian authorities have not yet confirmed Prigozhin's death. The British ministry wrote that "It is highly likely that he is indeed dead." However, it noted that "he is known to exercise exceptional security measures."

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Pentagon spokesman Gen. Pat Ryder said there was "no information to suggest" that a surface-to-air missile took down the plane. He declined to say whether the US suspected a bomb or believed the crash was an assassination.

The jet crashed Wednesday soon after taking off from

Moscow, carrying Prigozhin, six other Wagner members, and 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.

President Joe Biden, speaking to reporters Wednesday, said he believed Putin was likely behind the crash.

"I don't know for a fact what happened, but I'm not surprised," Biden said. "There's not much that happens in Russia that Putin's not behind."

The passenger manifest also included Prigozhin's second-in-command, whose nom de guerre became the group's name, as well as Wagner's logistics chief and at least one possible bodyguard.

It was not clear why several high-ranking members of Wagner, including top leaders who are normally exceedingly careful about their security, would have been on the same flight. The purpose of their trip to St. Petersburg was unknown.

Russian authorities have said the cause of the crash is under investigation. In this first comments on the crash, Putin said the passengers had "made a significant contribution" to the fighting in Ukraine.

Danish govt to present draft law making it illegal to burn Quran

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

The Danish government on Friday said it will propose a law that would make it illegal to desecrate any holy book in Denmark, where a recent string of public desecrations of the Quran by a handful of anti-Islam activists has sparked angry demonstrations in Muslim countries. Denmark has been viewed as a country that facilitates insults and denigration of the cultures, religions and traditions of other countries, the government said.

The centre-right government seeks to extend Denmark's existing ban on burning foreign flags by also "prohibiting improper treatment of objects of significant religious significance to a religious community," Justice Minister Peter Hummelgaard said. "The bill will make it punishable, for example, to burn the Quran or the Bible in public. It will only aim at actions in a public place or with the intention of spreading in a wider circle," Hummelgaard said. He said such acts would be punishable by fines or up to two years in prison. Hummelgaard told a news conference that the recent protests were "senseless taunts that have no other purpose than to create discord and hatred."

Denmark's government has repeatedly distanced itself from the desecrations, but has insisted that freedom of expression is one of the most important values in Danish society. It said that would not be affected by the proposed law. Freedom of expression is "a cornerstone of Danish democracy, and the freedom to express oneself is a central value in Danish society," Hummelgaard said. The proposal is "a targeted intervention which does not change the fact that freedom of expression must have a very broad framework in Denmark," he said.

Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said there have been more than 170 protests, including many with Quran burnings, in front of the embassies of Muslim countries, and that the proposed change is "an important political signal that Denmark wants to send out to the world."

Last month, he said the government would seek to legally prevent burnings of the Quran or other religious scriptures, but added that there must "be room for religious criticism" and that there were no plans to reintroduce a blasphemy clause that was repealed in 2017. The bill will be presented to lawmakers on September 1 and will be "dealt with if necessary before the end of the parliamentary year," which is before Christmas, the Justice Ministry said.

Trump mocks Kamala Harris' accent

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Taking a dig at US Vice President Kamala Harris' accent, former president Donald Trump has mocked her, saying she talks in "rhyme". Trump, who gave the first Republican presidential primary debate a miss which was held in Milwaukee on Wednesday, made an appearance on former Fox News presenter Tucker Carlson's show where he criticised both President Joe Biden and Vice President Harris.

In a video posted on X (formerly Twitter), Trump is seen mocking Harris' accent saying, "She speaks in rhyme. It's weird... Well, the way she talks: 'The bus will go here and then the bus will go there! Because that's what busses do!'"

On being asked about the probability of Indian-American Harris becoming the candidate

for Democrats in the next Presidential election, Trump said: "This is not a president of the United States future."

Harris, 58, is the first woman vice president and the highest-ranking female official in US history, as well as the first African-American and first Asian-American vice president.

Harris was born to two immigrant parents: a Black father and an Indian mother. Her father, Donald Harris, was from Jamaica and her mother Shyamala Gopalan, a breast cancer scientist, hailed from Chennai. Trump also commented on President Biden, saying he is "worse mentally than physically." "Well not really... she has some bad moments. Her moment is as bad as it can be. I think his (pointing to Joe Biden) is worse, actually," he said.

Ex-US Prez returns to X

New York (AP): Former President Donald Trump has returned to X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter, firing off his first message in 2 1/2 years shortly after he surrendered at an Atlanta jail on charges he conspired to overturn his election loss. He posted a photo of his mug shot and the words, "Election interference. Never surrender!" along with a link to his website, which directs to a fundraising site. It was Trump's first post since Jan. 8, 2021, when Twitter suspended his account indefinitely, citing fears he would incite additional violence following the deadly storming of the US Capitol building. His account was reinstated last November shortly after Elon Musk took over the company, but Trump had

refrained from tweeting, insisting that he was happier on his own Truth Social site, which he launched during the ban.

The message marks a homecoming of sorts for Trump to one of his most important megaphones — one he used to dominate his rivals in the 2016 primary and to command the news cycle for years. Trump, who is running again for the White House in 2024, often marveled at how quickly his missives would travel from his account to cable news stations, under the banner, "BREAKING NEWS." The return to X is also a reflection of just how much money Trump's campaign has been burning on lawyers representing the candidate and allies as he battles criminal charges in four jurisdictions.

Zimbabweans anxiously wait for election results

AP ■ HARARE

Zimbabweans waited anxiously Friday for the outcome of general elections as dozens of armed police with water cannons guarded the national results center, the scene of deadly violence after the previous vote five years ago.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission said it was still verifying results from close to 12,500 polling stations across the country and could start releasing details Friday. Results in the presidential balloting are not expected for several days. Zimbabwe's long history of disputed elections has left many wary of official results.

Voting closed Thursday after delays in distributing ballot papers in the capital, Harare, and

other urban areas prompted President Emmerson Mnangagwa to extend voting by a day. Many voters slept outside polling stations in urban areas that are opposition strongholds to cast their ballots. Mnangagwa, 80, is seeking a second and final five-year term but faces a major challenge from Nelson Chamisa, a 45-year-old lawyer and pastor whom he narrowly defeated in the disputed 2018 election.

This is the second general election since the ouster of longtime repressive ruler Robert Mugabe in a coup in 2017. It will select the president, 350-member parliament and close to 2,000 council seats countrywide. More than 6 million people were registered to vote, though turnout hasn't been announced. Police on Thursday

said they arrested 41 workers with two accredited poll monitoring groups, the Zimbabwe Elections Support Network and the Election Resource Center, and seized their computers. Police accused them of "subversive and criminal activities" as part of an opposition plan to fabricate the results. But the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights said the workers were carrying out their mandate as election observers. The elections have been tainted by allegations of violence by the opposition and human rights groups that Mnangagwa used the police and the courts to silence dissent, amid rising tensions due to a currency crisis, a sharp hike in food prices, a weakening public health system and inadequate numbers of formal jobs.

Greek fire death toll hits 21

Athens (AP): Authorities battling a major wildfire in northeastern Greece that has been described as the European Union's largest single recorded fire recovered another body, the fire department said Friday, bringing the total death toll from wildfires in Greece this week to 21.

The fire department said firefighters recovered the body of a man from the Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park, which lies near the border with Turkey, on Thursday.

Eighteen bodies were discovered Tuesday near a shack in an area near the northeastern city of Alexandroupolis, and the body of another person was found Monday in a forest. In central Greece, a man was found dead Monday in a sheep pen after reportedly trying to save his livestock from an advancing wildfire.

With no reports of missing people in northeastern Greece, authorities suspect the people whose bodies were discovered in the area were migrants who may have crossed into the country recently from the nearby border with Turkey. Greece's Disaster Victim Identification Team was activated to identify the remains, and a telephone hotline operating in English, Arabic, Pashto, Turkish and Urdu was set up for the relatives of potential victims to call. Multiple wildfires have burned for days across Greece, including the major blaze near Alexandroupolis and one on the fringes of Athens. With gale force winds abating, firefighters were making headway Friday in tackling the blazes, appeared improved, although neither of the two main wildfires had been brought under control, the fire department said. The Alexandroupolis area fire burned for a seventh day after combining with smaller fires to create a massive blaze.

American author slammed for racist comments against Haley, Ramaswamy

Washington (PTI): Prominent American conservative media pundit and author Ann Coulter is facing a backlash for making racist comments against two Indian-American US presidential contenders — Niki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy — by calling them "Hindu business", according to a media report.

During Wednesday night's first Republican presidential debate, Coulter characterised a heated exchange between former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy as "Hindu business," NBC News reported on Thursday.

Coulter, 61, in her tweet on the social media platform X said: "Nikki and Vivek are involved in some Hindu business, it seems".

On Thursday, she started to face backlash,

with Ramaswamy's senior adviser and communications director, Tricia McLaughlin saying that Coulter could tweet whatever she wanted to. "Ann can tweet whatever she wants to," McLaughlin said in her tweet. She further said: "Vivek shares and lives by the same Judeo-Christian values that this nation was founded on — and the way Vivek lives his family life offers a positive example for their own children and grandchildren". Ramaswamy, 38, is Hindu while 51-year-old Haley was born into a Sikh family and is a Christian, which she has been vocal about in her public life. The heated exchange Coulter appeared to refer to wasn't even about religion but rather US aid to Ukraine and Israel, the report said.

Niger's junta OKs support of troops from neighbours, intensifying standoff with West African bloc

AP ■ ABUJA (NIGERIA)

Niger's junta has authorised troops from neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso to come to its defence, raising the stakes in a standoff with other West African nations who are threatening force to reinstate Niger's democratically elected president. The junta leader, Brig Gen Abdrahmane Tchiani, signed two executive orders authorising the "security forces of Burkina Faso and Mali to intervene on Niger territory in the event of aggression," senior junta official Oumarou Ibrahim Sidi said late Thursday, after hosting a delegation from the two countries in the Nigerian capital, Niamey. Sidi did not provide further details about the military support from the two countries whose



Vendors sell vegetables at the market in Niamey on August 23, 2023.

million people. Niger was seen as one of the last democratic countries in the Sahel region below the Sahara Desert that Western nations could partner with against a growing jihadi insurgency.

The ECOWAS commission president, Omar Aliou Touray, said Friday that the bloc's threat to use force to reinstate the deposed Nigerian President Mohamed Bazuom is "still on the table", rejecting the junta's three-year transition plan.

Eleven of the bloc's 15 countries — not including the military-ruled countries of Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger itself — have expressed commitments to deploy troops to restore democracy in Niger once a decision is made to intervene.

military regimes have said any use of force by the West African bloc ECOWAS against Niger's junta would be treated as an act of war against their own nations. The agreement was the latest of several actions

taken by Niger's meticulous soldiers to defy sanctions and consolidate a junta they have said would rule for up to three years, further escalating the crisis after last month's coup in the country of more than 25

Rungta Irrigation Limited

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Tel.: +91-11-40453330/40453331/40453332; Contact Person: Mrs. Ayushi Vijay, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Email ID: cs@rungtairrigation.in; Website: www.rungtairrigation.in

NOTICE REGARDING 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM)

Public Notice – 39TH Annual General Meeting

This is to inform that, the 39th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of Rungta Irrigation Limited ("the Company") will be held on Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at 01:00 p.m. IST, through video conferencing (VC) / other audio visual means (OAVM) in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder, read with latest circular date 10/2022 dated 28th December, 2022, other circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated 05th January, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Members may further note that in pursuance of above stated circulars and in furtherance of Go-Green initiative of the government, the Notice of the 39th AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23, will be sent through electronic mode only to those members whose email addresses are registered with the Company / Depository Participant / Registrar and Transfer Agent ("RTA"). The members attending the meeting through VC or OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of quorum under section 103 of the Act. The Company is also providing e-voting and remote e-voting facility to all its Members similar to earlier practices. Members may note that the detailed procedure for remote e-voting / e-voting during the AGM is also mentioned in the notice of AGM.

The e-copy of the notice of the 39th AGM along with the Annual Report for the FY 2022-23 of the Company will be available on the website of the Company at www.rungtairrigation.in and also available on the website of the BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, in due course of time. The Company shall send a physical copy of the AGM Notice and Annual Report to those Members who request for the same at cs@rungtairrigation.in mentioning their Folio No./DP ID and Client ID.

The Members can attend and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM only, detailed instructions for joining the AGM will be provided in the Notice of 39th AGM. Accordingly, please note that no provision has been made to attend and participate in the AGM of the Company in person.

In case the email address is not registered with the Company / Depository Participant / RTA, please follow the process of registering the same as mentioned below:

Physical Holding	Register/update the details in prescribed Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms with Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, BEETAL Financial & Computer Services Pvt Ltd. Members may download the prescribed forms from the Company's website at https://www.rungtairrigation.in/investor-information/download-category/kyc-compliance-for-shareholders/
Demat Holding	Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP. Please also update your bank detail with your DP for dividend payment by NACH if declare by company in future.

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 Circular(s) and the SEBI Circular.

For Rungta Irrigation Ltd. Sd/-
Ayushi Vijay
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Delhi
Date: 25.08.2023

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 30.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of **Rs. 19,77,626/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Six only)** pending towards Loan Account No. **HHEROH00400284**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **21.08.2023** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 22.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **ANIL KUMAR and SIMRAN**. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 31,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 3,10,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Ten Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY BEARING UID NO. 608, HOUSE NO. 79, LAND AREA MEASURING 170 SQUARE YARDS, BUILT-UP AREA MEASURING 630 SQUARE FEET SITUATED IN WARD NO. 9, MOHALLA HARIPURA, OPPOSITE RAM MANDIR, JHAJJAR-124101, HARYANA, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:
EAST : HOUSE OF ASHOK KUMAR NORTH : HOUSE OF LAXMAN DAS
WEST : HOUSE OF LAXMAN DAS SOUTH : GALI

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 : 22.08.2023
Place : JHAJJAR

Sd/-
Authorized officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Exhibition uncovers Indian troops history at UK palace

PTI ■ LONDON

The forgotten history of the Indian Army soldiers that camped in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace, south-west of London, in the early 20th century is set to be uncovered in a new exhibition opening in September. "The Indian Army at the Palace" will explore the story of these encampments in detail for the first time, including the soldiers' experiences in camp, as well as press and public reactions to their stay.

It follows an appeal issued by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), the charity that cares for Hampton Court Palace, to the

South Asian community and those with South Asian heritage for objects relating to the South Asian role in historical events during the Raj associated with the famous palace dating back to the 16th century. "Through our research and outreach work, we have established connections with descendants of Indian soldiers who resided in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace in the first half of the twentieth century at historic events such as Coronations," said Dr Tejpal Singh Ralmlil, military expert at A Little History of the Sikhs — which develops tours and lectures on Sikh, Anglo-Sikh and Punjabi history and one of the commu-

nity organisations who worked with HRP on the new exhibition. "It has been fantastic to develop upon this research and support the team at Historic Royal Palaces to interpret submissions from our community to the call-out and to work on the content of this important part of the palace's history," he said. The new display shares the stories of the Indian soldiers who took up residence on four occasions on the Hampton Court estate for the Coronations of King Edward VII in 1902, King George V in 1911 and George VI in 1937, as well as for the First World War Victory Parade in London.

Islamabad HC finds fault in sessions court's verdict

'Nawaz Sharif likely to return to Pak on October 15'

Islamabad (PTI): Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is likely to return to Pakistan from London on October 15, a media report said on Friday, indicating a delay in his plan as announced by his brother and former premier Shehbaz Sharif. Nawaz Sharif, 73, has been living in self-imposed exile in the UK since November 2019. He was convicted in the Al-Azizia Mills and Avenfield corruption cases in 2018. He was serving a seven-year imprisonment at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in the Al-Azizia Mills case before he was allowed to proceed to London in 2019 on "medical grounds". The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme is expected to return to Pakistan on October 15, according to discussions within the family, Geo News reported from London, quoting sources. According to the sources, the mid-October date was decided by Nawaz, Shehbaz, and close family members in London. Earlier this month, former prime minister Shehbaz said that his brother Nawaz would return to Pakistan in September to face his pending court cases and lead the party's campaign for the general election. However, the plan was changed in the last few days after the ECP decided to conduct a fresh delimitation of Constituencies on the basis of the new census, delaying the general elections, which were scheduled to be held within the 90-day constitutional period since the dissolution of Parliament.

TOSHAKHANA CASE



The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday observed that the trial court, which convicted Imran Khan in the Toshakhana corruption case, "did wrong" as it adjourned until Monday the hearing on jailed former prime minister's appeal against his conviction and sentence.

On August 5, a sessions court in Islamabad convicted Khan, 70, in the case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and sentenced him to three years in prison. The verdict meant he was disqualified from contesting general elections for five years.

Two-member IHC bench comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the plea seeking suspension of Khan's conviction by

the trial court's Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Humayun Dilwar.

During the hearing, Advocate Amjad Pervaiz, the ECP's lawyer, was expected to conclude his arguments.

However, he failed to appear due to being "extremely unwell" — as stated by a

suspension of sentence is now at a critical stage." He added that arguments would have been completed in fifteen to twenty minutes.

He further said: "We can also do what the trial court did, but we will not."

"Two wrongs don't make a right. We will not do what the trial court did." "We adjourn the case till Monday (August 28), and even if no one comes, we will announce our decision," Justice Farooq said, adding that what the trial court had done was "wrong".

At this, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) counsel Latif Khosa remarked: "One person has been in jail for twenty days. Will [you] keep the PTI chairman in jail for another three days?"

"We will not appear in court, do what you have to do," he said. He requested the

bench to suspend the sentence immediately.

"If you are satisfied with their arguments on Monday, then send them back to jail," he requested.

Besides the sentence, the additional district and sessions judge also imposed a fine of Rs100,000 after finding Khan guilty of graft in the Toshakhana case.

The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday also acknowledged the "procedural defects" in Khan's conviction but opted to wait for the IHC's decision on the former premier's plea seeking suspension of the three-year sentence.

The PTI in a statement confirmed that the hearing at IHC was adjourned till Monday, August 28, due to the sickness of the counsel of the ECP.

"Delaying tactics on the

go on the second day as yesterday. The same lawyer filibustered for quite a while reading old judgments in the court," the PTI said.

The IHC has been hearing Khan's appeal since August 22.

The court on Thursday adjourned the hearing until Friday. The defence team has already completed the arguments. The Toshakhana case was filed by ruling party lawmakers in 2022 in the ECP, alleging that Khan concealed the proceeds from the sale of state gifts.

The ECP first disqualified him and then filed a case of criminal proceedings in a sessions court which convicted him and subsequently, Khan was sent to jail.

Khan is currently in Attock Jail where he was lodged after arrest following his conviction. He has also

been disqualified for five years.

The case alleges that Khan had "deliberately concealed" details of the gifts he retained from the Toshakhana — a repository where presents handed to government officials are kept — during his time as the prime minister from 2018 to 2022 and proceeds from their reported sales.

According to Toshakhana rules, gifts/presents and other such materials received by persons to whom these rules apply shall be reported to the Cabinet Division.

According to reports, Khan received 58 gifts worth more than Rs 140 million from world leaders during his three-and-a-half-year stint and retained all of them either by paying a negligible amount or even without any payment.

Bushra Bibi urges SC to take 'notice' of Khan's deteriorating health

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's jailed prime minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi on Friday urged the Supreme Court to take "serious notice" of her husband's deteriorating health, saying it posed a "serious danger to his life".

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.

Bushra moved the apex court following her meeting with the cricketer-turned-politician at the prison on Tuesday.

Bushra through her counsel Rifaqat Hussain Shah submitted an affidavit to the Supreme Court, requesting it to intervene for the sake of Khan's health.

According to the affidavit, Bushra "found a significant decline in the petitioner's

health" and that he "appears to have lost weight substantially during the course of his confinement, particularly loss of muscles around his arms".

"Such a decline in the health of a person in his 70s can be a serious danger to his life...it is feared that the petitioner's life is seriously threatened for which it is humbly prayed that this honourable court may kindly take serious notice of the same," it said.

The affidavit stated that Bushra was allowed to meet Khan after "unwarranted delays and difficulties" on August 22 at the Attock jail.

This is not the first time that Bushra has expressed fear of her husband's life in danger. She has expressed similar concerns in a letter to the Punjab government last week.

In the letter, the former first lady said she feared that Khan could be "poisoned" in jail.

Imran's lawyer among 17 rescued from HC elevator

Islamabad (PTI): A senior Pakistani lawyer representing Imran Khan and 16 others were rescued after they were briefly trapped in a malfunctioning elevator in the Islamabad High Court on Friday. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) counsel Latif Khosa hopped into the lift on the third floor of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) after engaging in a heated exchange with Chief Justice Amer Farooq.

Farooq adjourned the hearing on jailed former prime minister Khan's appeal against his conviction and sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case until Monday as the rival lawyer could not make it to the court due to illness.

However, the elevator got stuck due to an unknown malfunction, creating fears for the lives of all 17 people inside it.

According to a video clip, Khosa's assistant lawyer,

Suzane Jahan, is seen saying, "It has been more than 10 minutes. The lift has malfunctioned, and no one from the administration is coming. Khosa sahib and his legal lawyers — all are inside [the elevator]...I have informed the administration ten times. Everyone here knows about this [but] no one is taking action, and my boss is inside," she said.

She went on to say, "Does this mean that now you will also kill lawyers by suffocating them? You already put [Imran] Khan behind bars, and you will also kill lawyers now?"

On August 5, a sessions court in Islamabad convicted Khan, 70, in the case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and sentenced him to three years in prison. The verdict meant he was disqualified from contesting general elections for five years. Other video clips of the incident show lawyers pressing the elevator's button with no

success while people gathered on the scene called for help. A person is also seen holding an electric fan to enhance airflow towards the elevator.

Finally, the sordid incident ended after rescuers finally managed to open the elevator's doors, and Khosa, along with the others, came out sweating but unscathed. It has only been three months since the IHC moved into its new building, according to The Express Tribune newspaper.

Qureshi's physical remand extended by three days

Islamabad (PTI): A special court in Pakistan on Friday extended by three days former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's remand in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable that was allegedly misused for political purposes by the previous Imran Khan-led government. Qureshi, 67, a close aide of jailed former prime minister Khan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's Vice Chairman, was arrested

on August 19 under the Official Secrets Act for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani embassy in the US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister. He was later remanded by the special court in Federal Investigation Agency's custody for four days till August 25.

Khan has long mentioned the missing cable as evidence of a "foreign conspiracy" to remove him as the prime minister in April last year.

Lai accuses China of using trade curbs to influence polls

Taipei (AP): Taiwan's vice president and frontrunner in the presidential elections has accused China of using "unfair" trade practices to influence the elections. William Lai, in a meeting Friday with foreign press in Taipei, said China has targeted Taiwan's "agricultural products potentially in an effort to undermine the coming elections." His comments come after China on Monday announced it would suspend mango imports from Taiwan after import authorities detected "pests" on the fruit. The trade curb is largely believed to be politically motivated.

Taiwan is due to hold presidential elections in January 2024. Over the weekend, Beijing launched war games around Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that China claims as its own. China and Taiwan split in 1949 following a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party taking control over the mainland. Beijing has never renounced the use of force as a means of retaking Taiwan. China's political leadership sees Lai and Taiwan's incumbent president, Tsai Ing-wen, as "separatists" and refuses to speak to them. The military drills had followed stopovers by Lai in New York and San Francisco as part of a state visit to Paraguay earlier this month. Lai had decried the exercises as another attempt by Beijing to intimidate voters and influence the January elections. The US Department of State on Saturday called on China "to cease its military, diplomatic and economic pressure against Taiwan and instead engage in meaningful dialogue with Taiwan." While the US does not maintain official ties with Taiwan, it is its biggest source of weapons and has pledged to help the island defend itself in case of an invasion.

"China will be hoping to interfere in the elections with all sorts of tactics, but if they succeed, it will be an undermining of Taiwan's democracy," Lai said at the Friday event.

Australian, US, Filipino forces practice retaking an island in drill along SCS

Manila (AP): Australian and Filipino forces, backed by US Marines, practiced retaking an island seized by hostile forces in a large military drill Friday on the northwestern Philippine coast facing the disputed South China Sea. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and visiting Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles watched the mock beach landings, assaults and helicopter insertion of forces on a Philippine navy base with 1,200 Australians, 560 Filipinos and 120 US Marines participating.

On Monday, Australian, Filipino and American forces conducted air assault maneuvers in Rizal town in western Palawan province, which also faces the South China Sea.

The three countries are among the most vocal critics of China's increasingly aggressive and confrontational actions in the disputed waters, but the Philippine military said Beijing

was not the envisioned target of the combat drills, the largest so far between Australia and the Philippines.

"It's an important aspect of how we prepare for any eventuality and considering that there have been so many events that attest to the volatility of the region," Marcos said in a news conference after the drills.

Marles said in a separate news conference with his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro Jr., that the drills were aimed at promoting the rule of law and peace in the region.

"The message that we want to convey to the region and to the world from an exercise of this kind is that we are two countries committed to the global rules-based order," Marles said. "We are committed to an idea of a world in which disputes are determined by reference to international law." Peace is maintained through the protection of the global rules-based order and its functionality

around the world and, in truth, around the world today, we see it under pressure," Marles said.

Marles and Teodoro said in a joint statement that they would pursue plans for joint patrols in the South China Sea, which the Australian defense chief said may be launched soon.

They reaffirmed support for a 2016 ruling by an arbitration tribunal in The Hague under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea that largely invalidated China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea and upheld the Philippines' control over resources in a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

China refused to participate in the arbitration and continues to defy the ruling.

In the latest flare-ups in the disputes, a Chinese coast guard ship used a water cannon on Aug. 5 to try to block a Philippine supply run at Second Thomas Shoal, where Filipino troops are stationed.

Maui releases names of people missing after deadly wildfire

Lahaina (AP): Maui County released the names of 388 people still missing Thursday more than two weeks after the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century, and officials asked anyone who knows a person on the list to be safe to contact authorities.

The FBI compiled the list of names. The number of confirmed dead after fires on Maui that destroyed the historic seaside community of Lahaina stands at 115, a number the county said is expected to rise.

"We also know that once those names come out, it can and will cause pain for folks whose loved ones are listed," Police Chief John Pelletier said in a statement. "This is not an easy thing to do, but we want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to make this investigation as complete and thorough as possible." Names

ters around the country.

Hawaii officials had expressed concern that by releasing a list of the missing, they would also be identifying some people who have died.

Pelletier said Tuesday that his team faced difficulties in compiling a solid list. In some cases, people provided only partial names, and in other cases names might be duplicated. Maui County sued Hawaiian Electric Co. on Thursday, saying the utility negligently failed to shut off power despite exceptionally high winds and dry conditions.

Witness accounts and video indicated that sparks from power lines ignited fires as utility poles snapped in the winds, which were driven by a passing hurricane.

Hawaii Electric said in a statement it is "very disappointed that Maui County chose this litigious path while the investigation is still unfolding."

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
No.AD/RSC-III-21/3/2011/1860 Dated, the 24th August, 2023
ADVERTISEMENT
Application are invited from Indian Nationals for advertisement for the 02 nos. of Assistant (Legal) on contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.
For further details, visit our website <https://paradipport.gov.in/career.aspx>.
Sr. Asst. Secretary
Paradip Port Authority
PP/PR/43/2023-24 Dt.25/08/2023

PUSHPA GUJRAL SCIENCE CITY
Jalandhar-Kapurthala Road, Kapurthala
Telephone: 01822-501963/64
TENDER NOTICE
On-line Digitally signed open e-tenders under 2 Bid System are invited in two Bid System from the manufacturers or their authorized registered Indian agents for Supply, installation, integration, Testing and Commissioning of High Resolution, High Brightness Full dome Digital 4K 2D multi-channel Immersive Projection System with hardware and software packages, interfaces, tools and / or drivers etc. (including integration of existing Audio System and cleaning of existing screen) at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala for projection on existing 23 meter 30 degree tilted dome with 3 (three) years On-site Comprehensive Warranty including preventive maintenance and further Comprehensive AMC for next 2 years.
Interested tenders can submit online bids through <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> by 11-09-2023, (1500 Hrs). For further details, please visit website www.pgsccinccnecity.org
Note:
» Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
» PGSC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the process at any time, without any liability and assigning any reason therefor.
NA/12/18435/2023/27141 Dated CHD - 8/25/2023

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Office: Chief Engineer / P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry No.04/CE/P&M/ 2023 Dated 25-08-2023
CE / P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for manufacturing, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 11210 Kgs Silica Gel Blue as per PSPCL specifications. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 26-08-2023 from 11:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C-583/23
76155/12/2094/2023/27149 Dated CHD - 8/25/2023

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER
SSA-15015/37/2023-260363/2023 dated 25.08.2023
Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids vide No. GEM/2023/B/3871521 Dated: 24-08-2023 for Printing, Packaging and Supply of Question Paper through GeM portal.
Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website : <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>
Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Axom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
JawaharjyotiC/260363/26 August 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a Political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **BAHUJAN CHETNA VIKAS MORCHA**. The office of the Party is located at C-8, Kachnar City, Post-Vijay Nagar, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh-482001. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Name /address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows :- 1. President/ Chairman- Khenraj Jhariya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 2. General Secretary/ Secretary- Nand Kishor Dass, Jabalpur MP 3. Treasurer- Manohar Dehariya, Seoni MP. If any one has any objection to the registration of BAHUJAN CHETNA VIKAS MORCHA they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvaachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this (Khenraj Jhariya) President BAHUJAN CHETNA VIKAS MORCHA

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. Abhay Kumar Son Shri Rama Kant Singh and Mrs. Seena Kumari wife of Mr. Abhay Kumar intends to purchase Freehold Residential Entire Second Floor of Builtup Property No-2/6B, measuring 178 Sq.Yards, Eastern Side Portion, situated at Jangpura-A, New Delhi from Mr. Ravji Kalucha (present owner) and the present owner has informed to my clients that original Sale Deed dated 02.08.1960 and Original Conveyance Deed dated 09.08.2001 in favour of Shri Munshi Ram and Shri Krishan Lal and Original Partition Deed dated 04.09.2022 made between Shri Munshi Ram and Smt. Shanti Devi have been Lost/Misplaced, and my clients is mortgaging the same to HDFC Ltd. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 7 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, than our client shall presume that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear.
Karnail Singh, Advocate,
K-8, Basement, Jangpura Extension
New Delhi
Contact No:- 9811163363 & 9953683363

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBAHJINAGAR
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Building & Garden)
Tel.No (0240) 2333536-40 Address :- Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Executive Engineer (Building & Garden)
Fax.No.(0240)-2331213 Head office:- Town Hall Pin 431001
E-Tender Call AMC (For Help): Cell No:- 9764999592
No/AMC/Dy/Eng/Drg&B / 253/2023
Date - 25/08/2023
Sr.No Work Name Last Date of Tender Submission
1. CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALL, COMPOUND WALL, WATCHMEN'S ROOM AND WATER TANK AT CSMC SCHOOL NAREGAON (TENDER AMT. RS. 1.81.76.834/-) 21/09/2023
Note :- 1. For the above started work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer (Building & Garden)
Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
आ.आ.ड./म.म.आ./अ.अ.आ./अ.अ.आ./253/2023

APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 6 (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 6(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: L65922DL2005PL136029) ("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 it is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 17,83,564/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLN010179203, 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 documents(s) w.e.f. 19.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from VAISHALI ANAND, KAMAL JEET and SANJAY.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 12,70,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,27,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF-6, FIRST FLOOR REAR MIDDLE, PLOT NO. B-1174, DLF DILSHAD EXTN, 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 : 22.08.2023 Authorized officer/
Place : GHAZIABAD Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

INDAG RUBBER LIMITED
(CIN: L74899DL1978PLC009038)
Regd. Office: Khemka House, 11, Community Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017.
Phone: 011-26963172/73, 26863310, 26861211, 41664818, Fax No.: 011-26856350
E-mail id:- info@indagrubber.com, Website: www.indagrubber.com
NOTICE
(For the Attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company)
Compulsory Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to the DEMAT Account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority.
Notice is published in pursuance of section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the said Rules") notified by Ministry of Corporate Affairs as amended from time to time and Regulation 39 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
The Rules, inter alia, require the Company to transfer all the shares in respect of which Dividend has not been claimed by the Shareholders during the last 7 consecutive years starting from the Interim Dividend of the financial year 2016-2017, to the demat account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority set up by the Central Government within 30 days from the due date of transfer i.e. November 30, 2023, in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules.
Accordingly, the Company has sent individual communications to the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to the demat account of the IEPF Authority in compliance of the said Rules, at their latest available address advising them to claim their dividends expeditiously. The Company has uploaded the complete details of such shareholders and their folio number or DPID- Client ID on its website i.e. www.indagrubber.com. This Notice shall be deemed to be the adequate notice in respect of issue of new Share Certificate(s) by the Company on behalf of those Shareholders who hold Shares in physical form, for the purpose of transfer of their Shares to the DEMAT Account of the IEPF Authority in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules.
Concerned shareholders may note that, any further dividend, including other corporate benefits, on such shares shall be credited to the IEPF Account of the IEPF Authority. Upon credit of such shares to the said Demat account, no claim shall lie against the company in respect of the unclaimed dividend amount and such shares transferred to IEPF Account. However, shareholders may claim back the shares credited along with the unclaimed dividend amount from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure given under the IEPF Rules. The procedure for claiming the same is available at www.mca.gov.in and www.iepf.gov.in.
For any further information/clarification on this matter, the concerned shareholder may write to the Company at Indag Rubber Limited, Khemka House, 11, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, Tel.: 011-26963172-73. Email-info@indagrubber.com or contact the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent- Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Limited at D-153/A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 Tel.: 011-26812682-83. email-admin@skylinetra.com.
By order of the Board
For Indag Rubber Limited
Sd/-
Company Secretary
Date: August 25, 2023
Place: New Delhi

'India's growth journey will shape world's future'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is well positioned to lead the global transitions of digital and artificial intelligence, energy, value supply chains, and the country's growth journey will shape the world's future, B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said on Friday.

In his address to the B20 Summit India 2023 here, Chandrasekaran, who is also the chairman of Tata Sons, asserted that India stands as a beacon of growth and positively stands out in the global economy, which is facing strong headwinds, tightest rate cycle in decades and record levels of public debt.

"The world is currently navigating through three important fundamental transitions. The first is the digital and artificial intelligence transition; the second, energy transition and the third, a global value supply chain transition. India is extremely well positioned to lead in all the three," he said.

India, over the last decade has created a "fantastic digital infrastructure" and has proven public services delivery at large scale, Chandrasekaran pointed out, adding "all of us who live here make our payments only digitally. I don't think any of us carry cash. Not a day goes without looking for multiple OTPs."

With the kind of success in



digital infrastructure coupled with a strong talent base, he said, "It is very natural for us to make and lead this transition."

On the energy transition, he said, "Most of the energy we need over the next three decades, that's almost two-thirds or three-fourths of the energy we need, we will have to create. So India will be creating the new energy for growth and will not be substituting the old energy."

So that makes it easy to transition and more importantly, that makes it most exciting and economically more interesting for all investors, Chandrasekaran said.

On global value supply chain, he said, "The current geopolitical shifts and a large domestic market in India and the global presence of companies in India and the strong talent base that we have make

it very compelling for India to lead the creation of an alternative supply chain."

He said India has many things that goes in its favour, while also highlighting the "transformative government initiatives" such as the public digital infrastructure PM Gati Shakti, PLI incentive schemes, Startup India, reduction in corporate taxes, which are helping the country "sustain the fantastic economic momentum that we have among the G20 countries."

"But at the same time, India and all of us here are super committed to equitable growth, particularly in the Global South, committed to sustainability and climate action, committed to innovation and therefore, India's growth journey will shape the world's future," Chandrasekaran asserted.

Sensex declines by 365 pts amid rate hike concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex declined by 365 points and Nifty settled below the 19,300 level in a volatile trade on Friday as financials, capital goods and oil shares took a hit amid concerns over potential rate hikes and weak trend in global markets.

Falling for a second day in a row, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 365.83 points or 0.56 per cent at 64,886.51. During the day, it dropped 519.77 points or 0.79 per cent to 64,732.57.

The NSE Nifty declined by 120.90 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 19,265.80.

From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, HDFC Bank, ITC, Reliance Industries and Tata Motors were among the major laggards.

Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank were among the gainers.

"Investor caution is evident globally, as concerns about potential rate hikes dominate the prevailing sentiment ahead of the Jackson Hole meeting. Furthermore, the minutes from the RBI MPC meeting reiterated their dedication to managing inflation within the target range, given the elevated domestic inflation levels," said Vinod



Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Markets traded under pressure and lost over half a per cent, in continuation of Thursday's decline. All sectors traded in sync with the benchmark and, we saw profit-taking in the broader indices too," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell by 0.85 per cent and smallcap declined 0.24 per cent.

Among the indices, capital goods went lower by 1.29 per cent, realty declined 1.27 per cent, power fell 1.26 per cent, utilities dipped 1.24 per cent, FMCG (0.91 per cent) and commodities (0.89 per cent).

Telecommunication emerged as the only winner. On the weekly front, the

BSE benchmark declined 62.15 points or 0.09 per cent and the Nifty dipped 44.35 points or 0.22 per cent.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the negative territory.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended lower on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.25 per cent to USD 84.40 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned sellers on Friday as they sold equities worth Rs 4,638.21 crore, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark had pared early gains to settle 180.96 points or 0.28 per cent lower at 65,252.34 on Thursday. The Nifty declined 57.30 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 19,386.70.

India's forex reserves drop \$7.27 bn to \$594.88 bn



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 7.273 billion to USD 594.888 billion for the week ended August 18, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen by USD 708 million to USD 602.161 billion.

The country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion in October 2021. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended August 18, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 6.613 billion to USD

527.786 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down by USD 515 million to USD 43.824 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 119 million to USD 18.205 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was also down by USD 25 million to USD 5.072 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Rupee snaps three-day rally to settle 13 paise lower at 82.69 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee reversed its three-day rally and depreciated by 13 paise to settle at 82.69 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking strong American currency and negative equity markets.

Rising crude oil prices also weighed on the domestic unit even as foreign fund inflows restricted losses, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened weak at 82.60 and touched the intra-day low of 82.72 against the greenback. It finally settled at 82.69 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 13 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee appreciated by 16 paise to settle at 82.56 against the US dollar, making it the third straight day of gain. "Indian rupee depreciated on Friday on strong dollar and weak domestic markets. However, FII inflows cushioned the down-

side. The dollar rose on mixed to positive economic data from the US," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

The latest US government data showed a dip in weekly unemployment claims and an increase in core durable goods orders in July over the preceding month, raising expectations of a further rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

Investors are awaiting cues on the US Fed's monetary policy from Chairman Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium on Friday.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and a strong US dollar. However, weakness in crude oil prices and inflows by foreign investors may support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 104.17.

Supplied high-strength alloy steel for Chandrayaan-3: JSL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) on Friday said it supplied high-strength alloy steel grade to ISRO which was used in Chandrayaan-3 mission.

The specialised alloy steel grade supplied to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), usually imported from several countries, was meticulously developed over a span of three years with the help of an advanced refining process to meet the stringent quality standards and specifications of the crucial project, JSL said in a statement. The company stated that "it developed and supplied special, high-strength alloy steel grade that has been used in the motor casing of India's ambitious third lunar mission, the Chandrayaan-3".

The heat-resistant material shields the motor from shocks as well as elevated temperatures, the company said.

Its properties, which persist even under the most extreme thermal conditions,



underscore the alloy steel grade's reliability and suitability for critical space missions, the company said.

On Wednesday, ISRO's third moon mission Chandrayaan-3's lander module touched down on the lunar surface, making it only the fourth country to accomplish the feat and first to reach the south pole of earth's only natural satellite.

"The successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 is historic and we are proud to play our part in this mission. This strengthens the Atmanirbhar Bharat story as we have provided the indigenously developed best-in-class quality material to this nationally important project through constant innovation," JSL Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal said.

Global tech leaders say AI can free up people for more productive jobs, warn against risks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global technology leaders on Friday said Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance productivity while they urged for the development of AI in a responsible manner.

Speaking at B20 Summit India 2023 organised by CII, IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna said AI can free up people for more productive work and reduce cost for businesses.

He said coding can be improved by about 60 per cent by using AI assistance.

"Inside IBM, we think about 20 per cent of the total activity, which we call lower order cognitive work, about 30 per cent of that can be easily made productive through AI. That frees up more people to do more value adding work. It's not that there aren't jobs. If you have productivity then you can access way more clients. You can provide things at a lower cost point," Krishna said.

He said things like human resources, the higher level cog-



nitive task like advising people on what kind of team is required, developing people etc are very much human-centric work at present and for the foreseeable future.

"There are a bunch of activities under it, I call them more mundane, could be automated but are hard to do so. Whether it be about promoting people, whether it is about assessing people, those can begin to be done by AI. In our case we are doing 90 per cent of that through AI," Krishna said.

He said the actual invention of foundation models, large language models, and building together computer infrastructure do need people

countries in Global South have problems providing access to services to their people.

"An estimated 300 million lack access to services like healthcare, education and sometime ago for banking. On the other hand we have a lot of people looking for jobs. There are 10-12 million people coming to the workforce every year. We need to solve both problems. The only way to solve these problems is by adopting technology at scale that has never been done before," Chandrasekaran said.

He said that in the last 10 years, India has put in digital infrastructure through which it has been able to deliver service at scale with ease.

"We have got to figure out a way of embracing AI in such a way that we can innovate faster and protect privacy," Chandrasekaran said.

Microsoft President and Vice Chairman Brad Smith said wherever he goes, people say that mistakes done in the case of social media should not be repeated in AI development.

Growth in June quarter should be good; priority to tame inflation: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India's economic growth in the first quarter of this fiscal should be good and that the government's priority is to tame inflation, which has touched a 15-month high.

Addressing business leaders in the national capital, she said that green shoots of private capital expenditure upcycle can be palpably felt as the government's enhanced capital expenditure is now crowding in private sector investments.

While mentioning about the key priorities of the government, Sitharaman also stressed that the focus is on Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) but essential imports will not be stopped.

She also emphasised on the need for diversification of supply chains at the earliest to avoid shocks.

Noting that India is the fastest growing major economy, she said that in another few days, the GDP numbers for the first quarter of 2023-24 will be released.

"As things stand, nobody has a clue. But everybody feels that yes, the first quarter did go on well, so the numbers should be good," Sitharaman said while speaking at the B20 Summit India



2023, being organised by industry body CII.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is scheduled to release the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for April-June quarter on August 31.

She said there is a lot of interest on what the US Federal Reserve is going to say from Jackson Hole.

"All of us are wondering how that is going to come out because its spill over is also something which we notice," she said.

Investors are awaiting cues on the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy from Chairman Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium on Friday.

According to her, the key priority for economic growth "is taming inflation" because persistently high inflation will weaken demand.

"It's basic economics. I'm not saying anything new. Equally, elevated interest rates

for considerable time can come in the way of economic recovery," the finance minister said and added that the tendency to use interest rates as the only solution for dealing with inflation has its own downside.

"And most economies do have this problem, because I think, for want of a better word, obsession with using interest rate as the only tool to deal with inflation and not manage the supply side factors will not give a complete solution for inflation."

"Temporarily it can give but sooner the supply side issues can creep the ugly heads up," she said.

Most of the central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have raised interest rates to tackle inflation following the outbreak of Russia-Ukraine war in February last year that has also disrupted global supply chains.

India-UK FTA negotiations going on, making good progress, says Goyal

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the negotiations between India and the UK for the proposed free trade agreement are progressing and both countries are committed to concluding the talks as early as possible.

"We are working hard, we are all committed to a fair, equitable, and balanced trade agreement, respecting each other's sensitivities, respecting the different levels of developments that both the countries have and respecting the future potential that each country brings to the table," Goyal told reporters here.

Keeping all of these circumstances in mind, the two countries have made "good" progress and the 12th round of talks is undergoing, he added.

When asked about the deadline for concluding the negotiations, the minister said no country in the world works through specific deadlines.

"But I would like to see it happen tomorrow, the faster the better ... We are both committed to a good outcome, at the fastest possible



speed," he added.

UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch on Thursday said that India and Britain are actively discussing business mobility under the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) and the negotiations are now in the final stages.

The ministers were here to attend the G20 trade and investment ministers meeting. Out of the total 26 chapters in the proposed FTA, 19 have been closed. Investment is being negotiated as a separate agreement (bilateral investment treaty) between India and the UK.

The bilateral trade between the countries increased to USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23 from USD 17.5 billion in 2021-22.

VIT-AP highly sought after campus across nation



PNS ■ 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.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. G. Viswanathan - Founder & Chancellor, VIT said that the Career Development Centre (CDC) plays a vital role in creating the illustrious placement record of VIT. It ensures smooth functioning of campus placements activities in the campus. The centre also facilitates training activities for the students to ensure that they get placed with national and multinational companies as well.

VIT-AP also has a dedicated CDC which works in coherence with VIT centralized career development centre for the enhancement of the student's skills and aptitude.

'More tech companies from Gurugram keen to set up shops in London'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A number of technology companies from Gurugram are keen to set up shops in London, a senior official in the office of the Deputy Mayor of London for Business said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the B20 Summit, London and Partners Country Director for India and senior leadership team member Hemin Bharucha said the rea-



sons for setting shops in London range from the availability of venture capital funding to global demand and talent.

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
Nishtha Parisar, Bijalae Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636
No. MD/MK/04/1956 Bhopal, Dated : 25.08.2023

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites online bids from **Manufacturers only** through e-tendering for procurement of following items :-

Tender Specification Number	Particulars of Material for Procurement	Approx Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee (incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Date of Pre Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/974	150 mm C CLASS (Heavy Duty) Round GI Pipe As per Technical Specification.	1213.83	11800/-	12.09.23 3.00 PM	22.09.23 3.00 PM

Other details and full tender document would be available on our Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. website <https://mptenders.gov.in> very shortly.

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

M.P. Madhyam/11650/2023

Defending champ Alcaraz could face Sinner in US Open quarter-finals

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz could face a quarter-final rematch against Jannik Sinner at the US Open, with former champion Daniil Medvedev also in the top half of the men's draw released on Thursday.

The final Grand Slam of the season, which starts on Monday, will see three-time champion Novak Djokovic returning to Flushing Meadows after missing last year because of travel restrictions over his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

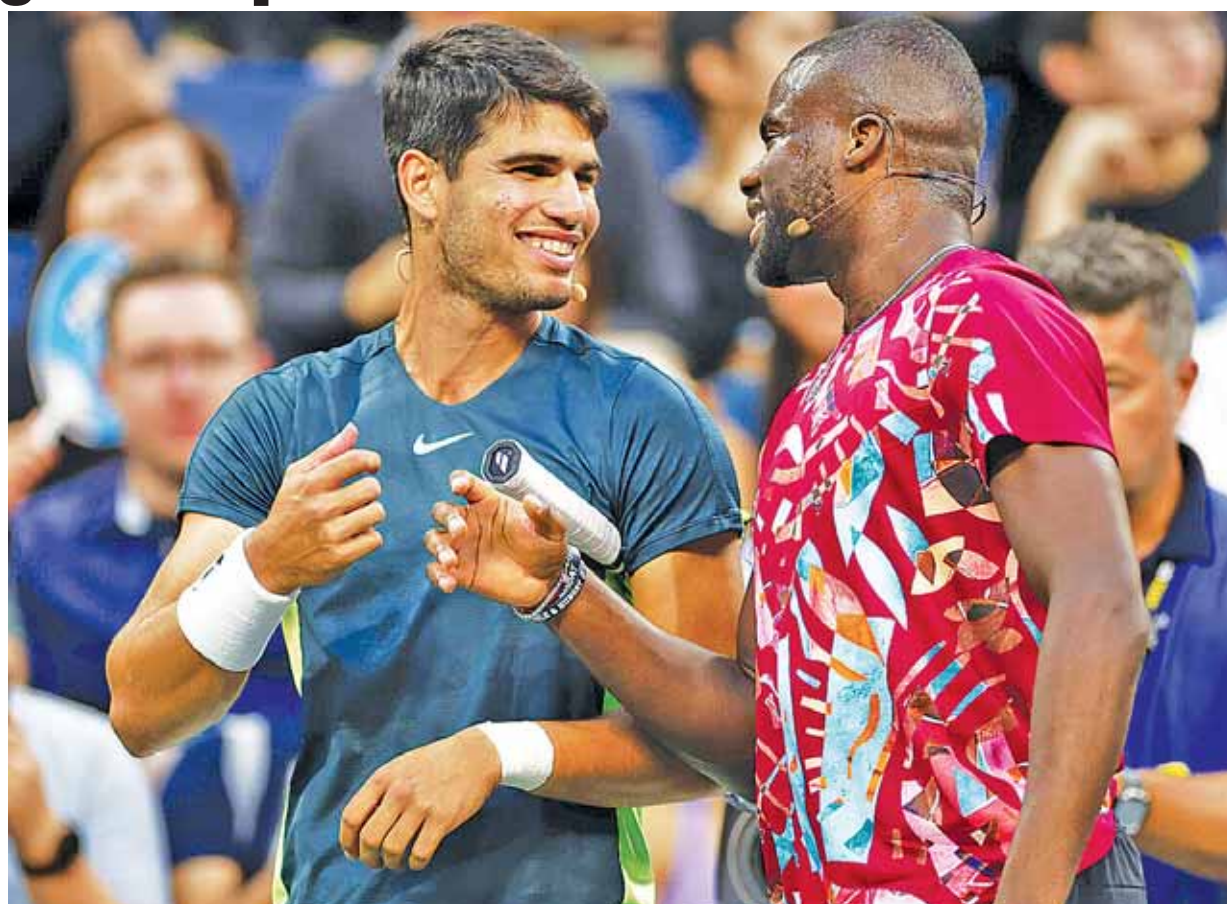
The Serbian star, seeded second behind Alcaraz, faces Alexandre Muller of France in the first round and a victory in that match will assure the 23-time Grand Slam champion of a return to number one in the world regardless of Alcaraz's performance in a tournament that will culminate with the men's final on September 10.

Alcaraz will open his title defense against Germany's Dominik Koepfer.

In 2022, Alcaraz defeated Italy's Sinner in a marathon five-set quarter-final which set a record for the latest ever finish at the tournament of 2:50 in the morning.

Sinner, seeded sixth, faces a potentially tricky path to the quarters with Alexander Zverev and Grigor Dimitrov joined by former US Open champions Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka in the same section of the draw.

Alcaraz, meanwhile, is seeded to meet 26th seed Dan Evans in the third round and Cameron Norrie in the fourth as he chases a third Grand Slam title and a second straight after his tri-



'Let's go for it': Alcaraz eyes US Open repeat



AFP ■ NEW YORK

World number one Carlos Alcaraz said Thursday he won't get ahead of himself as he seeks to defend his title at the US Open, where "all the matches are tough."

The 20-year-old Spanish star, in an interview with AFP after renewing his contract with French racquet manufacturer Babolat, said he can't afford to look ahead to a potential title showdown with second-seeded 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic but would "concentrate on the first round."

"Every slam I go to I try to win it," said

Alcaraz, who will open his title defense against 78th-ranked German Dominik Koepfer.

Alcaraz beat Caspar Ruud in last year's US Open final to capture his first Grand Slam title and become, at 19, the youngest world number one in the history of the rankings.

"I have very good memories of last year, so let's go for it," he said.

Arriving as the top seed — with an epic Wimbledon final triumph over Djokovic also under his belt — is a "different feeling," Alcaraz admitted, but one he won't dwell on.

"Mentally, we're going to try to forget that I'm defending the title, we're just going to focus match by match, show our best level in each match and see if at the end of it all I play at my best level and can get the second title here," he said. "Every player here, every match is tough," he warned, and "every player can beat you."

On the court, Alcaraz has emerged as a likely successor to such greats as Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. But he characterizes himself as "a very normal guy, who tries to carry it in the best possible way."

"I always go to the same places, meet the same people and do the same things," he said. "It doesn't affect us and we take it very naturally."

umph at Wimbledon.

Slumping Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime is Djokovic's projected fourth-round opponent while Greek seventh seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, beaten by Djokovic in the Australian Open final, could get a rematch against the Serb in the quarters if he can make it past the third round for the first time.

Medvedev, who lifted the trophy in 2021 to deny Djokovic a calendar Grand Slam, is seed-

ed third and drawn in the same quarter with eighth-seeded Andrey Rublev.

Fourth seed Holger Rune and returning finalist Casper Ruud share a section in the bottom half that also features three seeded Americans in 2022 semi-finalist Frances Tiafoe, Tommy Paul and Sebastian Korda.

SWIATEK, GAUFF COLLISION COURSE

Women's world number

one and defending champion Iga Swiatek could find herself in a quarter-final rematch against sixth-seeded American Coco Gauff.

Swiatek holds a 7-1 head-to-head record against Gauff — who broke through for her first win over the Polish star on the way to the title in Cincinnati last week.

Second-seeded Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka and third seed Jessica

Pegula are in the bottom half, while fourth seed Elena Rybakina joins Swiatek and Gauff in the top half.

Sabalenka, who can overtake Swiatek for the number one ranking, could meet fifth-seeded Tunisian Ons Jabeur, the 2022 runner-up, in the quarter-finals.

Swiatek will open her title defense against Sweden's Rebecca Peterson, while Gauff, who won titles in Washington and Cincinnati in the run-up to

the Open, will face a qualifier in the first round and could face rising 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva in the second.

The stacked top quarter also features two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and former world number one Caroline Wozniacki — who could meet in the second round.

Denmark's Wozniacki received a wild card to play in her first Grand Slam since returning to the sport after a

break of more than three years.

Also in the top quarter are American former Grand Slam finalists Danielle Collins and Jennifer Brady. Brady, runner-up to Naomi Osaka in the 2021 Australian Open, is also on the comeback trail after injuries sidelined her for two years.

Fourth-seeded Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, heads the second quarter and faces a tough first-round match against one of the highest-

ranked unseeded players in the

draw, Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk. Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, the ninth seed, opens against a qualifier but could face seventh-seeded Carolina Garcia of France — a semi-finalist last year — in the fourth round.

In the bottom quarter, seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams, 43, faces a tough first-round meeting with Spain's Paula Badosa.

Messi and Miami start playoff push at Red Bulls



AFP ■ MIAMI

After the high-octane excitement of their successful Leagues Cup campaign and the thrill of their comeback victory in the US Open Cup semi-final, Inter Miami and Lionel Messi get down to the main job at hand on Saturday.

The Major League Soccer regular season returns in full with Miami, who travel to the New York Red Bulls, faced with the tough task of climbing from bottom place in the Eastern Conference and into the playoff positions.

Prior to the break for Leagues Cup — and Messi's arrival along with Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba — Miami were winless in 11 games in MLS with the worst record in the entire league.

In most leagues in the world, a team in that position would be focused purely on avoiding relegation from the top flight.

But MLS has no relegation and instead has a playoff system which could yet offer a way for the new-look Miami, under Argentine coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino, to compete for the title — MLS Cup. The top nine fin-

ishers in each conference earn a spot in the playoffs with the top seven going into the first round, best of three series of games.

The eighth and ninth placed teams play each other in a single elimination 'wild card' match to get into the first round.

Miami are currently 14 points behind ninth place with 12 games left and so have little room for error in the remainder of the season.

But the form they have shown since the arrival of Messi and his two former Barcelona team-mates, unbeaten in eight games, albeit winning three of

their knockout ties via penalties, suggests such a playoff push is not out of the question.

It will be a long slog to turn Inter's MLS season around and adding to the difficulty of the task, Martino admitted after Wednesday's shoot-out win over Cincinnati in the US Open Cup, that his star man was amongst those feeling the pace of their recent exertions.

"Both Leo and many other players are reaching an important physical limit and from today we will evaluate how we approach the next three matches," he said.

"The fatigue is overcome with all the enthusiasm... I hope the team in the future could play better, but it's very difficult to do that when you almost can't rest," he added.

It would not be a shock then, for one or more of Messi, Busquets and Alba, to start on the bench at Red Bull Arena on Saturday with Martino retaining the option to throw them on in the second half.

The Red Bulls are in 11th place in the East, 11 points ahead of Miami, and have their own hopes of clambering into the post-season.

Saturday's games see Eastern Conference leaders Cincinnati host 2021 champions New York City, while in the West, top-placed St. Louis City, enjoying a dream first season in the league, are at Orlando City.

Defending champions Los Angeles FC travel to North Carolina to face Charlotte FC.



Liverpool's credentials face Newcastle test

AFP ■ MANCHESTER (UNITED KINGDOM)

Liverpool's new-look midfield faces a stern examination as the Reds put their Premier League title aspirations to the test at Newcastle on Sunday, while Manchester United aim to kickstart their campaign against Nottingham Forest.

Title rivals Manchester City and Arsenal are two of only three sides with six points from their opening two games of the new campaign.

But it is Brighton who top the table after shrugging off the sales of key midfielders Alexis Mac Allister and Moises Caicedo to score eight goals in their opening two games.

KLOPP HAS HIS 'MONSTER'

Liverpool's failure to beat Chelsea to Caicedo or Romeo Lavia has seen their transfer business heavily criticised by

many of their own fans.

The Reds instead landed 30-year-old Japan captain Wataru Endo as their replacement for the departed Fabinho and Jordan Henderson.

Endo, described by Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp as a "real monster", could make his first start at St James' Park in an early indicator of who could rival City and Arsenal for the title.

Newcastle leapfrogged Liverpool into the top four last season despite the Reds winning both clashes between the sides.

The Magpies thrashed highly-fancied Aston Villa 5-1 at home on the opening weekend of the campaign, but were brought back down to earth by an inability to match champions

City in a 1-0 defeat at the Etihad Stadium. Liverpool will have Mac Allister available after his red card on his home debut in a 3-1 win over Bournemouth was rescinded.

Man City swoop for Belgian winger Doku



AFP ■ MANCHESTER (UNITED KINGDOM)

Manchester City signed Belgian winger Jeremy Doku from French club Rennes on a five-year deal on Thursday. Doku, 21, will reportedly cost the European champions £55 million (\$70 million).

"This is a great day for me, both personally and professionally," Doku said in a City statement.

"Manchester City are the best team in world football, so to be joining them is something very special for me and my family."

"I am a young player with so much learning and improving to do. Working with Pep (Guardiola) and his staff, and playing alongside these world-class players, will make me a much better player."

Doku scored 12 goals in 92 appearances for Rennes after

making his breakthrough as a teenager with Anderlecht in his homeland.

He becomes City's third signing of the transfer window after Croatian international duo Mateo Kovacic and Josko Gvardiol.

The treble winners were in the market for a winger to replace the departed Riyad Mahrez, who joined Saudi side Al-Ahli.

City are also expected to add a midfielder before the window shuts on September 1 to cover the absence of Kevin De Bruyne, who is set to miss up to four months due to a hamstring injury.

Wolves' Matheus Nunes and Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze are reportedly targets after interest in West Ham's Lucas Paqueta collapsed due to a Football Association investigation into a possible breach of betting regulations by the Brazilian.

Spanish football chief Rubiales to quit over World Cup kiss scandal

AFP ■ MADRID

Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales will quit his post after being roundly condemned by the football world and beyond for forcibly kissing a Spain player on the mouth following the Women's World Cup final, several media outlets reported Thursday.

Rubiales, 46, will submit his resignation as president of the Spanish football federation (RFEF) on Friday at an extraordinary general assembly, according to the reports.

After Spain's 1-0 win over England in the final in Sydney on Sunday Rubiales gave midfielder Jennifer Hermoso an unsolicited kiss on the lips. He also celebrated victory by grabbing his genitals. The RFEF did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

"Feminism is changing everything," wrote Spain's Minister for Equality Irene Montero



on social media, shortly after the reports emerged.

Rubiales came under unprecedented pressure to resign, with days of criticism from figures including Spanish prime minister Pedro Sanchez, Spain's women's league and several men's La Liga clubs, as well as internationally.

FIFA opened disciplinary proceedings against Rubiales

earlier Thursday. FIFA said the incident "may constitute violations of article 13 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the FIFA disciplinary code".

Spain star Hermoso released a joint statement with union Futpro on Wednesday, which called for action to be taken against the RFEF president.

"We are working to ensure that acts such as those we have

seen never go unpunished, that they are sanctioned and that the exemplary measures are adopted to protect women footballers from actions that we believe are unacceptable," the statement said. Human rights organisation Amnesty International offered their backing to Hermoso on Thursday.

"Amnesty International wants to show their support for the demands of the player, who has asked the (RFEF) to set underway 'exemplary measures' regarding the non-consensual kiss," said the organisation in a statement.

"(We) underline that this behaviour is a form of sexual violence like any other, and cannot be justified in any way."

Rubiales laughed off the incident earlier in the week, branding his critics "idiots" for reading too much into what an RFEF spokesman initially described to AFP as a "spontaneous celebration".

However he later issued an apology which was also criticised, with prime minister Sanchez saying it was "insufficient".

MOUNTING CRITICISM

Earlier Thursday Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti admonished Rubiales for his conduct as the criticism continued to mount. "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."

Further Spanish clubs joined the wave of dissent against Rubiales on Thursday, following Getafe president Angel Torres the day before.

"We must all be consistent with what we do and say, that's a fundamental thing," Atletico Madrid president Enrique Cerezo told TV show Jugones on Spanish channel Mega.

Rejuvenated Biles chases more history at US gymnastics championships

AFP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Simone Biles is chasing yet more gymnastics history at the US championships this week, where the four-time Olympic champion could become the first to win eight US national all-around titles.

The 26-year-old Texan made a triumphant return to competition after a two-year hiatus at the US Classic earlier this month, electrifying a sellout crowd in suburban Chicago as she posted an all-around score of 59.100 points — five more than runner-up Leanne Wong.

An all-around title on Sunday in San Jose, California, would see her break the 90-year-old record set by Alfred Jochim when he won his seventh in 1933, a record matched by Biles in 2021.

She could also become the oldest US women's all-around champion since USA Gymnastics was founded in 1963.

Biles, a 19-time world champion, had missed two years of elite competition after her tumultuous campaign at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

She arrived in Tokyo as an Olympic star, widely expected to crown her legacy with a successful defense of her 2016 Olympic all-around title.

Instead, her challenge unravelled, and after struggling in early rounds of the team competition she withdrew citing mental health issues that would also prompt her withdrawal from the all-around as well as vault, uneven bars and floor exercises before she earned a bronze in balance beam.



Biles said she was suffering from the 'twisties' — the phenomenon in which gymnasts become disoriented and lose their sense of where they are in the air. Her decision to withdraw from competition was widely hailed as a watershed moment for the issue of mental health in elite sports.

After her US Classic win, Biles proclaimed herself "in a really good spot."

Despite some early nerves, she looked her old, brilliant self, especially in landing the most difficult vault in women's gymnastics, the Yurchenko double pike.

NEERAJ QUALIFIES FOR 2024 OLYMPICS

PTI ■ BUDAPEST

Neeraj Chopra needed just one big throw to qualify for 2024 Paris Olympics and the World Championships javelin throw final, pulling off a commendable first-attempt of 88.77m here on Friday.

Not only Chopra but DP Manu (81.31m) and Kishore Jena (80.55m) also made the cut as three Indians qualified the final of an event in the World Championships for the first time ever.

The 2024 Paris Olympics qualifying mark is 85.50m. The qualifying window had opened on July 1.

The 25-year-old Chopra's qualifying round lasted just a few minutes as he sent the spear to his season's best distance in his very first attempt in the Group A qualification round. He topped the qualification round.

Chopra had won a silver in the 2022 World Championships in USA.

With the automatic final qualification mark set for 83m, Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, packed up and left the competition arena without taking any further throw. The final will be held on Sunday.

Those who throw 83m or the top-12 best performers from both Group A and B qualify for the final.

"During the warm-up I felt the power and knew I could make it with only one throw. It felt great releasing the javelin and the result was very satisfying. I was able to save energy for the final since I threw with only 90 per cent effort.

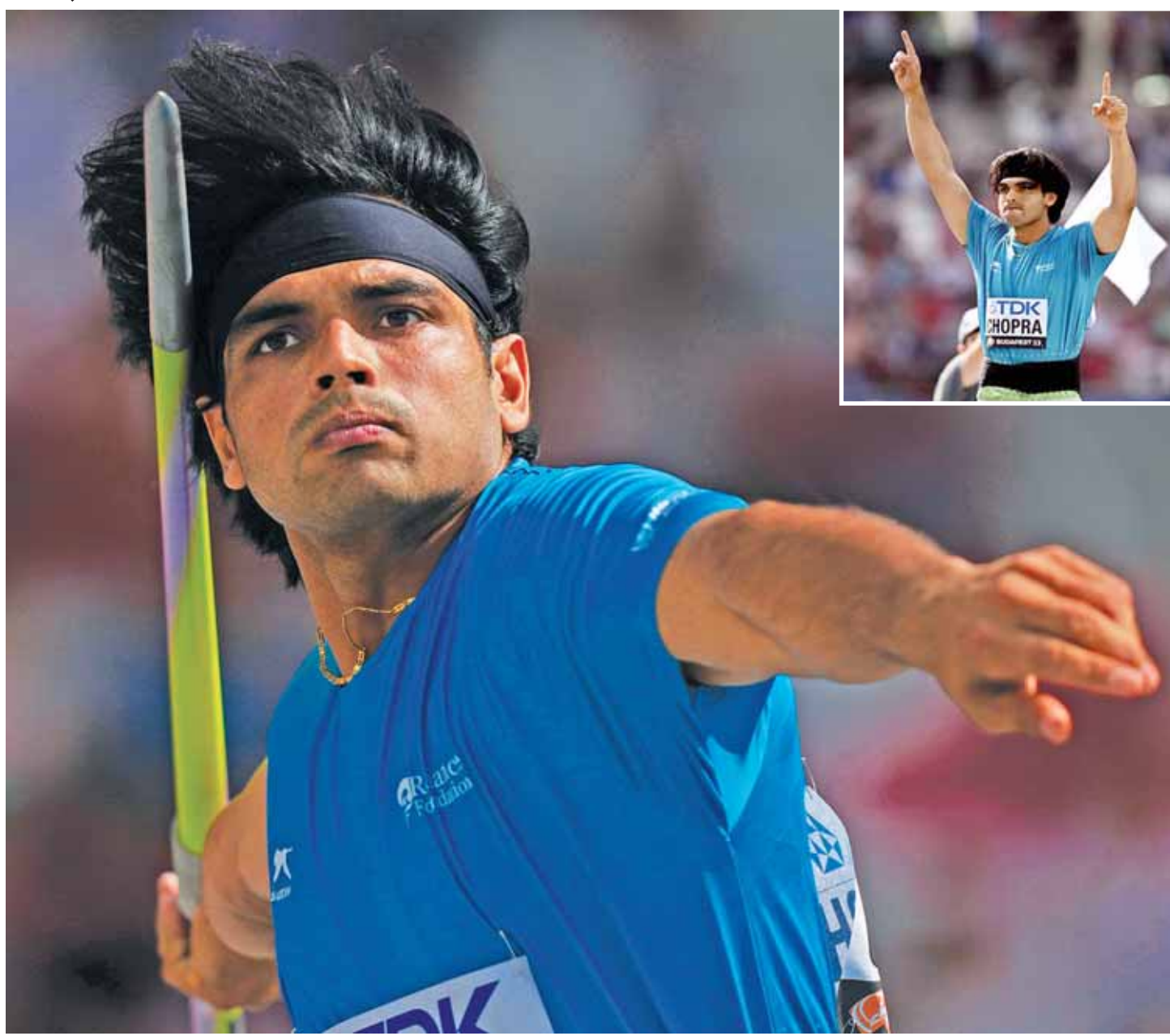
"I will definitely give everything in the final as I would like to have a world gold as well (as one from the Olympic Games)," said Chopra, the reigning Olympic champion.

Competing in the same group with Chopra in his debut World Championships, Manu finished third and sixth overall with a best throw of 81.31m which he produced in his second attempt. Manu had won a silver in the Asian Championships in July.

Jena, whose visa was rejected first by the Hungarian embassy in New Delhi before being cleared the next day, ended fifth in Group B and ninth overall with 80.55m. It is also his debut World Championships.

"For the first time three Indians have qualified for the final round of an event in World Championships. It has never happened earlier. It's a historic day for Indian javelin," a team coach in the Indian contingent told PTI.

India first participated in the World Championships in 1983.



A competitor gets three attempts in the qualifying round.

Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan also qualified for the 2024 Paris Games with his season best throw of 86.79m.

Nadeem, a bronze medalist in the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia where Chopra had won gold, topped Group B and finished second overall.

Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, who won silver medal behind Chopra in Tokyo Olympics, was second in Group B and third overall with a best throw of 83.50m.

Germany's Julian Weber was fourth overall with a best throw of 82.39m.

Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who has been struggling for form this season, failed to qualify for the final round after finishing seventh in Group A and 16th overall with a best throw of 78.49m.

A World Championships gold is the only medal missing in Chopra's decorated cabinet and going by the performances of other competitors in the qualification round, the superstar Indian looked primed to achieve the feat and add another milestone in his illustrious career.

He won gold medals in Olympics (Tokyo in 2021), Asian Games (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018), besides becoming the Diamond League champion last year.

Chopra competed in only two top class competitions this season, winning gold in both of them — Doha and Lausanne Diamond League Meetings on May 5 and June 30 respectively. He had an injury lay-off of one month in between the two events after straining his muscles while training.

Chopra's World Championships qualifying round campaign on Friday is reminiscent of his performance during the same stage of competition in the last edition of the showpiece event as well as that of Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

On both the occasions, he needed just one throw to qualify for the final, a 88.39m effort in Eugene, USA, in 2022 World Championships and 86.65m in Tokyo.

He won a silver in Eugene and gold medal in Tokyo in the final to script history.

Six track and field athletes have already qualified for the 2024 Olympics before Chopra. Akshdeep Singh, Vikas Singh and Paramjeet Bisht qualified for men's 20km race walk and Priyanka Goswami made the cut for women's 20km race walk.

Long jumper Murali Shreshankar and 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable have also qualified.

Gill tops YoYo test with score of 18.7

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asia Cup bound India team has hit the ground running with the closed-door camp in Alur, where the squad members are undergoing routine fitness tests ahead of the continental event beginning August 31.

The various fitness and medical tests are being conducted along with the mandatory YoYo test which young opener Shubman Gill has topped with an impressive score of 18.7.

All the cricketers who have so far appeared for the YoYo test have passed the cut-off level of 16.5 with Virat Kohli also putting up an impressive 17.2 as per his Instagram story.

Save the five cricketers — Jasprit Bumrah, Prasad Krishna, Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson (reserve member for Asia Cup) and KL Rahul have all undergone the test.

"The YoYo test being an aerobic endurance fitness test, the results could vary from when you last played and how much of workload you have gone through in the past week.

"Gill as of now has the highest score of 18.7. Most of the players have scored between 16.5 and 18," a BCCI source privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The fitness cum conditioning camp has been organised by the BCCI as this was the only window before the World Cup at home in October.

"If the players have a gap between two tournaments, the National Cricket Academy's sports science team along with sports staff of India team does conduct all the mandatory tests,"



Most of the young Indian players are very fit nowadays. Gill's 18.7 is a testament to that considering that he has played non-stop cricket since the start of IPL.

The first big break he got since March was the three weeks after completion of the 50-over series in the West Indies.

Setback for SL as Chameera, Hasaranga injured

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Friday suffered a major setback as four of their cricketers, including pacer Dushamanta Chameera and leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, were rendered doubtful for the upcoming Asia Cup because of injuries and COVID-19.

Chameera could be ruled out of the Asia Cup because of a shoulder injury that he suffered during the recent Lanka Premier League (LPL).

Leading spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who picked up a thigh niggle ahead of the LPL final, could miss at least two matches of his team in the Asia Cup, ESPNcricinfo reported.

Sri Lanka will begin their Asia Cup campaign with a match against Bangladesh on August 31 at Pallekele.

Adding to the Lankan woes, batters Kusal Perera and Avishka Fernando have been tested positive for COVID-19.

Both Perera and Fernando are currently under observation and their inclusion in the Lankan squad will depend on the speed of the recovery.

The Sri Lankan team management said the duo contacted COVID-19 during the latter stages of the LPL 2023.

They will have to return a negative test result to get included in the squad for the Asia Cup.

Satwik and Chirag miss out on a medal after losing in quarterfinals

PTI ■ COPEHANGEN

Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty missed out on a second World Championships medal after suffering a shocking straight-game loss to Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark in the men's doubles semifinals here on Friday.

The world number two Indian pair, which had claimed a maiden bronze in the last edition, couldn't produce their attacking game and went down 18-12 19-21 to the 11th seeded Danish combination, the 2021 bronze winners, in a 48-minute battle.

Coming into the match with a 2-5 head-to-head count, Satwik and Chirag, who last played the Danish pair in 2021, just couldn't get going as the local favourites, backed by a vociferous crowd, came up trumps.

Chirag found the going tough, while Satwik tried to keep India in the match as the duo levelled things at 15-15 after losing the opening game but the Danes proved just too good on the day.

Chirag started the proceedings for India with a whipping smash to Kim's weak serve but soon sprayed into the net too many times as the Danish pair led 5-1.

The Indian started to rotate the strike with Satwik unleashing a booming smash to make it 3-5. The lead for the Danes swelled to 9-5 with Satwik and



Chirag committing unforced errors.

Kim charged into the net and produced some good interceptions to lead 11-6 at the interval.

Satwik produced a cross court smash before pouncing on a weak return near the net but a few soft errors and some superb play at the front court by Kim helped the Danish lead 15-9.

Chirag's mistimed lift was neutralised by two cross court smashes from the backline by the Indian as they brought down the deficit to 15-18.

A loose serve from Chirag was then disposed off by Kim. Satwik unleashed two jump smashes but he followed it with a service fault as Kim and

Anders grabbed four game points.

The Indians saved two before the Danes converted with an angled return from Anders.

Things didn't change much after the change of sides with the Danes leading 3-1 with a good serve from Anders.

The Indians couldn't play their attacking game and also struggled with their timing, soon trailing 4-9.

Another point went the Danes' way after the shuttle seemed to have touched Kim's shirt while going out as it was soon 10-6 up.

Satwik put up a relentless attack during a 32-shot rally but Anders sent down a lethal smash to go 11-7 up at the interval.

Another superb smash from

Anders took the Danes to 13-8. It was then the Indians conjured hopes of a turnaround with Chirag producing a smash and two good serves to narrow the lead to 13-14.

The Indians won another attacking rally and then Kim sprayed into the net as it became 15-15. A service error from Anders kept things level at 16-16 before Kim hit a cross court smash and with Satwik hitting the net, the Danes opened a two-point lead.

Satwik went to the net again and then hit wide to hand two match points to the local favourites.

Chirag saved one before the Danes converted to seal their second medal at the World championships.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The much-delayed sale of tickets for the ODI World Cup began on Friday but fans had a tough time booking them with the official website not working for a good 35 to 40 minutes.

The opening day of ticket sales was reserved for non-India matches, including the warm-ups. However, the process started at 8 pm local time and soon after fans complained of the 'Bookmyshow' application crashing amid a mad rush to book the tickets.

'Bookmyshow' is the ticketing partner for the World Cup beginning October 5.

"This is really frustrating - after such a delayed announcement of ticket sales, if the basic systems infrastructure is not in place, it speaks very poorly of the mighty BCCI and ICC. Events like these are organised world over and systems like lotteries and ticket queues are common. Why are those not in pace for such a large event," Delhi-based

World Cup tickets app and website crashes for 40 minutes



fan Atirav Kapur told PTI on Friday. Half hour into the ticket sales, the website started working but by then a chunk of the fans had lost their patience. "Ticket sale for matches other than India started at 8PM. It's 8:08 PM now — BookMyShow app is crashed. Cricket in India. Wondering what will happen when tickets

for India's game will go up on sale," wrote Nilesh G on X, formerly Twitter.

The ticket sales for India games in Chennai, Delhi and Pune will go live on August 31 while the coveted ones for the Indo-Pak blockbuster in Ahmedabad will be put up for sale on September 3.

The BCCI and ICC had

opted for a staggered sale process to offer a smooth experience to the fans.

"This is the level of preparedness @bookmyshow has for a World Cup! Sorry @ICC but it seems like your ticketing partners are just not up to the task," wrote another X user Arka Dyuti Palit.

The fans have already criticised the organisers for their handling of ticket sales and schedule for the first ODI World Cup in India since 2011.

Earlier this month, the BCCI and ICC revised the schedule of as many as nine games after announcing the full schedule in June.

In contrast, the schedule of the previous World Cup in England and even the 2011 edition in India was announced well in advance.

Ashraf approaches HC against move to remove him as head of Cricket Management Committee

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board's temporary Cricket Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf on Friday approached the Lahore High Court to stop any move by the government to replace him.

The Lahore HC held a hearing on his plea and called all the concerned defendants to appear before it on Monday.

The move comes after the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination, which deals with sports matters, sent a note to the principal secretary of the caretaker Prime Minister saying that the Election Commission of Pakistan had called for termination of all heads of different institutions who were appointed on political basis by the outgoing coalition government.

A reliable source aware of the developments said Ashraf had realised that there were serious attempts to remove him from the post.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) which brought him into the PCB is no longer in power in the caretaker set-up which will



hold general elections in the country.

The court has summoned the secretary of Election Commission, federal government representatives and other parties for the hearing on 28th June," the source said.

The judge during Friday's hearing asked Ashraf's lawyer when the CMC intended to hold the elections of the

board/board of governors for which purpose they were appointed by the outgoing PM.

The source said the judge expressed concern that until now the PCB has not issued any election schedule.

However, Ashraf's lawyer assured the election schedule would be made available to the court at the next hearing.

"The lawyer also said the CMC will hold elections within a week," the source said.

During the hearing, the lawyer claimed that the secretary of the ministry of IPC wanted to bring his own person as PCB chairman, leading to the beginning of a move to remove Ashraf.

"Anything can happen next week even though the Asia Cup launches in Multan on August 30," the source said. Normally, it is the Prime Minister who in his capacity as Patron in Chief of the PCB nominates candidates for the post of Chairman.

However, since Ramiz Raja was removed as

Chairman in December last year, the board has been run by two back-to-back CMCs without an elected head.