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DATE SET FOR INDIA'S SUN MISSION ADITYA L1

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

After the stupendous success of Chandrayaan-3, which saw its spacecraft making a soft-landing on the lunar surface last Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday declared that India's first Solar Mission to study the Sun would be launched on September 2 at 11.50 AM from Sriharikota spaceport, the country's gateway to Space. The flight has been named PSLV-C57 Aditya L1 mission.

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed to provide remote observations of the solar corona and in-situ observations of the solar wind at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometres from Earth.

S Somanath, Chairman, ISRO said on Monday, "A Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle XL rocket will carry Aditya-L1, the first Space-based Indian observatory, to study the Sun."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who flew down to ISRO headquarters straight from Athens early on Saturday morning to congratulate the scientists and engineers over the success of the soft landing on the Moon's South Pole, had made it known that the coun-



try was all set for its mission to the Sun. With the launch of Aditya-L1, India would become the fourth space-faring nation in the world which has its eyes on the Sun, an eternally interesting and mysterious star which is home to fission as well as fusion reactions.

Aditya-L1 is a fully-indigenous effort with the participation of national institutions, an ISRO official said.

The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) is the lead institute for the development of the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload while the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics,

Pune, has developed the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload for the mission.

According to ISRO, VELC aims to collect data to solve the mystery of how the temperature of the corona can reach about a million degrees Centigrade while the Sun's surface itself stays just over 6,000 degrees. Aditya-L1 that would be stationed in a halo orbit around the L-1 would carry seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the corona — the outermost layers of the Sun — in different wavebands.

The observatory would have the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun

without any obstruction. This will help the scientists to observe the solar activities and the effect on Space weather in real time.

Aditya-L1 would have a life span of five years and two months. It will take 125 days for Aditya-L1 to get parked in the destined orbit and the VELC will be used for imaging and spectroscopy of the Sun to better understand the science powering the star. Apart from VELC, six other instruments will also explore the Sun. While four payloads would directly view the Sun from the unique vantage point of L1, the remaining three payloads will carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at L1. Incidentally, the L1 point is currently home to NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory Satellite.

Lagrange Points are positions in Space where the gravitational forces of the Sun and Earth produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion.

These can be used by spacecraft to reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position. Lagrange Points were named so in honour of Italian-French mathematician Joseph Louis Lagrange.

Continued on Page 2

Putin declines G20 invite

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin who conveyed his inability to attend the G20 Summit next month and said that Russia would be represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement, "President Putin conveyed his inability to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi on September 9-10, 2023 and informed that Russia would be represented by Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov."

The PMO said, "While expressing an understanding of Putin's decision not to attend the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Modi thanked the President for Russia's consistent support on all initiatives under India's G20 Presidency." The two leaders agreed to remain in touch, the statement added. Modi and Putin also reviewed progress on a number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, including the recently-concluded



BRICS Summit in South Africa's Johannesburg, the PMO's statement said.

The development comes after Kremlin had announced last Friday that President Putin would not personally attend the meeting of G20 leaders in Delhi. "No, the President has no such plans", Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov had said.

In a statement released on Monday, the Kremlin said that during the call between the two leaders, topical issues of "Russian-Indian relations, steadily developing in the spirit of the special and privileged strategic partnership, were touched upon. The positive dynamics of trade and economic

cooperation was underscored. A mutual commitment to the consistent implementation of large-scale projects in the energy sector and joint work on the expansion of international transport and logistics infrastructure was expressed."

The Kremlin said Putin once again warmly congratulated Prime Minister Modi on the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 and that they reaffirmed their willingness to further develop bilateral cooperation in the space exploration sector.

The Kremlin also stated, "The results of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg were discussed. The significance of the agreements reached, primarily, the expansion of BRICS, which will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of its influence in international affairs, was emphasised."

"The two sides agreed on close interaction in the context of Russia's BRICS chairmanship starting on January 1, 2024. An exchange of views was also held with regard to the forthcoming G20 summit in New Delhi," it added.

Continued on Page 2

BJP planning Lok Sabha polls in 2023: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expecting General Elections sooner than later. Saying that the saffron outfit had its "plans ready to conduct the parliamentary elections in January or if possible in December this year", the Chief Minister said everything is being done to ensure the BJP's victory for the third time.

Mamata based her arguments on reports that the BJP had hired all the helicopters for campaigning. "I have reports



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the foundation day celebrations of Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad, in Kolkata on Monday

none for Opposition party leaders... this is one ploy to stop the Opposition leaders from reaching out to the people," she said. Mamata added that such plans have made her apprehensive that the elections could be brought forward to December or January this year instead of April-May 2024.

Addressing a Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad rally Mamata said, "If the BJP comes to power for the third time, then there may not be any election in future... as they will unleash a completely autocratic rule".

Taking aim at the BJP, Mamata implored the people to ensure that the saffron outfit was thrown out of power in 2024 "or else they will never let democracy stand on its feet."

As an instance of the BJP's "undemocratic ways", Mamata said like all the other independent agencies the Narendra Modi Government had brought the Election Commission completely under its control and the national poll panel could be forced to do everything to ensure the BJP's victory.

Continued on Page 2

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Growing economy creating jobs: PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Indian economy was on the path of rapid growth which had led to creation of big opportunities for employment of the youth.

Addressing a Rozgar Mela where he distributed over 51,000 appointment letters to the youth, he said automobile, pharma, tourism and food processing sectors were expected to grow at a rapid pace and open up employment opportunities for the youth.

Modi addressed the Rozgar Mela virtually as the new appointees in central paramilitary forces, Narcotics Control Bureau and the Delhi Police joined in from 45 locations across the country.

The Prime Minister said India had emerged as the fastest growing economy and would soon be among the top three economies in the world during



this decade and bring benefits to the common man. "For any economy to grow, it is imperative that every sector develops. From the food sector to pharmaceuticals, from space to start-ups, when every sector grows the economy will move ahead," he said.

He said the tourism sector alone was expected to contribute Rs 20 lakh crore to the economy by 2030 and had the potential to create 13-14 crore new jobs. Citing the example of the pharmaceutical industry, the prime minister said the sec-



tor worth Rs four lakh crore at present is expected to grow to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2030. "What does it mean? It means that in this decade the pharma industry will need a lot of youth.

There will be opportunities for employment," Modi said. He said the automobile and the auto component sector too was on the growth path and will require youth power to propel it. The food processing industry, which was worth approximately Rs 26 lakh crore last year, was bound to rise to

Rs 35 lakh crore in the next three-and-a-half years. "With expansion comes increased employment opportunities," he added. Citing the example of Uttar Pradesh, he said good governance in the state has led to establishment of the rule of law, which has in turn brought in a lot of investments.

"In an atmosphere of security, the establishment of the rule of the law speeds up development, instills confidence in the people and brings in investments," he said. However, states with rising crime rates

witnessed fewer investments and shrinking of employment opportunities, Modi said. "A new era of transformation can be witnessed owing to the efforts of the government in the last nine years," the prime minister said.

He said India clocking record exports last year was a sign of the increased demand for Indian made goods in the global market.

Modi noted that production has gone up, employment has increased and the income of family has seen a rise. India, he said, has become second largest mobile manufacturing nation in world and the country was now focusing on other electronic gadgets.

"India will replicate success of mobile manufacturing sector in the IT and hardware manufacturing sector. The day is not far when Made in India laptops and personal computers will make us proud," the prime minister said.

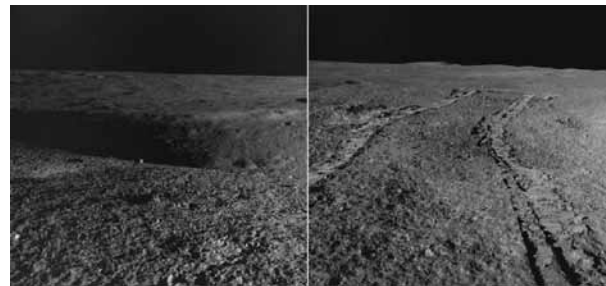
Pragyan comes across crater on lunar surface

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Chandrayaan-3 mission's rover 'Pragyan' came across a four-metre diameter crater just ahead of its location on lunar surface before it was commanded to retrace its path, ISRO said on Monday.

It's now safely heading on a new path, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in a social media post. ISRO said the rover came across a four-metre diameter crater located three metres ahead of its location on August 27. "The rover was commanded to retrace the path," it added.

ISRO on Sunday released the first observations from the ChaSTE payload onboard the 'Vikram' lander of the country's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3. ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface



Thermophysical Experiment) measures the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole, to understand the thermal behaviour of the Moon's surface.

It has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface. The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors. ISRO came out with a graph illus-

trating the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration. This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole. Detailed observations are underway, the space agency said. ISRO has said two of the three Chandrayaan-3 mission objectives have been achieved while the third — in-situ scientific experiments — are underway.

India sees record 128 tiger deaths in 2023, highest in decade

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With four months to go, the country has witnessed record tiger deaths at 128 till date this year, the highest in a decade. This indicates that the toll could be higher by the end of 2023 as a considerable number of natural deaths inside forests often go unreported.

Data available from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) till August 28 this year reveals that if 65 big cats had fallen prey to poachers, accidents and man-animal conflict outside protected areas nearly the same number of predators died inside the tiger reserve in territorial fights and due to old age. This calls for rigorous conservation efforts, sensitization of the community on the one hand and better management inside the forest reserves, say wildlife experts.

According to the recent census, India's tiger population increased to 3,682 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018. Statewise, Madhya Pradesh which is home to the highest number of tigers in the country at 785, reported highest casualties at 32 closely followed by Maharashtra where 29 predators have perished till date.

Maharashtra hosts 560 big cats. The two states combined accounts 60 predators' deaths, which is nearly half of the total deaths reported from across the country. Madhya Pradesh continues to host the highest number of tigers



in the country, at 785. Along with Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand, which house 563, 560 and 44 tigers each, have reported bulk of India's rise in tiger numbers. Karnataka, which hosts 563 tigers, witnessed 15 tiger deaths while Uttarakhand home to roughly 44 tigers, too recorded 15 deaths.

These are the number of deaths that are actually reported. Many tigers die of natural causes inside the forest area and their deaths go unreported... the total number of tiger deaths in 2023 could be higher," sources said.

The government's report too flags these concerns. India has 54 tiger reserves spread across 75,796 square kilometres. Approximately 35 per cent of these reserves urgently require "enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction," says the All India Tiger Estimation quadrennial report.

FIR against ED Assistant Director in excise policy case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered an FIR against Enforcement Directorate (ED) Assistant Director Pawan Khatri in connection with an alleged payment of Rs 5 crore by liquor businessman Amandeep Dhall who wanted help in the Delhi excise policy scam case.

Along with the two, the CBI has also named an Assistant General Manager of Air India Deepak Sangwan, the CEO of Claridges Hotels and Resorts Vikramaditya, Chartered Accountant Praveen Kumar Vats and two others — Nitesh Kohar, an upper divisional clerk (UDC) in the ED, and Birender Pal Singh.

The CBI action was initiated on a complaint from the ED, which during its probe in the Delhi government's excise policy scam found that Amandeep Dhall, an accused in the case, and his father Birender Pal Singh gave Rs 5 crore bribe to Chartered Accountant Praveen Vats for arranging help in the ED probe, the officials said.

Vats told the ED that



Sangwan had introduced him to Khatri in December 2022, they said. Vats said that he paid Rs 50 lakh as advance to Sangwan and Khatri in December 2022 at a parking place behind ITC Hotel in Vasant Vihar for taking out Dhall's name from the list of the accused, they said.

The ED referred its probe to the CBI on the basis of which the latter registered a case. The accused have been booked for offences relating to criminal conspiracy, bribing a public servant and for offences relating to public servant being bribed, taking undue advantage to influence public servant by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of personal influence.

Searches were conducted by the ED at the residences of Khatri and Kohar and their

statements were also recorded under PMLA. With respect to the findings related to the role of Pawan Khatri and Nitesh Kohar in the above incident, it appears from their statements recorded till date and the CCTV footages collected from Haldiram (near UPSC) and Claridges hotel that they were meeting private persons including Deepak Sangwan.

Praveen Vats, Birenderpal Singh, etc. Further, they were aware of the issue that some bribes had exchanged hands between Sirender Pal Singh and Praveen Vats. Further, Pawan Khatri was present in the meeting on 29.06.2023," the reads communication by ED Special Director Sonia Narang to the CBI seeking registration of an FIR.

Khatri never informed any Senior Officer of ED regarding all these goings on. During the search operation, cash of Rs. 2, 19,80,000 (part of the Rs 5 crore bribe money has also been inter-alia seized from the residence of Vats which corroborates that bribe money exchanged hands, according to the ED complaint.

CBI registers 2nd FIR against IITM-Pune scientist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a second FIR against IITM-Pune scientist Gurfan Beig and others for the alleged graft in clearing China-made LED boards for air quality and weather information display at exorbitant rates to be installed in Ahmedabad.

Beig was earlier charge-sheeted in a separate case related to such LED boards to be installed in Pune. Recently, a special court had dismissed his application seeking discharge from the case.

The fresh case, filed recently, relates to the installation of LED boards in Ahmedabad. The agency has alleged that Beig and other unidentified officials of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) had diluted the terms and conditions

and the essential specifications of items in the tender for the installation of the digital display system (DDS) under the project System for Air Quality and Weather Forecasting & Research for Ahmedabad (SAFAR-Ahmedabad).

The tender for 12 LED display boards, four indoor LED displays to be supplied, fixed and installed along with an operation and maintenance contract for five years was awarded to Mumbai-based Video Wall India Private Limited, officials said.

It is also alleged that Anil Girkar, director of Video Wall India, fraudulently claimed that his company was an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the boards. However, he imported the panels from China and assembled them for supply to the IITM.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110007

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Demand notice publication under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No-071405500666 Name of the Borrower VASU CONSTRUCTION, DILIP KUMAR PATEL, RADHA PATEL & were the Demand notice dated November 15, 2022 & its publication dated December 21, 2022 published at The Pioneer (English) & The Pioneer (Hindi) & Symbolic possession notice dated March 15, 2023 & its Publication dated March 18, 2023, published at The Pioneer (English) & The Pioneer (Hindi) under the securitization, reconstruction of financial asset and enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13(2) the Property Address in demand notice & its publication & Inventory and Panchanama and pre-sale notice is CE-322, Block-C, Golf Link-1, Plot No-8, Greater Noida, Gautam budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said the Property address and demand notice dispatch date mention in demand notice publication is CE-322, Block-C, Golf Link-1, Plot No-8, Greater Noida, Gautam budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh instead of Residential Plot No-CE-322, Block-C, Golf Link-1, Plot No-P-8, residential colony known as "Builder's area" Greater Noida, Gautam budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. We therefore, request you to please read the same as Residential Plot No-CE-322, Block-C, Golf Link-1, Plot No-P-8, Residential colony known as "Builder's area" Greater Noida, Gautam budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

Dated: August 29, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited Place: Delhi/NCR Sd-

New model predicts risk of developing, dying from breast cancer within 10 years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A new model that reliably predicts a woman's likelihood of developing and then dying of breast cancer within a decade has been developed by researchers from University of Oxford University on the basis of an extensive analysis of data from 11.6 million women aged 20-90 from 2000 to 2020.

All of these women had no prior history of breast cancer. While vital, current breast cancer screening can lead to over-diagnosis and unnecessary treatments, posing challenges to the NHS, the new model could inform a personalised screening approach, targeting women at the highest risk, potentially



reducing breast cancer deaths, and reducing unnecessary screenings for lower-risk individuals. Researchers said that the new model works to predict a woman's 10-year combined risk of developing and then dying from breast cancer.

Identifying women at the highest risk of deadly cancers could improve screening. These women could be invited to start screening earlier, be invited for more frequent screenings, or be screened with different types of imaging.

Indian origin scientists identify 11 risk factors for dementia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A team of Indian-origin scientists has identified 11 risk factors — age education, history of diabetes, history of current depression, history of stroke, parental dementia, economic disadvantage, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, living alone, and being male — for developing dementia, a condition affecting about 50 million people worldwide and projected to triple by 2050.

The researchers said that the new dementia risk score identifies people at risk — from mid-life onwards — of developing the disease within the next 14 years.

India's first museum for Dardis opened in Gurez Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

To attract more and more tourists to the Gurez valley in the coming season, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday inaugurated India's first museum for Dardis which traces the journey of Shina culture, languages, and 'Gurezi' way of life.

Labeled as the 'Shinon Meeras', the Shina Cultural Centre, is curated and developed by the Indian Army and District Administration, Bandipora. "The centre is a unique tribute to preserve and promote glorious artistic heritage of the Dard-Shin tribal community and to provide glimpses of its rich culture to world," the Lt Governor said in his inaugural address.

Former DGP, CPM MLA chargesheeted in Saradha scam

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has filed a fresh charge sheet in the Saradha group money laundering case and arraigned a former DGP and a former CPM MLA as accused.

The second supplementary prosecution complaint was filed on August 21 before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Kolkata and the court took cognisance of the charge sheet on that day itself, the ED said in a statement.

Those named as accused in the latest charge sheet are Rajat Kumar Majumder, the former Director General of Police of West Bengal Armed Police, Debendranath Biswas, a former Indian Police Service officer and former CPM MLA, Debabrata

Former DGP, CPM MLA chargesheeted in Saradha scam

Sarkar, an executive committee member of the East Bengal Club, and Sandhir Agarwal, Sajjan Agarwal, Advocate Nareesh Balodia and Anubhuti Printers and Publication Private Limited, Guwahati, a company owned by late Anjan Dutta, a former Assam Cabinet minister and president of state Congress party, it said.

They have been accused of "acquiring" proceeds of crime from Saradha group of companies and concealing and projecting it as unaccounted property, it added. According to ED, the Saradha group was engaged in illegal collection of a huge sum from innocent investors in large parts of eastern India during 2009-2013 without any due permission from regulatory authorities.

BJP seeks NIA probe in cracker factory blast in Duttapukur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The BJP has asked for an NIA investigation into the Sunday's Duttapukur cracker factory blast that claimed 10 people and maimed more than a dozen others.

Informing that he had already filed a public interest litigation in the Calcutta High Court, Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Monday said that he had no doubts considering the intensity of the blast that "it was an RDX explosion."

Locals who fished out strewn bodies, severed heads, hands etc from nearby ponds too backed Adhikari's claims saying nothing short of an NIA probe would satisfy them.

Putin...

From Page 1

Both Modi and Putin had attended the BRICS summit, with the Russian leader attending the event remotely. Putin had skipped the BRICS Summit and attended it through a video link as he risks arrest when travelling abroad after the International Criminal Court issued a warrant against him saying he committed war crimes in Ukraine.

Putin had said that Russia wanted to end a war that had been "unleashed by the West and its satellites" in Ukraine. "The West's attempts to punish and isolate Russia financially for sending troops into Ukraine are an illegitimate sanctions practice and illegal freezing of assets of sovereign states, which essentially amounts to them trampling upon all the basic norms and rules of free trade," Putin was quoted as saying by an international news agency.

The G20 summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10.

DATE SET FOR INDIA'S SUN...

From Page 1

According to a top ISRO scientist, the 'Mission to Sun' assumes significance as it would unravel mysteries surrounding space weather. "Every planet, including the Earth, evolves, and this evolution is governed by its parent star.

The environment and solar weather affect the weather of the entire system. It is added that variations in this weather are responsible for changing the orbits of satellites or even shorten their lives, interfere with or damage onboard electronics, and cause power black-outs and other disturbances on the Earth. This is why knowledge of solar events is required to understand space weather," he said.

BJP planning to hold Lok Sabha polls in 2023: Mamata

From Page 1

"They are dominating all the agencies ... they are not even taking Supreme Court orders into consideration ... they have not included any representative of the Supreme Court in the Committee formed to select the members of the Election Commission ... this is utter defiance of the judicial order ... and this they are doing to unleash an autocratic rule in the country," Mamata who has for long been complaining of excesses being committed by the Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation said. Blaming the Centre for

igniting communal disharmony in the country, she said, "They (BJP) have already created widespread disharmony and animosity among the communities ... now if they come to power for the third time then we will turn into a nation of hatred."

BJP leadership could deal a final blow on her family by arresting as big a Trinamool Congress leader as Abhishek Banerjee who besides being her nephew is also the TMC general secretary, Mamata alleged reminding how the ED had conducted a day-long raid in the office of Leaps and Bounds a company owned and

run by the junior Banerjee. "No sooner than he returned from America the ED raided his office and even downloaded some files in the computers there in order to frame him in false cases ... no one knows what kind of files those are," Mamata said.

A case had already been filed with the Calcutta Police against ED and the police have seized the said computers. The ED, however, later claimed that while the raid was on some officer downloaded some personal files for his daughter related to admissions in some educational institutions.

VHP leaders, seers offer prayers at Nuh temples

Nuh wears deserted look; members stopped from holding full-scale religious yatra

PTI ■ NUH (HARYANA)

Amid tight security that included house arrests and restrictions on people entering this communally sensitive Nuh district, some members from Hindu groups offered prayers at key temples on Monday but were stopped from holding a full-scale religious yatra.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad-led organisations had given a call to "resume" the religious yatra that was cut on July 31 when mobs attacked the procession in Nuh. Six people, including two home guards and a cleric, were killed in the communal violence that erupted then in Nuh, and also spread to adjoining areas.

Police made clear that no permission was being given to "complete" the yatra on the last Monday of the holy month of Shraavan, and the organisers too had indicated that they would scale down their plans.

The State Government had

made it clear that local people were free to offer the "jalabhishkek" at the temples on the occasion, but no yatra would be permitted. Barricades were erected on the border of Nuh district, and outsiders kept away. The town itself wore a deserted look.

Earlier in the day, there were reports that some leaders from the Hindutva organisations were detained in adjoining Gurugram. Police did not give the numbers, but said they took action to maintain peace.

Only about 15 seers and leaders from Hindu outfits were allowed to enter the Nuh district. They were taken from the Nuh police lines to the three temples in Nalhar, Jhir and Singar on the original yatra route and brought back in four vehicles.

The distance between the first temple at Nalhar and the third at Singar is about 90 kilometres. A religious leader said about 100 local people accompanied them.



No incident of violence has been reported in Nuh or the adjoining districts till the evening. A video clip, however, surfaced online, purportedly showing a group of people burning an effigy of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar over the restrictions.

Khattar on Sunday asked devotees to offer prayers at temples in their neighbourhood instead of holding any 'yatra'. Permission has not been granted for the 'yatra', he had also said.

Nuh Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata said around 15 seers and leaders of some Hindutva outfits were allowed to visit the Shiv temple in Nalhar to perform 'jalabhishkek' there.

In a statement, he said the 'jalabhishkek' programmes were held peacefully.

"No organisation was allowed to take out processions in the district. 'Jalabhishkek' programmes were conducted peacefully throughout the day by

the locals at Nalhar and Jhir temples," Khadgata said.

Additional Director General of Police (law and order) Mamta Singh said around 15 people were allowed for the 'jalabhishkek' at the three temples in Nalhar, Jhir and Singar.

VHP's working president Alok Kumar, Swami Dharm Dev, Swami Parmanand and others took part in 'jalabhishkek'. It was held peacefully, she said.

After the 'jalabhishkek' at Nalhar, the 'yatra' left for Ferozpur Jhirka's Jhir temple in four vehicles. It ended with the 'jalabhishkek' in the Shiv temple in Singar village.

The permission was given by the district administration. The yatra was held peacefully, Swami Dharma Dev told PTL.

National vice-president of the BJP's minority morcha Chaudhary Zakir Hussain and his wife Naseema Hussain offered prayers at the Nalhar temple. He later released to the media a photo of him at the

temple. Five major checkpoints were set up from the Delhi-Gurugram border until Nuh with media vehicles not being allowed to go beyond the third checkpoint.

According to officials, the vehicle of Hindu seer Jagatguru Paramhans Acharya from Ayodhya was stopped at the Ghamorj toll plaza near Sohna. Acharya told reporters that he and his followers were carrying the water of the Sarayu river and the soil of Ayodhya for the 'jalabhishkek' at Nalhar temple but were stopped by the police.

Meanwhile, Hindu rights leader Kulbhushan Bhardwaj claimed that Hindu leaders have been put under house arrest by the Haryana government.

"This is an attack on the Hindu faith. By putting Hindu leaders under house arrest, the Haryana government has reminded them of the reign of the Mughals," he said. Police personnel were also deployed outside Bhardwaj's house.

Posters asking Muslims to leave come up in Gurugram slum; FIR lodged

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Posters were pasted on the walls of a few shops in a slum here, asking Muslims to leave the place by Monday or face consequences.

The posters came up at a slum in Sector 69 here a day before Monday's call by Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) led groups for a 'shobha yatra' to resume the Brij Mandal Shobha Yatra in Nuh which was disrupted by the communal clashes in July.

In a complaint registered in this regard, Mojed said he found the poster on the wall of his tea shop on Sunday morning.

He alleged that the poster carried the names of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal and asked all Muslims to vacate leave by Monday or be "responsible for their death".



However, the complainant suspected one Asif of falsely planting the poster to threaten him and "incite violence" in the area. The VHP, meanwhile, denied any connection with the posters and demanded action against those trying to defame it.

In his complaint, Mojed, a native of West Bengal who currently resides in the slum area opposite Tulip white society in Sector 69, said he found the poster on the wall of his tea shop on Sunday morning.

Town Hall gets facelift ahead of G20 Summit

Mayor says tourists must witness Capital's heritage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Monday visited the iconic British-era Town Hall and Ghalib ki Haveli in the Walled City and said tourists who will come to Delhi during the G20 Summit time should be able to see the rich heritage of the city.

The over 160-year-old landmark — the original headquarters of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi — has received a basic facelift in the last few months.

Mayor Oberoi accompanied by Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj visited the sprawling heritage building situated in the Chandni Chowk area.

They later also went to the historic Ghalib ki Haveli in Old Delhi's Ballimaran area where poet Mirza Ghalib once lived.

"India is hosting the G20 Summit in Delhi which is a matter of pride for all of us. Roads and parks (under the MCD area) are being cleaned and beautified, and tourists coming here during the G20 Summit time will be able to see the rich heritage of the city and



go back with fond memories," she said.

The summit is slated to be held in the national capital from September 9 to 10.

Oberoi and Bharadwaj also sampled some delicacies of old Delhi and took a rickshaw ride in the pedestrianised stretch of the Chandni Chowk.

Bharadwaj said as this structure was built during the British era, people have an interest in this building and its history. The Town Hall premises include the main building which has lawns on the front and back sides and is flanked by press building and dispensary building, which also have been freshly painted from outside.

Built in yellow-painted

Ensure no encroachment by parking contractor, green body directs authorities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the traffic commissioner concerned and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi authorities to ensure that there is no encroachment upon the open and green cover of a building by the parking contractor in the Laxmi Nagar District Centre.

The NGT was hearing a petition by the Laxmi Nagar DDA Building Office Owner Welfare Society claiming the contractor of the building in the District Centre was not parking the vehicles in the designated place but had instead encroached upon a green open space with a "malafide intention."

A bench of Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, in an order passed last week, noted that the tribunal in April 2023 had formed a joint committee comprising representatives of the DDA, MCD and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action.

The bench also comprising judicial members Justice S K Singh and Justice Arun



Kumar Tyagi along with expert member A Senthil Vel noted the committee's report dated April 27, according to which the parking area had been "temporarily demarcated".

But, according to the report, to ensure there was no encroachment by the contractor, the DDA had to repair the broken fencing, the bench noted.

"The contractor cannot be permitted to encroach upon any area having the green cover.

"Hence, the Traffic Commissioner concerned and the MCD are directed to ensure that no such encroachment by the parking contractor is done and that the parking is done only in the demarcated area," the green panel said.

Two boys sexually assaulted by classmates



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two boys were allegedly sexually assaulted by classmates in northwest Delhi's Samaypur Badli area, police said on Monday.

They said the alleged incident took place in April during a summer camp of a school.

Two boys filed separate complaints with the police alleging that they were sexually assaulted by five to six classmates, police said, adding two cases have been registered in this connection.

All the accused are minors and they were produced before a child welfare committee, police said, adding further investigation is

Atishi objects to LG's approval to DASS cadre restructuring

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Services Minister Atishi has objected to the restructuring of DASS cadre by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena as a "complete violation" of the Supreme Court order and the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2023, in the latest flash-point between the AAP dispensation and Raj Niwas.

Earlier this month, the Lieutenant Governor approved the restructuring of the Delhi Administration Subordinate Services (DASS) cadre fulfilling a long pending demand of officials.

In her letter to the LG on August 20, Atishi objected to the move, citing the Supreme Court verdict on May 11 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Amendment Act, 2023.

"I must state that this turn of events is extremely unfortunate as your approval is in complete violation of the Constitution Bench judgment dated 11.05.2023, as well as the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2023," she said.

Ex-MLA Shokeen gets four-month jail term for ignoring court summons

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court sentenced former MLA Rambeer Shokeen to four months in jail for failing to appear before it despite repeated summons.

The Delhi politician, who was declared a proclaimed offender after this, was an accused in a case related to the running of an organised crime syndicate in the Delhi-NCR region and registered under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). On August 23, he was acquitted of the charges under MCOCA.

While giving Shokeen a jail term in an order passed on August 26, Special judge

Geetanji Goel said it was not a fit case for release on probation.

"Considering the fact that the convict was earlier declared a proclaimed offender and was then arrested and had then again escaped from custody and was declared an absconder and surrendered only after considerable time had lapsed, the present is not a fit case to release the convict on probation," the judge said.

"Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and to meet the ends of justice, it would be reasonable if the convict Rambeer Shokeen is sentenced to simple imprisonment for a period of four months," Goel added.

Delhi Village Development Board sanctions 167 schemes worth ₹115 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Village Development Board on Monday sanctioned 167 schemes to develop roads, drainage systems, community facilities, green spaces, and sports infrastructure in rural areas, according to an official statement.

A total of Rs 115.52 crore will be spent on works to be undertaken under these schemes, it said.

Delhi minister Gopal Rai, who chairs the board, also issued strict directions to ensure timely completion of all village-centric projects.

Domestic help hangs herself at her employer's house in Ghazipur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old domestic help allegedly hanged herself at the house of her employer in east Delhi's Ghazipur area, police said on Monday.

The police have registered a case under section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on the complaint of the mother of the deceased.

At 6.20 am on Saturday, police got a PCR call that the domestic help of the caller hanged herself in her room, a senior police officer said.

The police reached the spot and found the girl, identified as Neha, a resident of



Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi district, hanging from a ceiling fan with a scarf, the officer said.

No suicide note was found, the police said, adding the body was taken to LBS hospital and the family members of the deceased were informed.

They came late in the evening, the police said.

Court convicts man for abetment to suicide of MBBS student in 2012

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Pudukcherry court has sentenced a local resident S Pradeep to five years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with the suicide of MBBS fourth-year student Priyadarshini with whom he was in a relationship, officials said here on Monday.

The case was handed over to the CBI on the orders of the Madras High Court on a petition of the mother of the Priyadarshini. The medical student had hung herself on the night of May 16, 2012, in her hostel room, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) found that Priyadarshini was in love with

Pradeep who had started avoiding her leading to cropping up of differences between them, they said. "It was also alleged that the accused had sent an SMS to the victim casting aspersions on her character, which proved to be the breaking point and led to Priyadarshini committing suicide on the fateful late evening/night of May 16, 2012, by hanging from the ceiling fan in her hostel room," CBI Spokesperson said here.

He said the SMS was recovered by the Forensic Science Department (FSD), Chennai, from the mobile phone of Priyadarshini after which the CBI filed a charge sheet on November 24, 2017, against Pradeep.



Illuminated Pragati Maidan at the venue of G20 Summit in New Delhi on Monday

AIIMS doctors save baby mid-flight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a new lease of life to a toddler who had stopped breathing mid-air onboard a Bengaluru-Delhi Vistara flight, a group of five doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi saved the two-year-old infant on Sunday, by administering emergency medical treatment.

The incident took place on Sunday night when a group of five senior doctors of AIIMS was returning to Delhi after attending a medical event in Bengaluru. They were onboard the Vistara flight UK-814.

The hospital shared the medical miracle on the microblogging site X (formerly Twitter). "While returning from ISVIR- on board Bangalore to Delhi flight today evening, in Vistara Airline



flight UK-814. A distress call was announced," the hospital wrote.

"It was a 2-year-old cyanotic female child who was operated outside for intracardiac repair, was unconscious and cyanosed," it further said.

Following the call, five doctors who have been identified — Dr. Navdeep Kaur, Dr.

"On air- Immediate CPR was started and with limited resources, using skilled work and active management by the team.

Successfully IV cannulas were placed, an oropharyngeal airway was put and an emergency response was initiated by the whole team of residents on board- and the baby was brought to ROSC- the return of circulation," it said.

For around 45 minutes, the baby was resuscitated and flight was routed to Nagpur as it was complicated by another cardiac arrest for which an AED was used, AIIMS Delhi further wrote. "On reaching Nagpur, the child was handed over in stable hemodynamic to the pediatrician," the AIIMS post added.

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Another jolt to INDIA's unity

AAP announces 2025 electoral foray in Bihar

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI



torious in the last assembly polls.

Sources close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that as of now the senior JDU leader is not miffed up with the AAP's move as his entire focus is on the two days Opposition meeting at Mumbai, his deputy in the Bihar government RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav is to discuss the AAP's 'venture kind' of politics which may be damaging to only the Opposition members.

AAP Rajiya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak said that his

party is making the organisation strong in the State of Bihar, but will fight Lok Sabha polls under the banner of the India coalition.

Though Pathak added that further strategies for the Lok Sabha polls will be discussed in the Opposition's alliance meeting in Mumbai.

Reacting to AAP's statement RJD MP Manoj Jha said when the foundation of the India alliance was being laid down some principles were formed which needs to be kept in

"There was a detailed talk held about these principles. Keeping aside this statement, I think they (AAP) will adhere to those principles."

Interestingly, when Congress was reluctant to take on board AAP in the Opposition India bloc then it was Nitish Kumar and his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee who convinced Congress to include Kejriwal in the making of India bloc at Patna followed by Bengaluru.

The AAP had attended both the meetings and has announced to participate in the third but a couple of political parties including Congress, Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena now feels that Kejriwal's move could be intentional.

"This is a deliberate move by AAP just two days before the Mumbai meeting. Bihar elections are next year then what the point to announce it now was. Congress is already

watching Kejriwal that has dented the party both in Delhi as well as Punjab and was successful in arm-twisting the Congress to seek support in Parliament to support the Delhi services Bill," said a senior Congress leader.

Ironically, Home minister Amit Shah had in a way predicted the development earlier this month in Parliament. While the Delhi Services Bill was passed with NDA receiving support from neutral parties such as the BJD and YSR Congress, Amit Shah had observed in his speech, "I want to tell Congress that after this bill (on Delhi services) is passed, they (AAP) are not going to enter into any alliance with you".

Kejriwal had threatened to back out of the second meeting of the united Opposition that was held in Bengaluru last month if the Congress did not promise to oppose the Bill in the Upper House.

Shah chairs Western Zonal Council meet, opens portal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday chaired a meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Gandhinagar where nine issues out of the 17 were resolved.

The Western Zonal Council comprises Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, an official release said.

Shah also inaugurated an e-Resource web portal <https://iscs-eresource.gov.in> of Inter State Council Secretariat under the Union Home Ministry. This portal will facilitate functioning of Zonal Councils.



the States in the Western Zone, Union Home Secretary, Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat and other senior officers from the States and Central Ministries and Departments.

In his remarks, the Union Home Minister said that in the last nine years, with his foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only given a new direction to India's space sector, but has made a time-bound program and framework to take India to the fore-

front of the world in the field of space by year 2030, an official release said. On the Home Minister's call, all members of the Western Zonal Council applauded the entire team of scientists behind Chandrayaan Mission.

During the meeting, a total of 17 issues, out of which nine issues were resolved and remaining issues, including those concerning national interest, were kept for monitoring after in-depth discussion.

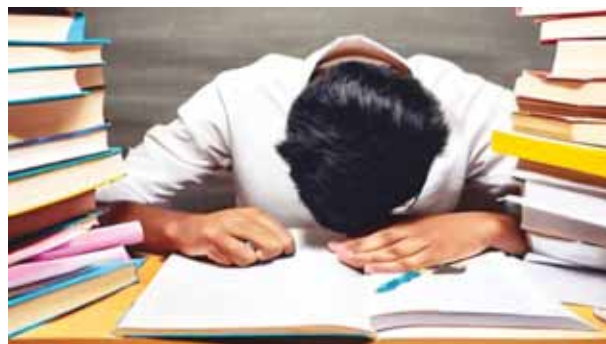
Rajasthan Govt steps in to contain Kota student suicides

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOTA/JAIPUR

Reports of suicide cases almost every alternate day by the medical entrance aspirants in coaching hub Kota in Rajasthan has caused alarm bells and the State Government has now pitched in to draw lines to contain such cases.

Two students, preparing for competitive exams in Kota, allegedly committed suicide on Sunday, in a span of four hours. According to authorities, 22 students have ended their lives so far in 2023 — the highest for any year. Last year, the figure was 15.

A day after two NEET aspirants committed suicide, Rajasthan Education Secretary Bhawani Singh Detha held a meeting with Kota collector and other officials through video conference in which



representatives of coaching institutes and hostel association too attended.

After the urgent meeting on Monday, authorities asked coaching institutes to stop conducting routine tests of students preparing for NEET and other competitive exams for the next two months in the wake of suicides by a number of aspirants.

Kota district collector O P Bunkar, in an order, asked the

coaching institutes to stop holding routine tests for the next two months. He said the directions were passed to provide "mental support" to students.

The reason behind the suicides is that the aspirants were apparently under pressure for scoring low marks during routine tests conducted by the coaching centres and then the peer pressure from the parents to perform.

India, Bangladesh review ties in 5th Annual Defence Dialogue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral defence ties on Monday in Dhaka during the fifth Annual Defence Dialogue. Both the sides agreed to increase the complexity of bilateral exercises.

Giving details of the talks, defence ministry officials said here, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, who is on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on August 27-28, co-chaired the meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart Lt General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division.

The Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Bangladesh is the highest institutionalized interactive mechanism between both the countries.

In the dialogue, both the countries highlighted its significance in chartering the future course of the relations between the two Armed Forces.

During the meeting, the ongoing defence cooperation activities between the two



countries were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction at the increasing defence cooperation engagements. The talks covered the existing bilateral exercises and both sides agreed to increase the complexity of these exercises.

Aramane and Waker-Uz-Zaman acknowledged the fruitful dialogue and stressed that both countries look forward to continued engagement based on the common understanding reached at the fifth Annual Defence Dialogue.

The Armed Forces of both countries continue to seek bilateral cooperation in multiple fields and the increased engagements are a positive sign for the future of the relations of both countries.

Chapter on National War Memorial included in NCERT curriculum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to inculcate values of patriotism and devotion to duty among school children, a chapter on National War Memorial — 'A Homage to our Brave Soldiers' — has been included in the NCERT curriculum of Class VII from this year.

Making this announcement here on Monday, defence ministry officials said the objective of this initiative, jointly undertaken by Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education, is to inculcate the values of patriotism, devotion to duty and courage and sacrifice among school children and increase the participation of youth in nation building.

The chapter highlights the history, significance and concept of National War Memorial (NWM), in addition to the supreme sacrifice made by the bravehearts of the Armed Forces in the service of the nation post-Independence.

In the chapter, two friends exchange letters and share their feelings of gratitude for



the freedom they enjoy due to the sacrifices made by the bravehearts.

Deep emotional impact and connect, which arises in minds and hearts of the children as they visit the iconic monument, have been brought out creatively by the authors of NCERT.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had dedicated the NWM to the nation on February 25, 2019 in New Delhi. It was set up to inculcate a sense of sacrifice and national spirit among the people and pay a befitting tribute to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives defending the nation.

Kenyan Defence Secretary in India, to hold talks with Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Aden Bare Duale arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit to India. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hold talks with him on Tuesday to review their ties.

Giving details of the Kenyan dignitary's schedule, defence ministry officials said here, he is expected to visit Indian shipyards and defence industries in Goa and Bengaluru during his stay.

This is the maiden visit of Cabinet Secretary Duale to India and the highest level stand-alone political visit from Kenya since the new government assumed office in September 2022. The visit is indicative of the importance India attaches to its relations with African nations and the growing cooperation between India and Kenya, in particular.

It is expected to open new avenues for further strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries, they said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Dilip Kumar Nayak/ Purba Nayak/ Flat No.101, Harsha Enclave, Nagavrapalya Vishwa Vihar, Rahat Nagar, Cv Ramnagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, Bangalore, 560093/ LBLUC00002039161	Flat No.804, 8th Floor, Tower Ldi 16 The Kove, Sector 25 Jaypee Greens Sports, City Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	06/05/2023 Rs. 1,11,219/-	09/12/2022
2.	Dilip Kumar Nayak/ Purba Nayak/ Flat No.101, Harsha Enclave, Nagavrapalya Vishwa Vihar, Rahat Nagar, Cv Ramnagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, Bangalore, 560093/ LBLUC0000209833	Flat No.804, 8th Floor, Tower Ldi 16 The Kove, Sector 25 Jaypee Greens Sports, City Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	06/05/2023 Rs. 5,65,528/-	09/12/2022
3.	Kapil Ranaj Anjana Rana/ A-86 Sector-19, Rajnigandha Crossing, Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida- 201301/ LBMRT00002893889	Plot No D-79, European State Colony, Revenue Village Nanglatashi Kasampur, Kanker Khera, Pargana Tehsil & District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	25/05/2023 Rs. 21,63,351/-	06/03/2023
4.	Kapil Ranaj Anjana Rana/ A-86 Sector-19, Rajnigandha Crossing, Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida- 201301/ LBMRT00002921251	Plot No D-79, European State Colony, Revenue Village Nanglatashi Kasampur, Kanker Khera, Pargana Tehsil & District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	25/05/2023 Rs. 17,05,744/-	06/03/2023
5.	Sarita Saini/ Tej Singh/ Anil Kumar Saini/ 99 First Floor, Hewo Apartment Sector 31, Sector 31 40, Haryana Gurgaon- 122003/ LBSAH00004688810	House at Nagar Nigam No. 3/7731, Mohalla Sukkhpura, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh Saharanpur	29/04/2023 Rs. 54,55,248/-	3/02/2023
6.	Suraj Prasad/ Murti Devi/ Plot No.413 Second Floor, Back Side Lotus Line Esidents Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad-201014/ LBDEH00005995398	Flat No-E-204, 2nd Floor, Tower-D, Resizone Residency, Part of Khata No.422 (Fasil 1420 To 1425), Khasra No. 124 Gha (old 231, 232, 233, and 234), Situated At Mauza Kandoli, Pargana Parwadoun, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand Dehradun	29/04/2023 Rs. 1,26,491/-	11/03/2022
7.	Suraj Prasad/ Murti Devi/ Plot No.413 Second Floor, Back Side Lotus Line Esidents Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad-201014/ LBDEH0000582584	Flat No-E-204, 2nd Floor, Tower-D, Resizone Residency, Part of Khata No.422 (Fasil 1420 To 1425), Khasra No. 124 Gha (old 231, 232, 233, and 234), Situated At Mauza Kandoli, Pargana Parwadoun, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand Dehradun	29/04/2023 Rs. 83,44,624/-	11/03/2022
8.	M/s. Sambah Chemicals and Oils Private Limited/ Rajesh Kumar Singh/ Awadesh Prasad Singh/ 4th Km Rampur Road, Besides Kavisha Motors Pvt Ltd Uttar Pradesh Bareilly- 243001/ LBBAR00001989466	Apartment No. GD10193503 35th Floor, Tower 19 Garden Isles Jaypee Greens Uttar Pradesh Noida	27/04/2023 Rs. 35,26,140/-	31/10/2022
9.	M/s. Sambah Chemicals and Oils Private Limited/ Rajesh Kumar Singh/ Awadesh Prasad Singh/ 4th Km Rampur Road, Besides Kavisha Motors Pvt Ltd Uttar Pradesh Bareilly- 243001/ LBBAR00001989467	Apartment No. GD10193604, 36th Floor, Tower 19 Garden Isles Situated at Jaypee Greens Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201301	27/04/2023 Rs. 35,30,155/-	31/10/2022
10.	M/s. Sambah Chemicals and Oils Private Limited/ Rajesh Kumar Singh/ Awadesh Prasad Singh/ 4th Km Rampur Road, Besides Kavisha Motors Pvt Ltd Uttar Pradesh Bareilly- 243001/ LBBAR00001989464	Apartment No. GD10193504 35th Floor, Tower 19 Garden Isles Jaypee Greens Uttar Pradesh Noida	27/04/2023 Rs. 35,35,203/-	31/10/2022
11.	Atul Katayvan/ Sanjeev Kumar Sharma/ 110 Johra, Uttar Pradesh Muzaffarnagar- 251203/ LBMUZ00006188589	Part of House No Old 56 and Hall No.54, Kailash Puri, Uttar Pradesh Meerut- 250001	03/06/2023 Rs. 73,635/-	01/03/2023
12.	Gauri Shankar/ Roshni/ Radha Enclave Face 2 Moozanaholi Mathura Uttar Pradesh Mathura- 281004/ LBMAT00005051111	Plot No 73 And 74, Khasra No 361, Raddha Enclave Colony Phase II, Mauza Narholi Andron, Tehsil & District Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.	13/07/2023 Rs. 6,91,206/-	15/03/2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : August 29, 2023 Place : Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110007

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that ANIL KUMAR/ DEVANTI SINGH (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00002173247 located at FLAT NO E/UH-704, 7TH FLOOR, TOWER-E ADITYA URBAN HOMES, VILLAGE SHAHPUR BHAMETA, PARGANA DASNA NH-24, GHAZIABAD. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated June 08, 2023, informing that UH REALCON PRIVATE LIMITED has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: August 29, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited Place: Delhi



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Syed Hasan Iqbal Abidi, S/o. Syed Ibne Hasan Abidi, R/o. D-17, 1st Floor, Saket, New Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Syed Hasan Iqbal Abidi. Also my father's correct name is Syed Ibne Hasan Abidi for all future purposes. PD(144)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Navneet Sidhu, Sumit Kumar Jakhar, 408, Village Kakkra, Kandiala Kakkra Karyala, Tarn Taran, Punjab, A/C No. LBZMO00005998011	Apartment No. 8219, 8th Floor, Tower No-g, City Of Dreams-1, Comprised In Knewat Khatauni No. 168/172, Khasra No. 36/20(6-19), 36/21(7-12), 37/11(6(8-0)), 37/11(7(3-13)), 37/25(2(3-0)), As Per Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Situated At Village Sante Majra, Hadbasat No. 186, Tehsil Kharar, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Mohali, Punjab	22/07/2023 Rs. 20,16,346/-	15/04/2023
2.	Navneet Sidhu, Sumit Kumar Jakhar, 408, Village Kakkra, Kandiala Kakkra Karyala, Tarn Taran, Punjab, A/C No. LBZMO00005998150	Apartment No. 8219, 8th Floor, Tower No-g, City Of Dreams-1, Comprised In Knewat Khatauni No. 168/172, Khasra No. 36/20(6-19), 36/21(7-12), 37/11(6(8-0)), 37/11(7(3-13)), 37/25(2(3-0)), As Per Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Situated At Village Sante Majra, Hadbasat No. 186, Tehsil Kharar, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Mohali, Punjab	22/07/2023 Rs. 15,05,521/-	15/04/2023
3.	Navneet Sidhu, Sumit Kumar Jakhar, 408, Village Kakkra, Kandiala Kakkra Karyala, Tarn Taran, Punjab, A/C No. LBCHD00006131228	Apartment No. 8219, 8th Floor, Tower No-g, City Of Dreams-1, Comprised In Knewat Khatauni No. 168/172, Khasra No. 36/20(6-19), 36/21(7-12), 37/11(6(8-0)), 37/11(7(3-13)), 37/25(2(3-0)), As Per Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Situated At Village Sante Majra, Hadbasat No. 186, Tehsil Kharar, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Mohali, Punjab	22/07/2023 Rs. 57,615/-	15/04/2023
4.	Pjybir Singh, Manjit Kaur, Pjyria Nanda, Talwinder Singh, House No. 23, New Dashmesh Avenue, Street No. 2, Kot Khalsa, Amritsar, Punjab, A/C No. LBAMT00005694121	Property House Private No. 443, Khasra No. 88/35, 36 Min., Khata Khatauni No. 1342/1822, 1319/1797, Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Hadbasat No. 368, Situated At Village Kala Ghanpur Sub Urban, Abadi Areamt City New Abadi Ghanpur, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Punjab	09/08/2023 Rs. 12,52,551/-	08/04/2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : August 29, 2023 Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Shortage of anti-TB drugs in India worries survivors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

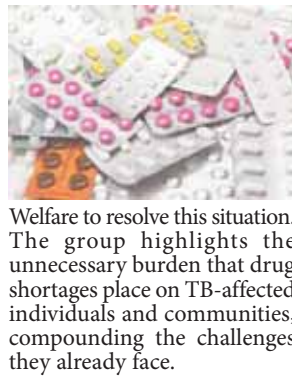
At a time when India is leaving no stone unturned to achieve the target of eliminating tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the global target, reports of shortage of vital anti-TB drugs across different parts of the country does not augur well for the health of the patients afflicted with the deadly disease, Survivors Against TB (SATB), a collective of TB survivors, experts, and advocates, has said.

It has written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to address the alarming shortage of TB medicines citing reports.

"Reports have surfaced indicating a severe shortage of essential anti-TB medications, including Linezolid, Clofazimine, Cycloserine, in Government Hospitals and private pharmacies in Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, and potentially other states. This crisis, initially brought to light by patient advocates and news reports, is raising concerns about a possible nationwide crisis affecting TB patients' access to crucial medications," said the group in the letter.

These medications are critical components of TB treatment regimens, especially for Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB). The reported shortage, observed since June 2023, has the potential to endanger the health and well-being of patients who rely on these medications for their TB treatment.

SATB is urging swift and immediate action from the Ministry of Health and Family



Welfare to resolve this situation. The group highlights the unnecessary burden that drug shortages place on TB-affected individuals and communities, compounding the challenges they already face.

"India, often referred to as the 'pharmacy of the world', has made significant commitments to eliminating TB. However, the current drug shortages undermine these efforts, hinder the availability of crucial medications and impact citizens' right to health," said Ashna Ashesh, MDR TB survivor, lawyer, public health professional and SATB fellow.

To address this crisis, SATB is requesting the Ministry to conduct a comprehensive national investigation into the drug shortages and the distribution of drugs nearing their expiry date; ensure the rapid procurement and distribution of Linezolid, Clofazimine, and Cycloserine to government hospitals and private pharmacies. There is also a need to establish a robust mechanism for drug forecasting to prevent future shortages and ensure a continuous supply of essential anti-TB medications, it said.

"SATB firmly believes that with timely and decisive action, this crisis can be averted, ensuring that TB affected individuals receive the person-centred care they deserve," added Chapal Mehra, Convenor SATB.

Lakhs throng Kashi Vishwanath Temple to see Rudraksh Shringar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

One of the dwadasa jyotirlingas Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) was decorated with Rudraksh Shringar on the eight and last Monday in this 'adimas' (extra month) extended auspicious month of Shravan. Amidst tight security arrangements, lakhs of devotees including thousands of saffron-clad kanwariyas offered jalabhishek at the KVT. Like the previous seven Mondays of Shravan when the devotees saw the Shringar (decoration) of Lord Vishwanath in the Swaroop (forms) of Chal Pratima, Gauri Shankar, Amrit Varsha, Bhagirathi, Tapasyarat Parvati, Shankar Parvati Ganesh and Ardhnarishwar, this time the temple premises was decorated with Rudraksh, one of the most favourite articles of Lord Shiva. As Shravan month will conclude on August 31, the devotees can have a darshan of annual Jhula Shringar on the last day.

Religious fervour gripped this entire city of Lord Shiva on this occasion and right from the wee hours, there were long lines of devotees from Dashaswamedh ghat via Godowlia side and Maidagin. As the water level of river Ganga was still at a high level, the devotees faced it tough to have a holy dip in this sacred river and all



Rush of devotees at Kashi Vishwanath Temple on last Monday of Shravan month in Varanasi.

activities were closely watched by NDRF and Water Police personnel. In view of the heavy rush, elaborate security arrangements were made and no vehicles were allowed to move between Godowlia and Maidagin throughout the day.

To maintain law and order, the

devotees were checked at many places through metal detectors. Senior administrative and police officers were present there to keep watch on the stock of situation in Kashi Vishwanath Corridor (KVC) premises. All the activities were also watched through various CCTV cameras. To avoid congregation the

devotees were asked to move towards Gyanvapi only through barricading and Rapid Action Force (RAF), para-military and PAC jawans were deployed both inside and outside of the premises.

Besides, a good number of devotees also went to Panchkoshi Parikarma

Yatra as due to 'adimas', its religious importance has been increased. A heavy rush of devotees was seen at all the Shiva temples located on Panchkoshi Marg including Karmadeshwar Mahadev, Bhim Chandi, Rameshwar Mahadev, Panch Pandava and Kapildhara. Not only this, the entire city and its outskirts were echoed with the slogans of 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Bol Bom'.

Heavy rush of devotees was also seen at Markandey Mahadev Temple located near Varanasi-Ghazipur highway about 25 kms from here near the confluence of rivers Ganga and Gomti at Kaithi village apart from all famous Shiva temples including Mahamritunjya Mahadev (Daranagar), Gauri Kedareswar (Kedar Ghat), Jogeshwar Mahadev (Ishwargangi), Omkleshwar Mahadev (Chittanpura), Teel Bhandeshwar (Pandey Haveli), Sarangnath Mahadev (Sarnath) and many others in the city areas.

Apart from these famous temples, rush of devotees was also seen at Vishwanath temple in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) premises and Shool Tankeshwar Mahadev and scores of all others as the city is famous for having the replicas of all the dwadasa jyotirlingas.

Vidyut Samvida Mazdoor Sangh to stage agitation

VARANASI (PNS): The Purvanchal Vidyut Samvida Mazdoor Sangh, a unit of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), affiliated to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will hold an agitation on September 27 at Eco Garden in Lucknow in protest against the faulty and oppressive policy of the state government. It was decided in the meeting of Sangh held at Englishia Line here on Sunday. The office-bearers of the organisation have appealed to the members to participate in the agitation in large number.

The chief Guest of the meeting Dr Doodhnath said that today, there was a time to recall the principles, objectives and policies behind forming the BMS and also to take a pledge to strengthen it by extending the organisational structure. The BMS is the first labour organisation of India which was formed on the basis of nationalism ideology, he said, adding that it is not a unit of any political party and rather, it is an

independent and non-political organisation of labourers, for the labourers and run by labourers which is active for interest of nation, industry and labourers. The exploitation of contractual basis employees has increased particularly in the Electricity department of the state, he blamed and informed that so, it was decided that the Purvanchal Vidyut Samvida Mazdoor Sangh will hold an agitation at Eco Garden in Lucknow on September 27 to raise its protest against the faulty and oppressive policy of the state government. The principal secretary of Sambhag of the organisation Ramkrishna Gupta said that the BMS aims to instill a sense of nationalism among labourers, unite them, servicing to the humanity, protect the interest of downtrodden, deprived and suppressive people and added that the labour community is the society on which the economic progress depends. He called upon the members of the organisation to participate in the agitation in large number.

Union Minister inspects biogas plant



Union Fertiliser Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya planting a sapling in biogas plant premises in Varanasi on Sunday evening.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inspected the biogas plant premises at Shahanshahpur under Arajiline development block here on Sunday evening. This bio-dung gas plant has been built under the Govardhan scheme. During his inspection, Dr Mandaviya said that it is very important to change with time. "Today, gas is also generated from the biogas plant and manure is also made from slurry, which is very useful for farming," he said.

He said that due to the use of chemicals and fertilisers, there has been stability in crop production. "Its use also deteriorates the health of the soil. In such a situation, the use of organic and manure increases the productivity of the crop and the health of the soil also remains good. With the help of

this biogas plant, farmers can increase their productivity. Biogas plants can develop the rural economy. At the same time, our import dependence in terms of fuel from such a project will also end," he said, adding that with this good thinking, the Govardhan project is being implemented in the whole country.

"A model will come out of this project which will help the agriculture sector as well and will be of sustainable development," he said. During the visit, the Union Minister also planted saplings in the plant premises at the end. UP Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, SDM (Rajatalab) Shailendra Kumar Mishra, Plant Head Sanjay Ranjan Das, Adani CSR Manager Vikas Singh and others were also present.

Kajri Mahotsav inaugurated




PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh, along with Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, inaugurated the Kajri Mahotsav organised by Municipal Corporation in association with some social organisations of Kashi at Rudraksh International Convention Centre (RICC) at Sigra on Sunday evening by lighting the lamp.

Eminent veteran vocalist Padma Vibhushan Pandit Chhannulal Mishra was also present in the programme. The guests were welcomed by Mayor Ashok Tiwari. The teams of Revati, Urmila, Padmashree Rajeshwar Acharya, Srinath Mishra etc enthralled the audience presenting a variety of Kajri, a traditional song of this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP).

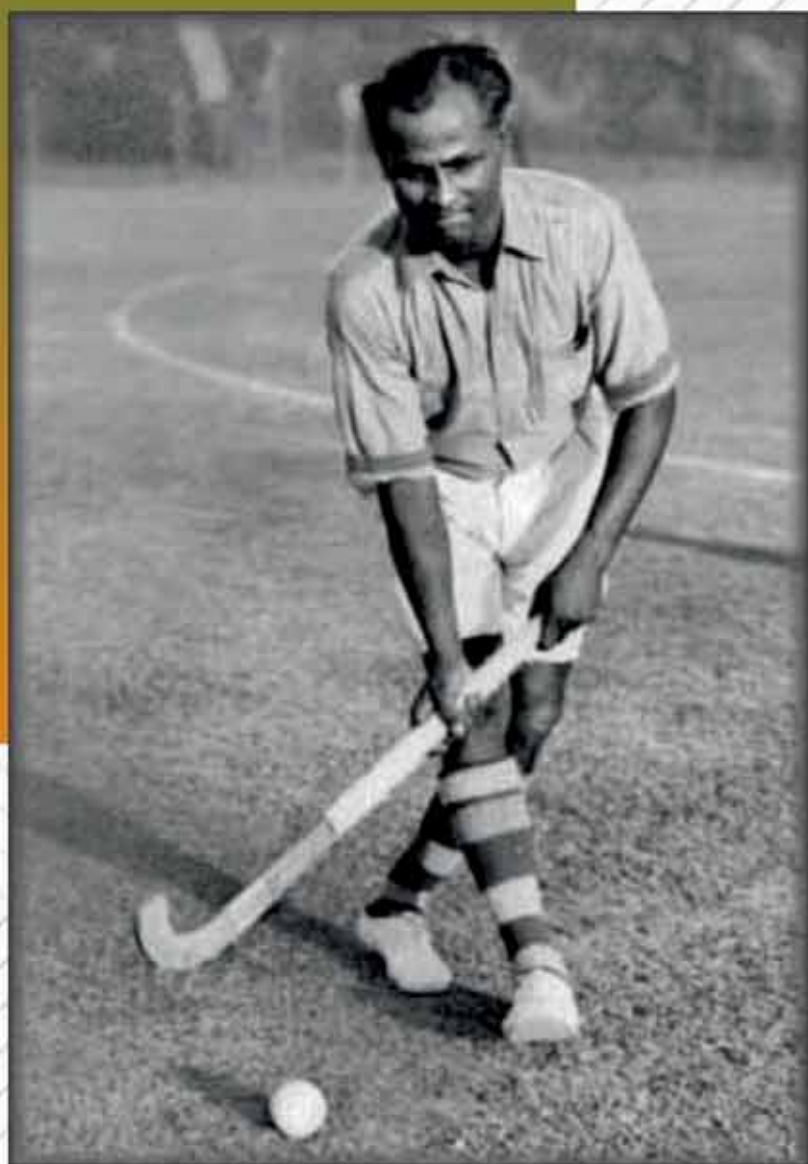
Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Ahijat, Principal Secretary (Tourism and Culture) Mukesh Meshram, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Commissioner of Police (CP) Mutha Ashok Jain, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, former MLC Brijesh Singh, MLA Awadhesh Singh etc were also present in the programme.


Earlier, Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra visited Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) and offered prayers at Maa Vagdevi Temple on the university campus. While congratulating the new Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Bihari Lal Sharma, the CS expressed hope that under the leadership of the new V-C, the reforms going on in the SSU would be done further. Interacting with the students who participated in the G20 debate, the CS said that today is the time of renaissance for our country and gave the example of Mission Chandrayaan. Describing the eternal tradition of India, Vedas etc, he said that the library has hidden knowledge like a gold mine. While inspecting the campus, Mishra expressed happiness over the work done so far and directed for further improvements. He directed the concerned personnel to do more work on cleanliness. He also interacted with the children living in the hostels and inquired about their native places. He directed the Vice-Chancellor to make every effort to make Sanskrit accessible to all. He was accompanied by Principal Secretary (Higher Education) MP Agrawal, Principal Secretary (Tourism) Mukesh Meshram and others.

Heartiest Greetings on the Birth Anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand Ji & National Sports Day


29th August, 2023






“Greetings on National Sports Day and tributes to Major Dhyan Chand Ji on his birth anniversary. The recent years have been great for sports. May this trend continue. May sports keep gaining popularity across India.”

- Narendra Modi



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Golden boy

Neeraj Chopra has emerged as an ace athlete with an indomitable spirit and calibre extraordinaire

Neeraj Chopra has done it again! He achieved another historic feat on Sunday, becoming the first Indian athlete to win a World Athletics Championships gold medal during the men's javelin throw final event in Budapest. Chopra's second attempt in the final saw his javelin reach 88.17 metres. It was indeed a historic moment that reverberated far beyond the boundaries of the sporting arena; Chopra etched his name in golden letters by clinching victory at the World Javelin Throw Championship. The young Indian athlete's remarkable achievement not only brought glory to the nation but also marked a defining milestone in his personal journey and the sport of athletics as a whole. Chopra's victory was more than just a gold medal; it was a testament to his unwavering dedication, unyielding discipline and exceptional skill. His journey from a small village in Haryana to the world stage is a story of resilience and hard work that has the power to inspire aspiring athletes across the globe. Chopra's success was not just about winning a gold medal; it was about breaking barriers and shattering ceilings. He became the first Indian athlete to clinch gold in the javelin throw event at the World Championship, showcasing not only his brilliance but also the potential of India's sporting talent, especially from small towns. The feat is sure to inspire millions of youth in rural India who dream of making it big.



Here, it must be mentioned that it wasn't an easy feat as the reigning Olympic gold medallist didn't have the ideal start as he reached only 79m in his first throw. He was not happy with the attempt and decided

to not register the score. But with huge crowd support and by keeping his nerves, he threw the javelin to land in history. Interestingly, he was brimming with confidence as he began celebrating even before the javelin could land. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem (who happens to be an admirer of Neeraj) finished second. Chopra, the current No. 1 in the javelin world rankings, had won the Olympic gold in Tokyo 2020 but finished with a silver at the Worlds in Eugene last year. The only other Indian to win a medal at the 'Worlds' was Anju Bobby George, who took bronze in the women's long jump in 2003 in Paris. India's superstar javelin thrower also became only the third in history to simultaneously hold the Olympics and World Championships titles in the sport, after the iconic Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic and Andreas Thorkildsen of Norway. Chopra's achievements are not his alone, as he has said several times, it is for the nation. In a cute little way, he thanked India for staying awake late to see him throw the javelin. Neeraj Chopra is the kind of a person new India should look up to for inspiration. The nation must feel proud of his achievements. Indeed, the Prime Minister echoed the national sentiment when he congratulated Neeraj Chopra. He is a true role model. Good luck superstar!

PICTALK



An artist from Gurukul School of Art makes a painting of athlete Neeraj Chopra, in Mumbai

Rework relations with Myanmar

Given the changed dynamics in Myanmar, supporting the Military regime appears to be a lost cause as its decline and fall are inevitable



DEEPAK SINHA

Often, we fail to see the forest for the trees. Manipur is one such example. Our focus on the trouble there has been so intense that we have all but ignored the bigger picture of what is happening in the neighbourhood, especially Myanmar, which is deeply embroiled in the happenings in Manipur and the North East in general.

Ever since it gained Independence in 1948, Myanmar has had a very chequered history with the military having intervened on numerous occasions. The coup of 1962 set the stage for the military to assume power, which it has never relinquished fully, despite a nominal return to democracy following the uprising of 1988 and again in 2010 that led to the formation of civilian-led governments. Once again in the General Elections of 2020, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won a clear majority, but its government was overthrown by the military Junta led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing which continues to rule.

The major ethnic group in Myanmar are the Bamar who constitute nearly 68% of the population, who mainly live in the vast central and coastal plains of the country. Numerous other ethnic groups make up the rest of the population, among which the Shan, Kachin and Chin are the more populous ethnicities that mainly live in the hilly regions, bordering Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh. In fact, before Independence, the Panglong Agreement was negotiated between General Aung San, the leader of Burma, and the Shan, Kachin and Chin leaders.

The Agreement provided for full autonomy for areas inhabited by these ethnic minorities, with the option to secede ten years after Independence. However General Aung San was assassinated in July 1947, just six months before Independence, and the Agreement was never honoured by his successor President U Nu. This, along with an insurgency fomented by the Communist Party of Burma (CPB) with the support of Communist China, have been the main drivers of the



civil war that has raged since then. This was also the major reason for the deep divide between the ethnic minorities and the Bamar majority.

However, the rebellion following the coup of 2021 is substantively different from the past resistance that the Myanmar military has faced. For the first time, the majority Bamar population has allied itself with other rebellious ethnic groups to defeat the military Junta because of the atrocities that it has also been subjected to. The rebellion has coalesced with ethnic militias and political parties joining under the umbrella organisation, the National Unity Government (NUG), led by deposed Members of Parliament.

The fact that the Junta-led Myanmar Armed Forces draws much of its numbers from the Bamar community makes it particularly vulnerable in the present round of conflict as it is finding it extremely difficult to recruit soldiers. As a result, by some accounts, the Junta controls only the major population centres and between 40-60% of the countryside. In the past three years over 23000 civilians have been killed, approximately 1.6 million internally displaced and around 55000 have

WE SHARE, APPROXIMATELY, A 1700 KM LONG BORDER WITH MYANMAR WITH AROUND 135 ETHNIC GROUPS LIVING ON BOTH SIDES, THE MAIN ONES BEING THE NAGA, MEITEI AND KUKI, THOUGH KNOWN BY DIFFERENT NAMES

fled to neighbouring countries, mainly India. This has adversely impacted its economy.

We share, approximately, a 1700 Km long border with Myanmar with around 135 ethnic groups living on both sides, the main ones being the Naga, Meitei and Kuki, though known by different names. For them, tribal loyalties and families on both sides of the border make it an artificial construct. A fact recognised by both governments which have mutually allowed free movement of people up to 16 Km on either side. This makes the border porous and whatever occurs on one side invariably impacts the other.

Not surprisingly, the troubles in Myanmar have led to approximately 45000 refugees seeking shelter here, mainly in Mizoram and Manipur, as the Kuki, Chin and Zo tribes have shared ethnicity. This aspect is also reflected in the ongoing internal conflict in Manipur in which the Kuki community has been targeted by the Meitei majority on grounds of alleged illegal immigration by the Chins and their involvement in poppy cultivation. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the Meiteis in Myanmar are allied with the Chinese-supported Junta, while the Chins are arraigned

against them. If that were not enough, we have elements within the Naga and Meitei population that have been fighting for secession for decades.

In the circumstances, our siding with the Myanmar Military over the years was understandable as it ensured they didn't add to our troubles by supporting secessionist elements here.

However, given the changed dynamics in Myanmar, supporting the Military Junta appears to be a lost cause as its decline and fall are inevitable in the long run. Till the situation stabilises, which is possible only after the military is removed, our act East policy is a non-starter. While we will face some difficulties in the interim, it is time for us to change horses and focus on supporting the NUG. In any case, the increasing presence of rebel forces in the Sagaing Region, bordering India, suggests the decreasing influence of the Army, and in turn, its ability to support elements inimical to us.

(The author, a military veteran, is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INHUMANE TREATMENT

Sir — Great Britain has not become great by shedding sweat and hard work. Rather, by establishing a colony of five hundred years, they enslaved dozens of countries from North America to the Caribbean islands, then to Africa, Asia and the Pacific Ocean. They exploited them, tormented crores of people through apartheid and racial discrimination. They looted their priceless heritage. Not only this, when the slave countries became free one by one, the British continued racial discrimination, sprinkling poison on people of foreign origin living in Britain.

Just like a revelation has come to the fore. Little did the world know if Taiwo Owatemi, the UK's opposition Labour Party's MP from Coventry, she is also Shadow Minister for Women and Equality, in 1969 called for a statutory inquiry into the medical research under which 21 Indian-origin women were fed chapatis containing radioactive isotopes to combat iron deficiency.

After that those women were completely forgotten. They were thrown away by taking out the items of the fly that had fallen in the milk. Till date, the researchers there have not even investigated whether those women are alive or died within the next five years after they consumed radioactive chapatis? If the then Harold Wilson's government wanted, it could have done this research on British women as well. What they have done is basically racist in nature. It is high time the West stopped treating rest of the world with scorn and disdain. After all they must practice what they preach. Every Individual whether from Asia or Africa has equal human rights and those rights must be respected by all, regardless.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sir — I am writing in reference to the recent news coverage titled "India, Greece Review Bilateral Ties" (August 26). Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Greece Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis have elevated Greek-

Addiction of Children to Tobacco



The recent news reveals a concerning statistic: almost 52 percent of children attending tribal schools and hostels in the Nagpur division are addicted to tobacco or tobacco products. Alarming, this includes as many as 3487 children

in classes VIII and IX who may be at risk of developing mouth cancer. This issue affects both boys and girls, and it's distressing to note that even 22 percent of school teachers are also struggling with this addiction.

Overall, the prevalence of tobacco addiction among children is deeply worrisome, as it shapes the future generation. Independent educators and society must prioritize tackling this problem before it advances further beyond control. It's imperative to recognize that any form of addiction is detrimental. The government should take a serious stance on investigating the origins of this addiction and devising strategies to combat it.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

India bilateral relations to the esteemed status of a "strategic partnership." Their commitment to doubling bilateral trade by 2030 is commendable. Both leaders emphasize cooperation across multiple domains, including cyberspace, education, culture, tourism, shipping, science, technology, and agriculture.

An essential aspect of this cooperation is the "Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement (MMPA)," which holds mutual benefits. During the visit, President of Greece Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou bestowed Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, a gesture that highlights Greece's recognition of India's global standing. This visit signifies a significant step towards the strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Greece.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

GO GREEN INITIATIVE

Sir — As our cities grapple with overwhelming amounts of waste, the time has come to lead by example. The green initiative has transformed into a thriving movement, creating a green oasis that holds invaluable knowledge about effective solid waste management. These housing soci-

eties, established and nurtured by proactive citizens, embody solutions for sustainable living.

This knowledge is readily accessible to everyone. Although the authorities have taken significant strides, particularly during the challenges of the Covid era, there's no lag in our efforts. Corporators and the municipality actively impart expertise in waste management. The initiative provides hands-on education, guiding citizens on sustainable living practices, composting for organic vegetable cultivation, and actively promoting waste management awareness.

It goes without saying that the municipal corporation offers guidance on categorizing dry and wet waste and provides distinct containers for each type. Dry waste encompasses items like bottles, cans, clothing, plastic, wood, glass, metals, and paper. Wet waste pertains to organic matter such as food items, soiled wrappers, hygiene products, yard waste, tissues, paper towels, and any other materials that could contaminate recyclables.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Time to build a more inclusive society for women

Gender and climate change require a holistic understanding. Prioritising gender adaptive strategies is the need of the hour

The presidency of G20 in 2022 has provided India with an opportunity to show her commitment to creating a more gender-inclusive society. This has been ascertained by the theme of India's G-20 Presidency: 'Inclusive, Ambitious, Decisive and Action Oriented.' In line with this commitment, the W20 mission under India's leadership aims to 'remove all barriers towards the development of women.' W20 India has prioritized 5 key areas that can bring it closer to its mission of an equitable order: first women entrepreneurship; second grassroots women leadership; third bridging the gender digital divide; fourth Education and skill development and lastly Climate change. To pursue these goals India has listed the strategies for call for action, collaboration, cooperation, and communication and building consensus for action.

These goals and strategies are the need for the hour and India has already made commendable strides in this direction. The first key area is the Startup India programme, which has a special compo-



nent for women entrepreneurs. This scheme focuses on the holistic development and strengthening of women's entrepreneurship by creating an enabling network and building a strong ecosystem. Consequently, the government has already taken steps to provide them with easy loans through Mudra Yojna, and Mahila Samridhhi Yojna. The government also trains their skills and provides them with platforms like the women entrepreneurship platform and National start-up awards. These steps have proven a huge success in bringing women as entrepreneurs as their numbers have risen from 14 per cent to 20 per cent as per the Bain and Company report published in 2019.

In a recent report published by the National Association for Software and Services Companies (NASS-

COM) in collaboration with Zinnov, 18 per cent of startups have either women as founders or co-founders. These numbers are important as they are pushing India towards a gender-inclusive economy. Coming to the second priority identified in W20, India has already made a great leap forward when in 1993 it passed the 73rd and 74th Amendment bills and had reserved one-third of the seats for women in both rural and urban local bodies. In 2009, another Amendment was mooted that had pushed these reserved seats for women up to 50 per cent. This is exemplary progress that has spiralled into narrowing the male-female voting percentage in India and in some states, women's voting percentage has overtaken the males. The third priority area is bridging the gender digital divide. This issue has become very stark after the COVID lockdown that has made technology and its ancillary a part of everyday life. Various studies carried out by various organizations have shown that women lag a lot behind men in terms of access to technology. The report also

shows that this difference is mainly due to illiteracy and a lack of digital skills. This gap could be lessened by collaborating and cooperating with enterprises that can help provide accessibility to handsets and impart digital knowledge to women. Despite the literacy rate of females increasing steadily their effective participation in the employment rate is abysmal. Data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (2019-20) found that female labour workforce participation stands at 22.8 per cent compared to 56.8 per cent of male participation.

Imparting women's skills is part of the sustainable development goals. Keeping to its commitment India launched the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) that focused on women's participation as skilled workforce. As a result of these consistent efforts, 41 per cent of women are part of the CSDE campaign, PMKVY has close to 50 per cent women.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at, the Department of Political Science, DU, views are personal)



SMITA AGARWAL



FIRST COLUMN THE POWER OF PRANAYAMA

Through regular practice of pranayama the mind gets entrenched in the present



RAVI VALLURI

India and the world combatted a lethal microorganism and its various variants in the novel Coronavirus pandemic which afflicted millions of people across the globe. Humans still brace the scourge. Several millions of lives were snuffed out. As we witnessed the virus strafed the lungs first and thereafter affected other parts of the human body. Therefore, it became paramount to strengthen and bolster the immunity to ward off the malady. Wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and consuming plenty of warm water among others became mandatory. We need to add breathing exercises and yogic practices to the above must-do list.

NEED FOR PRANAYAMA

The word pranayama can be broadly segmented into two segments. Prana implies the vital source of energy (the subtle life force) and Yama is the control extension or expansion. When our energy/prana is low we feel enervated. This invariably occurs when we eat large proportions rather than partake of smaller more suitable quantities, sleep excessively, or do not take adequate rest. In all such cases, there is a significant expenditure of the vital life force. Depletion of energy takes place on account of disruption in our lifestyle, dietary indiscretions, emotional upheavals, or lack of physical exercise besides the human mind undergoing unnecessary stress.



The human body becomes weak and depleted of energy when we compromise on the four vital sources of energy. These are food, breath, rest, and a calm and meditative state of mind. When the human mind is not in the present moment it oscillates like a pendulum between the past and the future and invariably feels distressed and distraught. Consequently, our breathing pattern becomes rapid and shallow.

Thus, there is a deep and subtle connection between the breath, body, and mind. Effective and rhythmic breathing ensures that we live in the present, thus the mind is calm, collected and in a meditative state. In such a state, endorphins are released and the body is healthy and robust enough to be able to combat disease.

Now through regular practice of pranayama and breathing techniques like the Sudarshan Kriya, the mind gets entrenched in the present moment. The human body is powered by five primordial elements. These are earth, water, fire, air, and space. These are all extremely important, interwoven and interrelated but it is vayu (air) that sustains our life. We can be without food or water for a few days but cannot survive without breathing.

Our rishis have succinctly opined that pranayama is nothing but the worship of Vayu Devata or the Wind God. The powers of vayu are immense and were known to our ancestors and the Rishis. No wonder we pray to Lord Hanuman during our trials and tribulations. He is the closest to Narayana, nourishes and sustains us and strengthens our bodies physically and mentally.

Yoga is a much-misunderstood word. It is assumed to be merely a set of physical exercises. That is an incorrect perception. Yoga in Sanskrit means yuj (that is the union of the self and the divine). Yoga transcends into the metaphysical and is not merely confined to the realm of the physical plane. These are keys to balanced physical and mental health. Fortuitously the generation today is verily being exposed to the secrets of breath and this is a positive development. "Breathing in, I calm body and mind. Breathing out, I smile. Dwelling in the present moment I know this is the only moment," says the spiritual master and writer Thich Nhat Hanh.

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

India shouldn't allow China to usurp BRICS



UMANG KOHLI

India and the member nations must ensure that BRICS is not used as a geopolitical tool by China to further its hegemonic designs



The BRICS summit in South Africa is being termed historic, mainly because it has been agreed that six new nations will be added to the BRICS in the days to come. China wanted to even include Pakistan in the folds of BRICS, but India stood its ground. Is China trying to establish its geo-political agenda by using the BRICS nations? What is the reason for the selection of the said six nations into the folds of BRICS? Most of these nations are part of the One Belt One Road project of China and have proximity to China in one way or the other. Come to think of it, is it China that is calling the shots at the BRICS? Russia and China's ties are at their historic best right now and with the physical absence of Russian President Vladimir Putin from the summit, the outcome of the summit was largely in the hands of two other big players, that is, India and China. But has India emerged strategically stronger or is it that China leveraged BRICS to its advantage? This is a moot point and the real question.

Of the six nations in question, Iran is very close to China, both officially and unofficially. In March 2021, Iran and China signed a 25-year cooperation agreement to include "political, strategic and economic" components. China and Saudi Arabia too are strategic allies and the two nations have seen more cooperation in the energy and financial sectors, the Belt and Road Project, and have also signed numerous deals across several areas. The other Asian country UAE almost has 'brotherly' ties with China. Successive visits by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Vice President Wang Qishan elevated China-UAE relations



THOUGH THE RELATIONSHIP OF ALL THESE SIX NATIONS WITH INDIA IS FRIENDLY, THESE NATIONS SEEM TO BE COMFORTABLE PEDDLING THE CHINESE AGENDA AND ARE MORE OR LESS AT EASE WITH ITS 'ONE CHINA' IDEOLOGY

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

to a new height. The UAE is also a strong supporter of the Belt and Road Project.

In South America, Argentina has been virtually provided with a leased line by China to the tune of \$18 billion to help its dwindling forex reserves. This has made the two countries reshape their relationship. Egypt has always been very close to China. Recently, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said, "Egypt will continue its firm adherence to the one-China principle and resolutely oppose any external forces to interfere in China's internal affairs. Egypt and China have achieved fruitful results in jointly advancing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Egypt welcomes more Chinese enterprises to invest and set up businesses in the country." On the other hand, the other African nation Ethiopia was virtually saved from US sanctions by China. China has thereafter made Ethiopia a major manufacturing hub for its companies. According to data from the China-Africa Research Initiative, Chinese loans to Ethiopia amounted to a total of 13.729 billion USD from 2000 to 2019.

Though the relationship of all these six nations with India is friendly, these nations seem to be comfortable peddling the Chinese agenda and are more or less at ease with its 'One China' ideology. All of them support the One Belt One Road project and also have exclu-

sive ties with China. So, has India unknowingly supported the Chinese agenda of creating a Chinese-led group that counterbalances the influence of the West?

How does the expansion of the BRICS help India? The importance of BRICS is likely to increase in the years to come since it already constitutes 40% of the world's population and 25% of the global GDP. China is using this fact to give support to its sagging economy. Is India already at the threshold of exploiting its demographic dividend and making that expansion add to its geopolitical and economic might? Our young population is our strength, but have we reached a stage where we can exploit this to make our manufacturing sector better than China and then leverage this expansion of BRICS to our advantage? Perhaps, that may be the case, but the answer to these questions should be pondered over at the highest level of India's foreign ministry, for the answers to these questions will determine the future of BRICS.

It is no secret that India's relationship with China has been at a low ebb after the Galwan clash. In such a scenario, India needs to be cautious and calculative of any major structural change in common forums with China. It is also a fact that China has a much bigger economy than India, with their GDP being almost five times more. China at present also contributes towards

28% of global manufacturing whereas India contributes around 4%. China wants to use this head-start and leverage this expansion to further its economic domination.

All the six nations added to BRICS are strategically located to boost trade routes, and all of them have important seaports. These ports are strategically important for trade and also for Naval use. It is also established that China has the largest Navy and maritime fleet in the world and hence is in a better position to exploit these ports to boost its trade and geo-political expansion.

Therefore, adding six countries that share close relationships with China in BRICS needs to be further evaluated from a strategic and economic point of view. India needs to be cautious, for it should not fall into the trap of being put under pressure to be a part of the 'One Belt One Road' Project in the future. China's decoupling from the West is making it bend backwards to accommodate new partners in Asia, Africa and South America, however, India must try and bring countries like Singapore and South Korea into the folds of BRICS. We should also make sure BRICS is not used as a geopolitical tool by China in the future. We should ensure that important trade routes by sea should not become a hegemony of a particular country in the future and BRICS is not used as a tool to do that.

The importance of early childhood care and education

Early childhood development is a must for India's progress. It is therefore crucial to ensure the well-being of every child in the country

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is a crucial component in shaping the future of a nation. In India, a country with a large and diverse population, investing in ECCE is vital for its progress. By providing care, nutrition, education, and a supportive environment, India can shape a brighter future. The country hosts a staggering population of 250 million children aged 0-8, thus, investing in their well-rounded development becomes essential as they will shape the future of the nation, contributing to the vision of a New India. The next 25 years are important for India and our yuva shakti will be the driving force of this transformation, the foundation for which has to be laid today. With this investment, India



BHASKAR CHATTERJEE

(The writer is widely acclaimed as father of CSR in India. He was instrumental in framing the CSR guidelines for Public Sector Enterprises; views are personal)

can promote social mobility, mitigate the rural-urban divide, and build a prosperous nation with empowered citizens.

The importance of ECCE in India cannot be overstated. According to various studies, a significant part of brain development happens before 6 years of age, typically over 85%. These are crucial years for the holistic growth of children as they form the foundation for future learning, cognitive abilities, behaviour, and health. With the various disruptions to early care and education faced during the pandemic, reemphasizing focus in this area becomes all the more important.

Amongst the numerous long-term benefits of primary care and education are enhanced

grasping power, and improved outcomes at all educational levels which will eventually lead to higher employability and an improved quality of life. Access to quality early education, proper nutrition, and healthcare services are important components that can help our youth achieve their full potential.

Apart from the effect early childhood care has on early education, from a health standpoint, healthy children grow into healthy adults, reducing the burden on healthcare systems and enhancing productivity. With an improved focus on early childhood development, India can improve the overall health and well-being of its population.

While the Indian government has made great strides in

the realm of ECCE in recent years, exemplified by initiatives such as the renewed National Education Policy, which laid more emphasis on the universalisation of primary childhood care, Poshan Abhiyaan, Saksham Aanganwadis, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, there still exists a pressing need for collective action.

Fostering public-private partnerships can contribute innovative solutions and models, ensuring holistic support and opportunities. Foundations, CSR, and philanthropic arms of corporate entities play an integral part in mobilizing additional resources for achieving the country's developmental goals. Taking a collaborative approach will significantly expedite progress and also ensure sustainable out-

comes for the development of children.

We have shining examples of collaborative efforts between organizations, governments, and communities in the impactful work carried out by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, implementing successful models for ECCE, especially in U.P. and Bihar. BMGF has championed innovative strategies to tackle child health and nutrition challenges. Similarly, UNICEF is contributing significantly towards uplifting the education scenario in the country with their motto of 'Education for all' impacting children across 17 states. They have collaborated with the state governments and led community mobilization programmes where education indicators

are below par.

Akshaya Patra places a strong emphasis on nutrition, as demonstrated by their Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which has ensured regular provision of nutritious meals to 2 million children every day, positively impacting their health, growth, and cognitive abilities. By integrating nutritious meals with education, the non-profit aims to eliminate classroom hunger, enrol more children in schools and reduce the dropout rate, impacting the overall well-being of children.

Another such example of a successful private-public partnership has been Vedanta's Nand Ghar project, a pan-India movement under the umbrella of Anil Agarwal Foundation, which aims to transform the anganwadis

ecosystem. This would impact the lives of 2 crore women and 7 crore children through innovative solutions focused on health, nutrition, education, and women empowerment. The project involves revamping the government-run 'anganwadis' or rural day care centres and providing a class model for service delivery in remote villages across 14 states of India. Investing in early childhood development is not only a moral and social imperative but also important for ensuring a prosperous future for India. By prioritising PPPs, comprehensive policies and investments in early childhood development, India can unleash the full potential of its youngest citizens, and create a brighter future for generations to come.

US, China agree to discuss export controls

AP ■ BEIJING

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said she and her Chinese counterpart agreed Monday to exchange information on US export controls that frustrate Beijing and set up a group to discuss other commercial issues, but neither side appeared ready to make concessions on disputes that have plagued relations to their lowest level in decades.

Raimondo joined American officials including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in July who have visited China in hopes of reviving chilly relations. They expressed optimism about improving communication but no progress on conflicts over technology, security, human rights and a lingering tariff war.

For its part, Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government wants to revive foreign investor interest in China as it tries to reverse a deepening economic slump. Raimondo said she and Commerce Minister Wang Wentao agreed during a four-hour meeting to launch an "information exchange" on export controls. She said they



Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo

also will set up a "working group" of officials and private sector representatives to "seek solutions on trade and investment issues".

A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other US technology on security grounds that threaten to hamper the ruling Communist Party's ambition to develop artificial intelligence and other industries. The curbs crippled the smartphone business of Huawei Technologies Ltd., China's first global tech brand. Raimondo

said the information exchange will hold its first meeting Tuesday.

"The United States is committed to being transparent about our export control enforcement strategy," Raimondo told reporters at Ambassador Nicholas Burns's official residence.

"We are not compromising or negotiating in matters of national security," she said. "But this is meant to be a dialogue where we increase transparency." Earlier, Wang told Raimondo that Beijing is ready

to work together to "foster a more favourable policy environment for stronger cooperation" and "bolster bilateral trade and investment." Wang gave no details of possible initiatives.

Beijing broke off dialogues with Washington on military, climate and other issues in August 2022 in retaliation for a visit to Taiwan by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the House of Representatives. The Communist Party claims the self-ruled island democracy as part of its territory and objects to foreign governments having contact with it.

The visits take place under an agreement made by Xi and President Joe Biden during a meeting last November in Indonesia. The Chinese state press has given them positive coverage, but Beijing has given no indication it might change trade, strategic, market access and other policies that irritate Washington and its Asian neighbours.

In June, Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Xi for 30 minutes during a visit that was postponed from February after a Chinese sur-

veillance balloon entered US airspace. The Chinese leader called on Washington to change policies on Taiwan and other issues and rebuffed a request to resume military-to-military cooperation.

Last week, on the day Raimondo's visit to Beijing was announced, Washington removed 27 Chinese companies from a blacklist that limits its access to US technology.

The decision "may have helped grease the wheels for Raimondo's trip", said Anna Ashton and Kylie Milliken of Eurasia Group in a report.

It suggests Washington "is making modest but measurable progress with Beijing in re-establishing limited government-to-government communication," Ashton and Milliken wrote. "Raimondo's visit could produce additional progress."

Meeting with Wang, Raimondo defended the Biden administration's "de-risking" strategy of trying to increase domestic US production of semiconductors and other high-tech goods and to create additional sources of supply to reduce chances of disruption.

Beijing has criticised that as an attempt to isolate China and hamper its development.

"It is not intended to hinder China's economic progress. We believe a strong Chinese economy is a good thing," Raimondo told the Chinese minister. "We seek healthy competition with China. A growing Chinese economy that plays by the rules is in both of our interests."

Wang visited Washington in May. The US government invited Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Washington, but plans for that have not been announced.

Raimondo also was due to meet China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and other officials.

The Biden administration also has taken steps that are likely to rattle Beijing.

In June, Biden added 59 Chinese companies including military contractors and semiconductor manufacturers to a list of entities Americans are prohibited from investing in.

Last week, Washington approved a \$500 million arms sale to Taiwan including infrared tracking systems for advanced F-16 fighter jets.

Russian accused of collecting information for US diplomats

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's top domestic security agency said on Monday that a detained former employee of the US Consulate in Vladivostok is accused of collecting information about Russia's action in Ukraine and related issues for US diplomats.

Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, the country's main domestic security agency, said Robert Shonov is suspected of "gathering information about the special military operation, mobilization processes in Russian regions, problems and the assessment of their influence on protest activities of the population in the runup to the 2024 presidential election."

The FSB, the top KGB successor, said it has served summonses to question two US diplomats who allegedly instructed Shonov to collect the information. Shonov's arrest was first reported in May, but

Russian authorities provided no details at the time. The US State Department has condemned his arrest.

Shonov was charged under a new article of Russian law that criminalizes "cooperation on a confidential basis with a foreign state, international or foreign organization to assist their activities clearly aimed against Russia's security." Kremlin critics have said that the formulation is so broad that it could be used to punish any Russian who had foreign connections. It carries a prison sentence of up to eight years. The US State Department has said Shonov worked at the US consulate in Vladivostok for more than 25 years. The consulate closed in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and never reopened.

The State Department has said that after a Russian government order in April 2021, Shonov worked at a company the US contracted with to support its embassy in Moscow.

Planes grounded in Britain due to technical issue

PTI ■ LONDON

Thousands of passengers were stuck on the tarmac all over the UK and abroad on Monday after planes leaving and flying to Britain were grounded following a "technical issue" that hit British air traffic control systems, officials said.

The UK's National Air Traffic Services (NATS) said it had "applied traffic flow restrictions to maintain safety" across its airports. They did not pro-



vide any further information about what caused it or how long it would take to fix.

The disruption comes on one of the busiest travel days of the year - with many people returning from holidays on the last Bank Holiday weekend of the summer.

NATS said a technical issue was affecting its "ability to automatically process flight plans" and they were working to solve the issue "as quickly as possible".

"Until our engineers have

resolved this, flight plans are being input manually which means we cannot process them at the same volume, hence we have applied traffic flow restrictions. Our technical experts are looking at all possible solutions to rectify this as quickly as possible," it said.

"Our priority is ensuring every flight in the UK remains safe and doing everything we can to minimise the impact," it added. "We are sincerely sorry for the disruption this is causing." The NATS describes itself as the country's leading provider of air traffic control services, which handles 2.5 million flights and 250 million passengers in a "normal year".

Earlier, it said engineers are working to fix the (technical issue) and fix the fault. "We are continuing to work hard to resolve the technical issue. To clarify, UK airspace is not closed, we have had to apply air traffic flow restrictions which ensures we can maintain safety," it later updated.

British Airways said it was working with NATS to "understand the impact" of the issue,

and said it will keep customers updated. Other airlines are also asking customers to check for updates.

Scottish airline Loganair was the first to report a "network-wide failure of UK air traffic control systems this morning".

Several airports across the UK, and airlines including Ryanair, EasyJet, Wizz Air, Loganair and Aer Lingus have all warned passengers of delays or cancellations to flights, BBC reported.

Spokespersons for London Luton, Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick airports all said they were experiencing issues, and urged customers to contact their airlines, it added.

Liverpool John Lennon Airport said "some flights might be subject to a delay", while Edinburgh Airport urged passengers to check with their airline before going to the airport.

Irish minister of state for transport Jack Chambers warned of a "major" knock-on impact on flights to and from Ireland as a consequence of the issues in the UK.

Braverman: No such thing as trivial crime

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman on Monday called on the country's police force to investigate every crime, saying it is "unacceptable" that crimes such as shoplifting, criminal damage and phone or car theft are treated as "less important".

The 43-year-old Indian-origin Cabinet minister in charge of security issues said there was no such thing as "trivial" crimes because criminals should fear the consequences of their actions. She warned that serious crimes flourish when lower-level criminality and anti-social behaviour are not tackled with the full force of the law. "We know that the most serious crimes flourish when lower-level criminality and antisocial behaviour are not tackled. Theft and burglary can often be run by organised crime gangs," Braverman writes in "The Daily Telegraph" newspaper. "But let's be clear: all crime matters. There is no such thing as a trivial crime. And the police must

not indicate to criminals that they are effectively free to break certain laws. Since I became Home Secretary last year, I've been determined to drive forward a return to common-sense policing and values," she said.

Her intervention follows talks between the UK Home Office, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing, the professional body for policing staff as part of a so-called "crime week" of policy announcements planned by the government. This government has secured a commitment from police forces that they will do just that. It is vital for victims and for wider society that perpetrators face justice. Improved public confidence in policing depends on it," Braverman noted.

"The commitment applies to all crimes and action should still be proportionate, but we expect to see a radical change in the way the police approach theft, shoplifting and criminal damage.

Poland, Baltic states warn of sealing border with Belarus

AP ■ WARSAW

NATO members Poland and the Baltic states will seal off their borders with Russia's ally Belarus in the event of any military incidents or a massive migrant push by Minsk, the interior ministers warned on Monday.

The ministers said they were seeing growing tensions on NATO's and the European Union's borders with Belarus, which has taken in thousands of Russia's military mercenaries and is pushing Middle East and African migrants into Europe, despite barriers having been put up. They warned of swift and concerted reaction in the case of a military incident or large migrant push.

The ministers of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia addressed the media following their talks. In a joint statement they demanded that the government of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko immediately remove from its territory the Wagner Group mercenaries. They also demanded the removal of migrants from border areas and their return to their home countries.

The four countries, which are also European Union members support Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion.

The sudden death of mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin in a plane crash in Russia last week has raised questions about the future of the Wagner group, which Poland's Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski branded as "extremely dangerous" and "demoralized".

He also said the mercenaries pose a threat to the citizens of Belarus and the entire region. Russia's President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Wagner fighters to sign an oath of allegiance to the Russian state, according to a decree published on the Kremlin's website late Friday and effective immediately.

APPENDIX-IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 53,93,251/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00297312, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from NAVNEET SINGH and HARLEEN KAUR. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 61,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 6,10,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
DDA BUILT - UP P.L.I. G.FLAT NO. 36-E, ADMEASURING 52 SQUARE METERS ON SECOND FLOOR (WITH ROOF RIGHTS), BLOCK - DB, SITUATED IN HARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110064, ALONG WITH GARAGE AT GROUND FLOOR WITH FREE HOLD RIGHTS OF THE LAND THERETO.

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 : 23.08.2023
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL (NCLT), NEW DELHI, IN COMPANY PETITION NO. CP. CAA-40(ND)/2023 CONNECTED WITH COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA(CAA)-111(ND)/2022 IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION BETWEEN NEER INFRACON LIMITED, KANTH INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED, MAPLE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED, MEER INFORMATICS LIMITED, TULIP SOLUTIONS LIMITED, UNFLASHY SOLUTION LIMITED

A Petition under section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, regarding the Scheme of Amalgamation was presented by the Applicants/Petitioners to the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), New Delhi is now fixed for hearing on 1st of September, 2023. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition/application should send to the applicant's advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the applicant's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing. Where he seeks to oppose the application/petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit intended to be used in opposition to the petition, shall be furnished with such notice and such notice shall be filed in the NCLT, Delhi. A copy of the Petition shall be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same.

Advocate For the Petitioners:
Deepak Diwan 261, Forest Lane, Sainik Place : New Delhi Farms New Delhi-110 068 Date : 28th August, 2023

APPENDIX-IV-A
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Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 36,03,067/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Three Thousand Sixty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDMT00272230, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 23.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 24.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SHARAD PRATAP SINGH BHADRAURIA and DIPTI PARHAR.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 41,00,000/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 4,10,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT BEARING NUMBER C/UC-1401 MEASURING SUPER AREA OF 875 SQUARE FEET I. E. 81.28 SQUARE METERS ON THE 14TH FLOOR IN THE GROUP HOUSING COMPLEX KNOWN AS "ADITYA URBAN CASA" CONSTRUCTED ON GROUP HOUSING PLOT NUMBER GH-01/B, SECTOR - 78, NOIDA-201301, UTTAR PRADESH.

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

Date : 23.08.2023
Place : NOIDA

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 1) TATAMOTORS LPT1109T
REG. NO. DL1MA6202-YOM-2021
- 2) TATAMOTORS TSGINA5530
REG. NO. HR63E9134 -YOM-2022
- 3) TATAMOTORS TATA_1512
REG. NO. HR38AE6422-YOM-2022
- 4) SML SMLSARTAJ
REG. NO. UP14LT2580-YOM -2022
- 5) TATAMOTORS TSGINA5530
REG. NO. HR46F5948-YOM-2022
- 6) EICHR_VECV VE1112FB
REG. NO. HR69B1308-YOM-2012
- 7) TATAMOTORS LPT1412
REG. NO. UP16JT5948-YOM-2022
- 8) TATAMOTORS TATAACE
REG. NO. DL1LAJ3486-YOM-2021
- 9) TATAMOTORS TATAACE
ENG. NO. 275CNG17AXXS09141 YOM -2022
- 10) TATAMOTORS TLPT1109CH
REG. NO. HR55AK3600-YOM-2021
- 11) TATAMOTORS TLPT1109CH
REG. NO. HR55AK0868-YOM-2021
- 12) TATAMOTORS T1512G
REG. NO. UP14LT1825-YOM-2022
- 13) VE1059FB_EICHR_VECV
REG. NO. DL1LAB4237-YOM -018

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH MIS KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN DAYS AT BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : RAMAN AHUJA KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 8377988238 EMAIL - raman.ahuja@kotak.com

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[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. 21,81,476/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLA00488401 (Earlier Loan Code 00042273 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 24.08.2023 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 SANGEETA NEGI and JAGDISH CHAND.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 15,50,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,55,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
PROPERTY BEING SEMI FURNISHED FLOOR, PVT. NO. 118, ON THE 3RD FLOOR, WITH ROOF TERRACE RIGHTS TOWARDS BACK SIDE RHS OF BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. E-10/8, ADMEASURING 50 SQ. YARDS I.E., 41.81 SQ. MTRS., APPROX. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 21/4, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE MATIALA, DELHI STATE, DELHI AREA ABADI KNOWN AS COLONY NANHEY PARK, BLOCK E-1, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI -110059, WITH COMMON STAIRCASE, ENTRANCE, PASSAGE, SUBMERSIBLE, WITH ALL COMMON RIGHTS OF THE BUILDING, INCLUDING RIGHT TO ADJACENT THERETO, WITH COMMON ONE TWO WHEELER PARKING SPACE AT STILL FLOOR, OF THE SAID PROPERTY, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-

EAST : PLOT NUMBER E-9 WEST : UNIT LHS & OTHER PROPERTY.
NORTH : OTHER'S LAND SOUTH : UNIT OF FRONT SIDE & ROAD 20 FT.

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 : 23.08.2023
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Chinese man jailed for pushing Indian-origin security guard

Singapore (PTI): A Chinese national in Singapore was sentenced to six weeks in jail on Monday for pushing a 56-year-old Indian-origin security officer who fell and fractured his wrist.

Wang Lin, a 42-year-old director at more than 100 firms, pleaded guilty to an assault charge against Prakash Govindan Damodaran outside the United Square shopping mall on November 6, 2021.

Defence lawyer S S Dhillion told the court his client had gone to the shopping mall to pick up his wife and daughter.

The lawyer said as it was raining, Wang, a Singapore permanent resident, drove to the lane closest to the building so his family would not be drenched.

Prakash, who was standing on a chevron marking on the road, immediately gestured at Wang to stop.

"We are instructed by Wang Lin that he was taken aback when the victim shouted and gestured at him. At one point, the victim even hit the front of Wang Lin's vehicle," Dhillion was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper.

The force was such that Wang Lin could feel the vibration of the impact from the inside of his car," the lawyer said.

Unhappy, Wang swerved past Prakash into an adjacent lane and got out of his vehicle to confront the security officer.

He shoved the victim in the chest with both hands, causing the older man to fall on his back. While Prakash was on the ground, Wang looked down and chided him.

Wang's wife, who was nearby, pulled him away.

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Military leader visits east Sudan in first tour since conflict erupted

AP ■ CAIRO

The head of Sudan's army made a rare public speech on Monday in his first tour outside of the capital since the conflict with a rival general erupted in mid-April. Sudan was plunged into chaos after months-long tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting on April 15.

In the eastern coastal city of Port Sudan, Burhan said a military operation that included naval and air forces enabled him to leave the capital's army headquarters safely. Two people were killed in the operation, he said. The conflict has reduced the capital to an urban battlefield, with the RSF controlling vast swaths of the city. The



military command, where Burhan has purportedly been stationed since April, has been one of the epicenters of the conflict, besieged by RSF forces. Burhan said no agreement had been reached "with the traitors or with any party outside of the Sudanese people" to facilitate his departure from the capital. The violence in the northeast African

country is estimated to have killed at least 4,000 people, according to Liz Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN human rights office. However, activists and doctors on the ground say the death toll is likely far higher. In a statement issued late Sunday, Dagalo unveiled a new initiative that could restart peace talks between the two forces.

The 10-point plan titled "Sudan Reborn," calls for a lasting cease-fire, democratic elections and a unified army. Formal peace negotiations mediated by the US and Saudi Arabia in the Saudi coastal town of Jeddah took place during May and June. However talks were formally adjourned in late June with both mediators publicly calling out the RSF and the army for continuing to violate truces they had agreed to.

'Biden seen as too old for office'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Americans actually agree on something in this time of raw discord: Joe Biden is too old to be an effective president in a second term. Only a few years his junior, Donald Trump raises strikingly less concern about his age. But they have plenty of other problems with Trump, who at least for now far outdistances his rivals for the Republican nomination despite his multiple criminal indictments. Never mind his advanced years — if anything, some say, the 77-year-old ought to grow up. A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds much of the public oddly united in sizing up the one trait Biden cannot change. The president has taken to raising the age issue himself, with wisecracks, as if trying to relax his audiences about his 80 trips around the



sun. Age discrimination may be banned in the workplace but the president's employers — the people — aren't shy about their bias.

In the poll, fully 77 per cent said Biden is too old to be effective for four more years. Not only do 89 per cent of Republicans say that, so do 69 per cent of Democrats. That view is held across age groups, not just by young people, though older Democrats specifically are more supportive of his 2024 bid.

In contrast, about half of US adults say Trump is too old for the office, and here the familiar partisan divide emerges — Democrats are far more likely to disqualify Trump by age than are Republicans. What's clear from the poll is that Americans are saying out with the old and in with the young, or at least younger.

Democrats, Republicans and independents want to sweep a broad broom through the halls of power, imposing age limits on the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court. In all about two-thirds of US adults back an age ceiling on candidates for president and Congress and a mandatory retirement age for justices.

Specifically, 67 per cent favour requiring Supreme Court justices to retire by a certain age, 68 per cent support age ceilings for candidates for House and Senate, and 66 per cent support age ceilings for candidates for

president.

With elders mostly running the show and the Constitution to contend with, don't expect that to happen any time soon. Even so, the survey suggests lots of people across political lines are open to seeing a younger face, a fresher one, or both, capture the public imagination. Among them is Noah Burden, a 28-year-old communications consultant in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite a clear preference for Biden over Trump, he wishes the top contenders for the presidency were closer to his generation. "They're too old overall," Burden said. That older generation represents "a sense of values and the sense of the country and the world that just isn't accurate anymore. It can be dangerous to have that view."

Similarly, Greg Pack, 62, a past and possibly future Trump voter in Ardmore, Oklahoma, wishes Biden and Trump would both move along.

Court reserves verdict on Imran Khan's plea

Toshakhana case verdict today

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistan high court said on Monday that it would announce on Tuesday its reserved verdict on former prime minister Imran Khan's plea seeking the suspension of his three-year jail term given by a sessions court in the Toshakhana corruption case.



The high court also dismissed the arrest warrants against Khan issued by the judicial magistrate.

A divisional bench of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges, comprising Chief Justice Amer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, reserved the verdict after hearing both parties' counsels. The bench later stated that the reserved judgment would be announced at 11 am on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, the IHC resumed hearing of appeal which it began hearing on August 22. It had adjourned the case on Friday after the lawyer representing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) did not appear due to illness.

Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa completed his argument on Thursday, asserting that the verdict was given in haste and full of shortcomings. He urged the court to set aside the sentence but the defence team demanded more time to complete its arguments.

Many believe that a favourable ruling for 70-year-old Khan may come after the Supreme Court highlighted faults in the judgment convicting Khan.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Monday dismissed a first information report (FIR) filed against Khan for making comments against state institutions and their officers during a speech.

A two-member bench comprising BHC Chief Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Gul Hasan Tareen announced the verdict on the petition filed by the Insaf Lawyers Forum's (ILF) Iqbal Shah, Geo News reported.

The party said that the top court would hear the case after the announcement of the verdict by the Islamabad High Court.

Earlier, the Supreme Court on Wednesday hearing various petitions against the Toshakhana case observed that there were "shortcomings" in the judgment of the sessions court. The panel observed that the verdict was given in haste and without giving the right of defence to the accused.

"Prima facie, there are shortcomings in the trial court verdict," the chief justice said.

The apex court had also stated it would wait for the IHC hearing before giving its judgment. It resumed the hearing Thursday but adjourned it without fixing any date after it was told that the IHC was holding a hearing.

A trial court had convicted and sentenced the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to three years in prison on August 5 in the case. Khan was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure. He has also been barred from politics for five years, preventing him from contesting an upcoming election.

The Toshakhana case was filed by the 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.

After a hearing spanning over months, Judge Humayun Dilawar of the Islamabad-based sessions court on August 5 awarded a three-year sentence to Khan for hiding the proceeds he got from the sale of state gifts.

Khan within days challenged the conviction in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking to suspend his sentence and overturn the judgment.

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Qureshi's remand extended by two days

CIPHER CASE

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A special court on Monday extended by two days the physical remand of Pakistan's former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi 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.

The two-time foreign minister was later remanded by the special court in Federal Investigation Agency's custody for four days till August 25. On Friday, the court extended his remand by three days. On Monday, the FIA presented Qureshi before the special court and sought an extension of five days in the remand of Qureshi.

Special Prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi

Pak lawyer arrested for terror hours after getting bail in sedition case

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan police re-arrested human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on Monday, hours after an Islamabad anti-terrorism court granted her bail in a sedition case. Confirming the arrest on X, formerly Twitter, the Islamabad police said Imaan was arrested in a terrorism case registered at the Bara Kahu police station.

The arrest comes hours after the Islamabad anti-terrorism court (ATC) granted Imaan and former lawmaker Ali Wazir post-arrest bail against surety bonds of Rs 30,000 each. Imaan, the daughter of former human rights minister Shireen Mazari, and Wazir were arrested on August 20 by Islamabad police, two days after they participated in a protest organised by the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), which advocates the rights of ethnic Pashtuns.

Imaan addressed in Islamabad a rally of the PTM, a group of ethnic Pushtu-speaking activists highly critical of the Pakistan Army, and criticised the powerful military establishment.

According to the first information report (FIR) filed against Imaan and Wazir, the two were arrested for staging a sit-in, resistance and interference in state affairs.

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3 main suspects arrested for conspiring to spark riots in Pakistan: Police

Lahore (PTI): Pakistan's Punjab police chief said on Monday that three main suspects have been arrested for conspiring to trigger "Muslim-Christian riots" in the country. Addressing a press conference here, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Usman Anwar said police have taken 300 suspects into custody for torching churches and homes of Christians in Jaranwala.

An enraged mob attacked scores of churches and Christian localities over blasphemy allegations against a Christian man in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad district, 130 km from Punjab's provincial capital Lahore, on August 16. They also attacked a Christian cemetery and vandalised the office of the local assistant commissioner.

"An intelligence agency of an enemy country is involved in a conspiracy to have Muslim-Christian riots in the country. The hostile intelligence agency is involved in the Jaranwala incident. We have broken a network," Anwar said, without naming any country.

He said out of the 300 people arrested, 180 have been formally charged under terrorism cases. "Three prime suspects behind the conspiracy to cause Muslim-Christian riots have also been arrested," he said.

He claimed that the network behind the conspiracy has been exposed and no such incident will occur in the future. Earlier, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)'s fact-finding mission declared the mob attack on Christian worship places, their residences, and cemetery in Punjab province early this month was part of a "larger hate campaign against local Christians" and questioned the open involvement of radical Islamists and complicity of police in the incident.

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er the mobile phone, Awan told the judge that Qureshi's mobile is with FIA and there's no need for further remand.

After this, Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulfikar, who has been given additional charge of the special court, reserved the verdict which was announced later. Khan has for long mentioned the missing cable as evidence of a "foreign conspiracy" to remove him as the prime minister in April last year.

According to a media report last week, the trial of Khan and Qureshi in the cipher case, under the Official Secrets Act, is expected to start within a fortnight. Official sources said the FIA is trying to complete the challan by August last week for the initiation of trial in the recently formed special court. The FIA has already arrested both Khan and Qureshi in the case.

Qureshi was foreign minister when the issue of the diplomatic cable erupted. The purported cipher (secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan last year.

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Migrant boat sinks off Greek island; 4 dead, 18 rescued

AP ■ ATHENS

Greek authorities said that four people died and 18 were rescued Monday after a boat carrying migrants apparently sank northeast of the Greek island of Lesbos, which lies near the Turkish coast.

The coast guard said one of its vessels collected the 18 survivors and four people found unconscious and transported them to the island's main port of Mytilene.

Over the weekend, the coast guard has said it has picked up dozens of people from boats near eastern Aegean Sea islands, part of an increase in new arrivals over the past two months.

For decades Greece has been one of the preferred entry points into the European Union for people fleeing conflict or poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia and hoping for a better life in Europe.

More than 14,000 people have reached Greece by land and sea so far this year, according to United Nations figures. That's about a tenth of the total successful Mediterranean crossings, most of which — about 104,000 — were to Italy. Arrivals in Greece from the

better summer weather and smugglers taking advantage of an increase in Aegean small boat traffic during the tourist season. After nearly a million people entered Greece at the height of Europe's 2015 migration crisis, the vast majority hoping to move north to wealthier European countries, Greece increased patrols along the sea and land border with Turkey to halt arrivals.

whole of 2022 totalled 19,000. In June, a battered fishing trawler heading from Libya to Italy with an estimated 500-750 people on board sank in international waters off southwestern Greece. Only 104 survivors were found, and Greek authorities were heavily criticised for failing to evacuate the vessel in time. The government has attributed the rise in migrant crossings since then to

China will no longer require a negative COVID-19 test result for incoming travellers starting Wednesday, a milestone in its reopening to the rest of the world after a three-year isolation that began with the country's borders closing in March 2020.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced the change at a briefing in Beijing on Monday.

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China in January ended quarantine requirements for its own citizens traveling from abroad, and over the past few months has gradually expanded the list of countries that Chinese people can travel to and increased the number of international flights.

Beijing ended its tough domestic "zero COVID" policy only in December, after years of draconian curbs that at times included full-city lockdowns and lengthy quarantines for people who were infected.

The restrictions slowed the world's second-largest economy, leading to rising unemployment and occasional instances of unrest. As part of those measures, incoming travelers were required to isolate for weeks at government-designated hotels. Residents were in some cases forcibly locked into their homes in attempts to stop the virus from spreading.

Protests in major cities including Beijing, Shanghai,

During the years of "zero COVID," local authorities occasionally imposed snap lockdowns in attempts to isolate infections, trapping people inside offices and apartment buildings.

From April until June last year, the city of Shanghai locked down its 25 million residents in one of the world's largest pandemic-related mass lockdowns. Residents were required to take frequent PCR tests and had to rely on government food supplies, often described as insufficient. Throughout the pandemic, Beijing touted its "zero COVID" policy — and the initial relatively low number of infections — as an example of the superiority of China's political system over that of Western democracies.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years, including attacks on the Damascus and Aleppo airports, but it rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations. Often the strikes target Syrian military forces or Iranian-backed groups.

Israel has targeted airports and sea ports in the government-held parts of Syria in an apparent attempt to prevent arms shipments from Iran to militant groups backed by Tehran, including Lebanon's Hezbollah. Thousands of Iranian-backed fighters from around the region joined Syria's 12-year conflict helping tip the balance in favor of President Bashar Assad's forces.

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APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

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 Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited [CIN: U67100MH2007PLC174759] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 22,05,732/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two only) pending Loan Account No. HHLGRG00375591, 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 NIRANJAN KUMAR and KAMODVATI. The above-mentioned Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the Immoveable Property, had been assigned by Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd

Jan Dhan Yojana revolutionised financial inclusion in India: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said Jan Dhan Yojana-led interventions and digital transformation have revolutionised financial inclusion in the country, as more than 50 crore people have been brought into the formal banking system with cumulative deposits surpassing Rs 2 lakh crore.

On the ninth anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which is one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world, Sitharaman in her message said 55.5 per cent bank accounts have been opened by women, and 67 per cent have been opened in rural/semi-urban areas.

Under the scheme, the number of bank accounts grew 3.4-fold from 14.72 crore in March 2015, to 50.09 crore as on August 16, 2023.

Total deposits too have swelled from Rs 15,670 crore as of March 2015, to over Rs 2.03 lakh crore as of August 2023.

The average deposits in Jan Dhan accounts have increased 3.8 times from Rs 1,065 as of March 2015, to Rs 4,063 in August 2023.

About 34 crore RuPay cards have been issued to these accounts without charge, which also provides for a Rs 2 lakh accident



insurance cover.

The zero-balance accounts under the scheme have reduced to 8 per cent of total accounts as of August 2023, from 58 per cent in March 2015.

Sitharaman said, "the 9 years of PMJDY-led interventions and digital transformation have revolutionised financial inclusion in India. With the collaborative efforts of stakeholders, banks, insurance companies, and government officials, the PMJDY stands out as a pivotal initiative, changing the landscape of financial inclusion in the country..."

Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) architecture has enabled successful

transfer of government benefits in the accounts of the common man seamlessly.

"PMJDY accounts have become the fulcrum of people-centric initiatives like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and have contributed towards inclusive growth of all sections of the society, especially the underprivileged," Karad said.

The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014, with an aim to provide universal banking services through the opening of zero-balance bank accounts for every unbanked household, based on the guiding principles of banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured and funding the unfunded.

Ambani sets succession plan in motion; appoints three kids to Reliance board

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani began executing a succession plan for his energy-to-technology conglomerate Reliance Industries, appointing his three children Isha, Akash, and Anant to the board of the company on Monday.

Till now, the three children were involved only at operating business-level and none were on the board of India's largest listed company. The board of Reliance met ahead of the company's annual general meeting to approve the appointment of twins Isha and Akash as well as Anant, as the "non-executive directors of the company," the firm said in a stock exchange filing.

Last year, the 66-year-old tycoon had made way for his first-born Akash Ambani to become the chairman of India's largest mobile firm, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Jio Infocomm is a subsidiary of Jio Platforms, in which Meta and Google hold stakes and is still chaired by Mukesh. Reliance Industries Ltd is the parent of Jio Platforms.



Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Nita Ambani's children, left to right, Akash, Isha and Anant Ambani. Nita Ambani Monday, Aug. 28, 2023 stepped down from the Board of Directors of Reliance Industries Limited, making way for children Isha, Akash and Anant to become the non-executive directors on the RIL Board PTI

Akash's twin sister, Isha, 31, was identified for Reliance's retail arm and the youngest sibling Anant for the new energy business. The siblings have been on the board of the operating companies but this is the first time they have been appointed on the board of the parent firm.

In a statement, Reliance said their "appointment will take effect from the date they assume office after approval by the shareholders." Reliance is seeking a shareholder nod for giving Mukesh another five-year term till April 2029. His wife

Nita was a director on the company board but she has resigned to make way for the children. "The Board of Directors also accepted the resignation of Nita Ambani from the Board respecting her decision to devote her energies and time to guide and enable Reliance Foundation to make an even greater impact for India," the statement said.

US Ivy League university-educated Ambani scions have in the last few years been groomed for leadership positions at Reliance's three units — oil to chemicals, telecoms and retail. While retail and digital services

are housed in separate wholly-owned subsidiaries, the oil-to-chemical or O2C business is a functional division of Reliance. The new energy business is also with the parent firm. The three businesses are almost equal in size.

While Akash and Isha, who is married to Anand Piramal (son of Piramal Groups Ajay and Swati Piramal), have been both active in the group's new-age businesses of retail and telecom, Anant has been involved in renewable energy and oil and chemical units of Reliance as a director.



Markets bounce back after two days of decline on firm global trends

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices climbed on Monday after two days of fall, tracking strength in global markets and buying in HDFC Bank.

The BSE Sensex climbed 110.09 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 64,996.60. During the day, it jumped 326.94 points or 0.50 per cent to 65,213.45.

The NSE Nifty gained 40.25 points or 0.21 per cent to end at 19,306.05.

From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and State Bank of India were among the gainers.

Reliance Industries, Nestle, Titan, HCL Technologies, ITC and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Friday.

"The highly anticipated Jackson Hole meeting didn't

bring much surprise, as the Fed chair expressed satisfaction with the progress of policy measures and reiterated its commitment to managing inflation within target bounds. This has raised expectations of a rate hike during the November Fed meeting. Global markets traded positively, led by Asian peers, as China's measures to support the property sector boosted sentiment.

"Domestically, all major sectors, along with mid and small caps, remained positive, except for the IT sector, which faced concerns related to potential rate hikes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.37 per cent to USD 84.79 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,638.21 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark had ended lower by 365.83 points or 0.56 per cent at 64,886.51 on Friday. The Nifty declined by 120.90 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 19,265.80.

Jet Airways insolvency case: NCLAT extends time till Sep 30 for Jalan-Kalrock consortium

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday extended the time till September 30 for Jalan-Kalrock Consortium for payment of Rs 350 crore to the lenders of the bankrupt Jet Airways.

A three-member NCLAT bench accepted the plea of the consortium to extend the timeline and also for adjustment of Rs 150 crore from performance bank guarantee (PBG) towards payment of Rs 350 crore. The consortium has



submitted an undertaking before the appellate tribunal, in which it had committed to pay Rs 100 crore by August 31, 2023 and another Rs 100 crore by September 30, 2023. For the rest Rs 150 crore, the consortium had requested the appellate tribunal to encash the PBG submitted for that purpose. Jalan-Kalrock Consortium had emerged as the winning bidder for the airline, which stopped flying in

April 2019 and later underwent an insolvency resolution process. The NCLAT order is yet to be uploaded on NCLAT website. Earlier, the consortium was to pay Rs 350 crore to the lenders by August 31 but had sought an extension for making the payment.

The NCLAT on last Monday had reserved its order. While the consortium emerged as the winning bidder under the insolvency resolution process, the ownership transfer has been hanging fire amid continuing differences between lenders and consortiums.

Telcos' operating profit may jump to ₹1.2L cr in FY24: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian telcos' operating profit is likely to rise by up to 15 per cent to Rs 1.2 lakh crore in FY24, a domestic rating agency said on Monday. The players had reported an operating profit of Rs 1.04 lakh crore in the year-ago period, Crisil Ratings said.

Demand for bigger data packs amid surging consumption will be the key reason for the FY24 profit growth in an industry which has witnessed massive difficulties in the last few years, since the entry of the deep-pocketed Reliance Jio. Average revenue per user (ARPU), which had been on a



declining trend for the last few years, will grow by 8-10 per cent to Rs 190 despite no broad-based tariff hike likely in the near-term as telcos focus on migrating 4G subscribers to 5G services, its deputy chief ratings officer Manish Gupta said.

"Growth would be driven by rise in data usage to 23-25 GB

per subscriber per month this fiscal from 20 GB last fiscal, and recalibration of tariff plans, leading to higher operating profitability," Gupta said.

The agency said the sector has high operating leverage as about three-fourths of the total cost is fixed and any rise in ARPU flows directly to operating profit. It said between FY20-23, operating profit almost doubled, while the ARPU grew 1.4 times.

The 4G technology will remain dominant for a while, it said, adding that monetisation of 5G services is likely to be gradual, as it hinges on evolving use cases and increase in the penetration of 5G handsets in India, which is currently low. The telecom companies may spend Rs 90,000 crore this fiscal to beef up network infrastructure in FY24 as against Rs 80,000 crore in the year-ago period, it said, adding that this will be driven by the surge in demand for data, and to improve services and customer experience.

All the private telcos are believed to be adequately placed on the important input of spectrum, having invested Rs 1.5 lakh crore at the previous auction. Hence, the outgo for spectrum purchase at next auction is expected to be lower than previous one, the agency said.

Rupee settles on flat note, up 1 paise at 82.63 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 1 paise at 82.63 against the US dollar, as the support from positive domestic equities was negated by rising American currency and recovery in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee witnessed modest gains on Monday on positive domestic equities. However, rising US dollars and recovery in crude oil prices capped sharp gains.

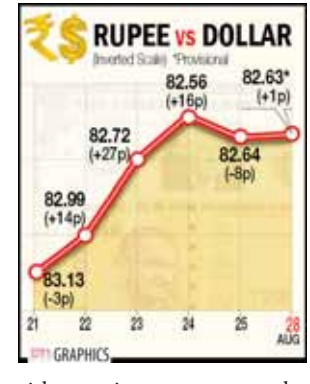
At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.58 and finally settled for the day at 82.63 against the American currency. During the day, the rupee witnessed an intra-day high of 82.52 and a low of 82.65 against the greenback.

On Friday, the rupee declined by 8 paise to settle at 82.64 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent higher at 104.07.

The US dollar gained on somewhat hawkish comments from the Fed Chair Jerome Powell at the Jackson Hole Symposium, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Shre crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.04 per cent to USD 84.51 per barrel. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on the strong dollar and recovery in crude oil prices. Selling pressure from FIIs may also weigh on rupee," Choudhary said. However, a positive tone in domestic markets and a rise in



risk appetite may support the domestic currency at lower levels. "Any intervention by the RBI may also support rupee. Investors may remain cautious ahead of jobs data from US and India's manufacturing PMI and GDP data later this week. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.30 to Rs 83," Choudhary added.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex closed 110.09 points or 0.17 per cent higher at 64,996.60. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 40.25 points or 0.21 per cent to 19,306.05. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in capital markets on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,638.21 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by USD 7.273 billion to USD 594.888 billion in the week ended August 18, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

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

India's current account deficit seen falling to around 1pc or USD 10 billion in Q1: India Ratings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With falling trade deficit, India's current account deficit is likely to narrow to around USD 10 billion or 1 per cent of GDP in the April-June quarter of the ongoing fiscal, according to India Ratings.

The country's current account deficit (CAD) stood at USD 18 billion or 2.1 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

However, the agency expects CAD to rise in the second quarter of the current fiscal as it sees merchandise exports declining below USD 100 billion after a gap of eight quarters. Imports are expected to be

around USD 163 billion during the period, up from a seven-quarter low of USD 160.3 billion witnessed in Q1 FY24, due to increase in crude prices since July.

This will have the overall trade deficit printing in at a three-quarter high of USD 64 billion, the rating agency said.

Another reason is the moderation in services demand since June due to the slowdown in the global economy. Global services PMI stood at a five-month low of 52.7 in July. Thus, services trade surplus to remain around USD 36 billion in Q2, it said.

Merchandise exports contracted even in Q1 by coming in 14.1 per cent lower than the

year-ago period. This was the biggest decline in the last 12 quarters. Goods exports stood at a seven-quarter low of USD 104 billion in Q1 FY24.

Merchandise imports came down to a seven-quarter low of USD 160.3 billion in Q1, while goods imports shrunk 12.7 per cent in the same period, which was the sharpest fall since Q2 FY21.

Benign commodity prices helped in reducing the country's import bill as the inbound shipments of critical commodities such as crude (18.5 per cent) coal (32.4 per cent), organic chemicals (31.9 per cent) and vegetable oils (32.9 per cent) came down in value terms.



Gold declines ₹50; silver remains flat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined Rs 50 to Rs 59,550 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid a fall in precious metal prices globally, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had ended at Rs 59,600 per 10 grams. However, silver remained flat at Rs 76,500 per kg.

In the international markets, gold and silver were down at USD 1,914 per ounce and USD 24.17 per ounce, respectively. "Investors continued to

assess hawkish remarks from the world's top central bankers, who stressed the need to keep interest rates high until inflation is contained at the Jackson Hole gathering.

"US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said that the central bank is prepared to raise interest rates further if needed and intends to keep borrowing costs high until inflation is on a convincing path towards the Fed's 2 per cent target," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst - commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Morgan Stanley Real Estate Investing to invest ₹300 cr in Prakhyat Group's warehousing project near Mumbai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prakhyat Group on Monday said it has partnered with a fund managed by Morgan Stanley Real Estate Investing to develop a warehousing project at Bhiwandi near Mumbai. The company did not disclose the amount of investment by Morgan Stanley Real Estate Investing (MSREI) but sources said it is around Rs 300 crore.

Prakhyat Group will develop a 0.7 million square feet Grade A warehousing space at its K Square Logistics Park in Bhiwandi, the company said in a statement. This marks MSREI's entry in the Bhiwandi sub-market of Mumbai. With this, MSREI has invested in over 5.6 million sq ft of logistics assets across the country, it added.

The project, One K-Square, will be built across 25 acres. The development will offer warehousing solutions to institutional customers from e-commerce, 3PL players, FMCG and FMCD sectors, among others. Prakhyat Group will be the development manager and will be responsible for project execution, leasing, and asset management.



"Through this partnership, we are thrilled to leverage our development expertise, along with MSREI's capabilities, as we create this marquee development in India's most sought-after logistics sub-market," Prakhyat Group Director Sandeep Bagla said.

MSREI India Vice President Anand Iyer said industrial and logistics as an asset class is a high conviction theme across its investment strategy.

Prakhyat Group's K Square Logistics Park is spread over 156 acres with a total development potential of over 4 million sq ft. Prakhyat Group is a leading industrial and logistics developer with over 10 million sq ft of projects under various stages of development.

MSREI is the global private real estate investment management arm of Morgan Stanley with over USD 54 billion of assets under management.

According to real estate consultant Vestian, the leasing of warehousing space in Mumbai rose 75 per cent to 3.8 million sq ft during January-June this year from 2.2 million sq ft in the corresponding period of the previous year.

"Indian warehousing and logistics sector is sailing through global headwinds on the back of strong and sustainable fundamentals. Several mega infrastructure projects are planned across the country to improve connectivity and reduce transit time," Vestian Chief Executive Officer Shrinivas Rao said.

Das warns against vulnerabilities in financial system

PTI ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC) on Monday resolved to remain vigilant against any build-up in vulnerabilities in the financial system as well as in the broader economy amid uncertain global environment. With a

view to strengthening and institutionalising the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the FSDC was set up by the government as the apex level forum in December 2010.

The FSDC Sub-Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of governor, RBI. It



meets more often than the full Council. The Sub-Committee reviewed major global and

domestic macroeconomic and financial developments, issues of inter-regulatory coordination relating to the Indian financial sector activities of various technical groups under its purview, the Reserve Bank said in a statement on 30th Meeting of the FSDC Sub-Committee.

It also reviewed the functioning of State Level Coordination Committees (SLCCs)

in various states/UTs. "The FSDC-SC resolved to remain vigilant against any build-up in vulnerabilities in all segments of the Indian financial system as well as in the broader economy, especially from global spillovers in a dynamic and uncertain world, and to preserve financial system stability for attaining strong, sustainable and inclusive growth," the RBI said.

NAPOLI STAYS PERFECT

AFP ■ MILAN

Napoli continued a perfect start to their Serie A title defence with Sunday's 2-0 win over 10-man Sassuolo, while Juventus survived penalty controversy in a 1-1 draw with furious Bologna.

Victor Osimhen netted his third goal of the season from the penalty spot 15 minutes into Napoli's first home match since lifting the league title in front of their fans for the third time back in June.

And captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo made sure Napoli would make it six points from six in the 64th minute, not long after Maxime Lopez was sent off and Giacomo Raspadori — who had hit the post seconds after kick-off — blasted a penalty into the stands.

"I think we played well, kept hold of the ball, we're happy to have won the match in front of our fans," said Di Lorenzo.

"We played well as a team. We've started well and the attitude is right so we've got everything for us to have a good season."

Di Lorenzo's first goal of the campaign came after some magical play from the returning Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, who made his season debut an hour into a one-sided contest at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

Kvaratskhelia scored 14 times last season and set up the same number again, and he made his mark just three minutes after replacing Italy forward Matteo Politano.

The Georgian was surrounded by defenders near the penalty area but took a couple of steps forward before slipping in Di Lorenzo for a simple low finish.

It's early days but Napoli already look a dangerous proposition under new coach Rudi Garcia, who has a tough act to follow in new Italy boss Luciano Spalletti, the architect of the Scudetto triumph.

Next week Napoli, who are level with leaders AC Milan and Verona at the top of the table, host Lazio who are yet to get off the mark after being beaten 1-0 by Promoted Genoa.

Lazio finished second last season but were seen off at home thanks to Italy forward



Mateo Retegui's first Serie A goal after signing from Boca Juniors this summer.

It was a good sign for Spalletti who will need goals when Italy face North Macedonia and Ukraine in Euro 2024 qualifying next month.

BOLOGNA PENALTY FURY

Outraged Bologna held Juventus in Turin but were left wondering what might have been after being denied what looked to be a clear penalty moments before Dusan Vlahovic salvaged a point for the underwhelming hosts. Vlahovic headed Juve level with 10 minutes remaining at the Allianz Stadium after Lewis Ferguson had put Bologna deservedly ahead midway through the first half.

But Bologna were incredulous when after on-field and VAR officials failed to punish Samuel Iling-Junior — who subsequently set up Vlahovic's equaliser — for cutting down Dan Ndoye and stopping him from tapping in from close range.

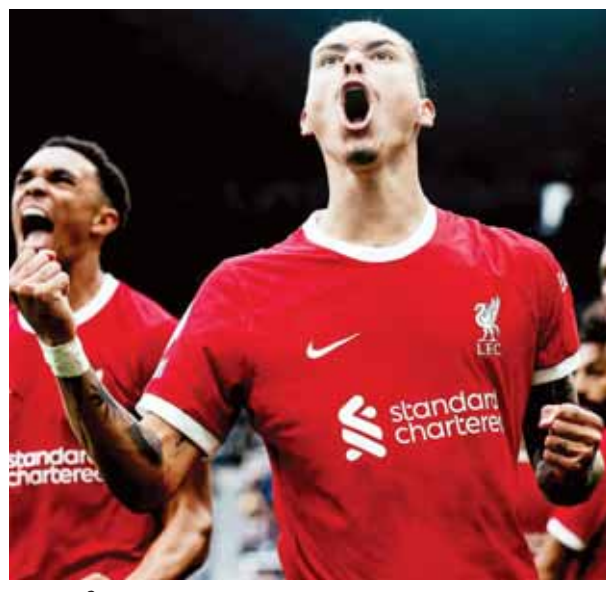
It was a decision which so angered Bologna that it prompted a livid post-match reaction from the club's CEO Claudio Fenucci as coach Thiago Motta refused to talk to media. "I've done this job for 25 years and I don't often go on TV to talk about referees," said Fenucci.

"The win was taken from us by an incredible refereeing decision... It's unthinkable that a challenge like that is not punished with a penalty and a red card." Not even the return of Paul Pogba to midfield after a year of injury problems could inspire Juve to claim the three points, the France star doing little as a second half substitute as Juve huffed and puffed ineffectively.

It was an uninspiring display from Juve which poured cold water on the idea that they are back as league title contenders.

"I'm obviously happy to be back... but I'm also a bit disappointed with the result," said Pogba to DAZN.

"The positive thing is that we didn't lose." Lecce bounced back from two goals down at half-time to draw 2-2 with Fiorentina thanks to goals from Hamza Rafia and Nikola Krstovic.



Liverpool seals comeback win

AFP ■ NEWCASTLE (UNITED KINGDOM)

Trent Alexander-Arnold hailed Liverpool's comeback from 1-0 down to win 2-1 at Newcastle with 10 men on Sunday as one of the Reds best ever wins under Jurgen Klopp. Alexander-Arnold was fortunate to escape a red card after just six minutes before his mistake allowed Anthony Gordon to open the scoring for Newcastle.

Virgil van Dijk was then dismissed inside the opening half hour for bringing down Alexander Isak. However, the Magpies failed to make their man advantage count and were punished when Darwin Nunez came off the bench to score twice in the final nine minutes plus stoppage time.

"We had to do it the hard way, the very hard way. But we all pulled together, dug deep and delivered something for the ages," Alexander-Arnold told Sky Sports. "One of our best performances since the manager has come in, and we've had some outstanding performances as a team. We'll look back on this game as something very, very special." Nunez has struggled to live up to his club record £85 million price tag since joining from Benfica just over a year ago. The Uruguayan is yet to start a game this season, but showed what he is capable of with his pace to get in behind the Newcastle defence and two powerful finishes. "After we went a man down the team played really well," said Nunez. "We work really hard for these moments and I am happy to score the two goals to help the team."

Barca in 7-goal thriller

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona starlet Lamine Yamal shone in a thrilling 4-3 win for the Spanish champions at Villarreal on Sunday in La Liga. The 16-year-old winger, making only his second start for the club, hit the woodwork twice and set up the opening goal for Gavi in an impressive performance which stood out amid a chaotic battle.

Veteran Polish striker Robert Lewandowski tapped home the winning goal, his first of the season, after Yamal's drive hit the post, to send Barca provisionally third.

"We have to look at our youth academy, and even more so given the situation we're in economically," Barca coach Xavi told Movistar, after also giving midfielder Fermin Lopez his debut as a substitute.

"Lamine had another great game. He helped us a lot. He set up a couple of goals and he created so much at 16 years old."

With Xavi watching on from high in the stands, serving a suspension, his charges took an early two-goal lead against the run of play. Villarreal started brightly and Alexander Sorloth had a goal ruled out for offside. However Barcelona pounced after 12 minutes when Yamal crossed to the back post to find fellow academy graduate Gavi, who headed home. Just three minutes later Frenkie de Jong rolled home the Catalans' second after a fortunate bounce sent the ball his way. Barcelona were missing injured midfielder Pedri, and defenders Alejandro Balde and Ronald Araujo — and Villarreal soon hit back. Juan Foyth produced a bullet header from Alex Bae-

na's corner to earn the hosts a foothold at the Estadio de la Ceramica. It was the first goal Barcelona have conceded this season.

The second soon followed with Sorloth tapping home Pedraza's cross after a sublime pass by veteran forward Gerard Moreno helped create the chance. Villarreal

went ahead early in the second half after another impressive surge from Pedraza, who teed up Baena for a clinical finish. Captain Sergi Roberto struggled badly at right back for Barcelona, who are close to signing Joao Cancelo from Manchester City on loan to occupy that position.



Biles wins 8th US all round gymnastics title

AFP ■ SAN JOSÉ (UNITED STATES)

Simone Biles dazzled on floor exercise Sunday on the way to a record eighth all-around title at the US Gymnastics Championships, another step on a comeback trail pointing toward the Paris Olympics.

The four-time Olympic gold medalist electrified the SAP Center crowd with a soaring floor routine that included a rock-solid landing on her signature Biles 1 tumbling pass of double layout with a half-twist. It was her final event of the competition and brought ecstatic fans to their feet, earning a score of 15.400 for a triumphant all-around total of 118.450 points.

Shi Jones, last year's world championships all-around silver medalist, was second, 3.9 points back.

Biles broke the record for most all-around titles for a man or woman, set by Alfred Jochim with his seventh in 1933 and matched by Biles in 2021.

Biles had taken control on Friday with a dazzling version of her Yurchenko double pike vault that was awarded 9.8 for execution and scored a whopping 15.700.



Kane scores twice on home debut

AFP ■ BERLIN

England captain Harry Kane scored twice on his home Bundesliga debut as Bayern Munich defeated Bavarian neighbours Augsburg 3-1 on Sunday.

Kane, who was on target in his league bow at Werder Bremen last weekend, converted a first half penalty on Sunday and added another goal after the break.

The win sees Bayern with a maximum six points from two games and second in the table behind Union Berlin who also

have two wins. "A really good win," Kane, 30, told DAZN after the match. "The first league game"

Augsburg defended well under relentless Bayern pressure but they went behind on 32 minutes when Felix Uduokhai put through his own goal.

A VAR intervention found an Augsburg handball just inside the box minutes later, bringing Kane to the spot.

Kane, who has shown no signs of being burdened by his 100-million euro (£110 million) transfer fee, blasted the ball nervelessly down the middle to

double Bayern's lead. Kane scored another mid-way through the second half, expertly dinking a pass from Canada wing-back Alphonso Davies over Augsburg keeper Finn Dahmen to seal the win.

Bayern manager Thomas Tuchel toasted a "good win, a clear win, a deserved win" but said his side still had "real potential to improve."

Augsburg manager Enrico Maassen admitted victory was out of reach for his "unlucky side" when "we gave away two goals and went into halftime 2-0 down."

Horner hails Max's ability to perform under pressure

AFP ■ ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS)

Red Bull boss Christian Horner marvelled at Max Verstappen's ability to focus and "get the job done" after another majestic display from the double world champion in Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix.

A ninth win on the bounce drew him level with the record established by a former Red Bull driver, Sebastian Vettel, in 2013.

But it was by no means as easy as a picnic in the Zandvoort dunes, with Verstappen's home fans turning up in their tens of thousands to see him perform.

"The expectation, how much noise and support that he's had - everyone feels that, we feel that within the team," said Horner.

"But he's in the zone, he can focus on himself and get the job done."

He added: "To match Sebastian, nine straight victories, to do it twice as a team is really incredible."

The Verstappen roadshow moves on to Monza next weekend where he will line up 138 points clear of teammate Sergio Perez in the championship.

That gap would have been less but for Perez picking up a five-second time penalty in



Sunday's race, knocking him off the podium into fourth.

Looking ahead to his shot at a 10th consecutive win Verstappen said: "I'll think about that next week, I just want to enjoy this one."

He revealed Vettel had messaged him after he had notched up his fifth win in a row. "Seb texted me and said: 'Well done what you're doing."

Mancini becomes new Saudi coach

AFP ■ RIYADH

Roberto Mancini was on Sunday named as the new coach of the Saudi Arabia national team on a deal reported to be worth more than \$25 million a year after he controversially quit the Italy job earlier this month. The Saudis, who beat eventual champions Argentina at last year's World Cup in Qatar, have been without a coach since Herve Renard left



to take charge of France's women's team. Mancini, 58, led Italy to the Euro 2020 title but failed to qualify for last year's World Cup.

"I am immensely honoured to be offered the position as Saudi Arabia national team manager," said Mancini who has signed a four-year contract.

"I believe this is a great opportunity for me, to experience football in a new country, especially with the growing pop-

ularity of football in Asia."

He added: "The presence of top players in the Saudi Pro League indicates the potential for growth in the national football scene." Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude oil exporter, has made waves this summer by buying a host of players from European clubs for teams in the Saudi Pro League.

Brazil star Neymar was the latest in a growing list of big names to be attracted by the huge sums offered by the Saudis after Cristiano Ronaldo kicked off the trend by moving to Al-Nassr in January.

Djoker eyes US Open title & No. 1 rank

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic launches his quest for a 24th Grand Slam singles title on Monday as the US Open gets underway with the Serb needing only a first round victory to reclaim the world number one ranking.

The 36-year-old Serbian star makes a long-awaited return to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center after missing the 2022 tournament due to his refusal to get vaccinated. Second seed Djokovic headlines the night session on the 23,000-seater Arthur Ashe Stadium with what should be a straightforward opener against France's world number 84 Alexandre Muller.

A victory will guarantee Djokovic returns to the top of tennis's global rankings, regardless of how the rest of the US

Open fortnight pans out. Djokovic needs just 20 points to regain the No.1 ranking after defeating current No.1 and defending US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz in the Cincinnati Open earlier this month. Alcaraz, who defeated Djokovic in a five-set Wimbledon final classic in July, opens his US Open campaign on Tuesday.

While most neutrals are hoping that Alcaraz and Djokovic can progress through to another blockbuster showdown in the men's final on September 10, Djokovic says he is looking no further than Monday's opener. "You can't really be thinking about what happens in three or four days," Djokovic said on the eve of the tournament.

"It's also in a way disrespectful to your next opponent if you're already thinking about your finals matchup...that kind

AMERICAN DROUGHT

In other men's matches on Monday, American 10th seed Frances Tiafoe and ninth seed Taylor Fritz open their campaign dreaming of ending the host nation's two-decade long wait for a Grand Slam title.

No American man has won a Grand Slam singles crown since Andy Roddick lifted the 2003 US Open.

Tiafoe takes on compatriot Learner Tien, while Fritz faces Steve Johnson in another all-American match-up.

In the women's draw meanwhile, defending champion and world number one Iga Swiatek faces Sweden's Rebecca Peterson in her opener on Arthur Ashe as she sets out her bid for a fifth career Grand Slam.

Swiatek went out in the semi-finals of the lead-in tournaments in Montreal and

Cincinnati, but believes she is better prepared this year than in 2022. "I get more positive vibes, for sure than before last year's tournament," she said.

"But being the defending champion is not easy, so I'm kind of taking it easy, trying to do everything step by step."

Elsewhere in the women's draw on Monday, US teenager Coco Gauff takes center-stage with a night game against German qualifier Laura Siegemund, looking for a breakthrough first major win.

The 19-year-old American arrives in New York in blistering form after winning titles in Washington and Cincinnati.

Gauff's win in Cincinnati — her first WTA 1000 title — also included a psychologically useful first ever win over Swiatek, who she could meet in the quarter-finals in New York.



WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

India celebrates Chopra's Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar led the sporting fraternity in applauding country's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's gold medal-winning feat at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, terming his achievement as "historic milestone for Indian sports".

Chopra on Sunday became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World Championships with a big throw of 88.17m. A World Championships gold was the only missing trophy in his decorated cabinet.

Besides the Tokyo Olympics gold, he has won the yellow metal in the Asian Games (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018). He has also won four individual Diamond League Meeting titles (two each in 2022 and 2023) apart from Diamond League champion's trophy last year. He also became junior world champion in 2016 and won the Asian Championships title in 2017.

"India's first-ever gold at the #WorldAthleticsChampionships. It's a historic milestone for Indian sports. May your hard work keep shining in every tournament you represent," Tendulkar wrote on X, formerly twitter. Former India coach Ravi Shastri termed Chopra as a big occasion athlete.

A remarkable athlete. A



true Champion who saves his best for the biggest occasions time after time. Take a bow. #NeerajChopra."

VVS Laxman also took to X to congratulate Chopra. "And another Gold! Many congratulations to Neeraj Chopra for winning the #GoldMedal in Men's #javelin at World Athletics Championship with a throw

of 88.17 meters," he wrote.

Virender Sehwag was at his wittiest best while hailing the young athlete's achievement.

"Fenkon toh aise fenko ki chaar log bole Kya feka hai yaar. 88.17 mtr door Bhaala phenka and a World Athletics Championship Gold for our Champion #NeerajChopra. The mega run continues."

Not just the cricketing fraternity, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra and Tokyo Games silver medalist weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu also congratulated Chopra on his tremendous accomplishment.

"Immense pride watching Neeraj Chopra soar to victory at the World Championships in

Budapest! Your dedication and hard work are an inspiration to all. Congratulations, World Champion @Neeraj_chopra! India shines brighter with stars like you," the Olympic medalist shooter wrote.

Chanu added: "Congratulations @Neeraj_chopra! What a remarkable achievement So proud of you."

Ingebrigtsen pips Katir to retain world 5,000m title

AFP ■ BUDAPEST

Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen produced a perfectly-timed sprint for the line to retain his world 5,000m title on Sunday, pipping Spain's Mohamed Katir to gold.

Ingebrigtsen, who had to settle for 1500m silver on Wednesday, this time got it right in the home straight to win in 13min 11.30sec while Katir took silver in 13.11.44. Kenya's Jacob Krop claimed bronze in 13:12.28.

"I used my energy a little bit better than in the 1500m!" said Ingebrigtsen after his sensational finish, having himself been outstripped by Briton Josh Kerr for gold in the 1500m.

"To win another world title is great of course. But I was very tired," he said. "This title means a lot to me after losing again in the 1500m. I haven't been at my best but I had the motivation and I had great support."

"I knew that if my tactics were better than my competitors I would have a chance to win and that's what happened. It worked out absolutely perfectly." Canada's Mohammed Ahmed led the field off at a sedate pace in sweltering conditions at a packed National Athletics Centre in the Hungarian capital.

Race tactics, however, start-



ed soon after as Kenya's Ishmael Rokitto Kipkurui surged, quickly building up a 50-metre gap on the pack.

Uganda's Oscar Chelimo, whose teammate and defending Olympic champion Joshua Cheptegei was missing after picking up a foot injury, tasked himself with leading the peloton in pursuit.

The trio of vaunted Ethiopians — Berihu Aregawi, Hagos Gebrihiwet and Yomif Kejelcha — then took over, successfully reeling Kipkurui in with six laps to go of the 12-and-a-half lap race.

Gebrihiwet went through the 3km mark in 8:13.11 as the

field began to string out into Indian file.

Aregawi took up the lead, accelerating away with a pack of eight including Ingebrigtsen.

As the bell for the final 400 metres ran, the Norwegian was in fourth spot as the runners jostled for the optimum position to attack.

Suddenly Katir bolted into the lead down the far straight. Ingebrigtsen moved wide around the traffic and the pair hit the home stretch together.

With the eyes of both athletes fixed on the big screen just beyond the finish line, Katir gritted his teeth in a bid to hold on for victory.

Kenya's Moraa ends Mu's title run in women's 800m

AFP ■ BUDAPEST

Kenya's Mary Moraa skipped over the line in joy as she won the women's 800 metres world title in Budapest on Sunday and ended Athing Mu's dominance of the event.

The 23-year-old timed a personal best 1min 56.03sec with Britain's Keely Hodgkinson having to settle for silver like last year, as she finished in 1:56.34.

Mu, the Olympic and defending world champion who has rarely raced this year, finished third in 1:56.61.

The tall Mu had led from the start with Moraa and Hodgkinson keeping tabs on her.

Moraa, though, was the one who was able to keep with the 21-year-old American phenomenon, while Hodgkinson decided to drop off the pace as they heard the bell.

Mu moved up a gear down the back straight but Moraa would not let go and as they rounded the bend she was on her shoulder.

Mu still held the lead but as Hodgkinson made her charge down the inside it was Moraa on the outside who got ahead of the American with 30 metres to go.



Hodgkinson also passed Mu but it was too late for her to get gold.

Moraa had the edge and added the title to the Commonwealth Games gold she won last year.

She lay on the track for a few seconds before getting to her feet and dancing in celebration — and her Kenyan teammates on the training track did the same.

"I am pleased to get the gold this time and become the world champion," said Moraa.

"After bronze last year I wanted to improve and I have. "Everyone in the final was so fast I knew I would have to have a fast finish."

"I came from a long way behind but I managed to do it."



Bol strikes double gold after anchoring Dutch team to relay title

AFP ■ BUDAPEST

Femke Bol produced an astonishing anchor leg for the women's 4x400m relay on Sunday to claim her second gold medal of the World Athletics Championships in Budapest. Bol began the championships in disastrous fashion by falling and dropping the baton as she closed in on the

line in the 4x400m mixed relay. She went on to totally dominate the 400m hurdles event, easily taking gold. On Sunday, in the final event of these championships and her seventh time on the track, Bol took the baton well down in third place for the fourth and final lap and gradually made up ground on Jamaica's Stacey Ann Williams and Britain's Nicole Yeargin.

Mahuchikh wins women's world high jump title

AFP ■ BUDAPEST



Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh earned her war-afflicted country its first gold medal of the World Athletics championships in Budapest when she won the women's high jump on Sunday. Mahuchikh, who fled the Russian bombardment of her native city of Dnipro last year, managed a best of 2.01m for gold.

Defending champion Eleanor Patterson took silver with a best of 1.99m on countback from Australian teammate Nicola Olyslagers.

"I am so proud to win this gold for my country. I can't wait to go back and show this medal

to my coach," said Mahuchikh.

"I (had) to win this gold for my country and all Ukrainian people who are still fighting for peace in Ukraine and for our independence."

"Thanks to them we have this unique possibility to compete at the international arena and to raise our flag."

The 21-year-old missed out on gold at last year's world championships in Eugene, losing to Patterson on countback, the same result she achieved in Doha in 2019.

Because of the war, the Ukrainian had to make a six-day car journey to Belgrade last year where she added the world indoor high jump title to those two world silvers and Olympic bronze she had already collected.

"Silvers from Doha and Eugene definitely were not enough for me," Mahuchikh said.

"I have been one of the best woman high jumpers over the last few years and I badly wanted to become the best in the world officially. Before every single one of my jumps tonight I said to myself that I have to win gold. Only gold."

"Tomorrow we will start the next stage of our preparation. I am looking forward to get another title from the Olympics in Paris."

In next two months, I want to create memories with this team: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma understands the gargantuan pressure that a home World Cup brings but the Indian captain wants to insulate himself from the outside chatter as he embarks on an arduous journey to win the country's first ICC trophy in a decade.

Shouldering more than a billion hopes, the 36-year-old India skipper knows what's at stake in the ODI World Cup, which starts October 5 with England taking on New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

"For me, it is important how I keep myself relaxed and not worry about external factors that play a role, whether positively or not negatively. I want to shut out everything," Rohit told PTI in an exclusive interview just before joining the Asia Cup camp in Bengaluru.

"I want to get into the phase I was in before the 2019 World Cup," said Rohit, who carries an aura of Zen even in the most tense of situations.

The same calm was visible as he put across his point of view in an uncomplicated manner during the interview, just like the straight face of his bat when he hits the bowler's back-drive.

"I was in great frame of mind and prepared really well for the tournament," he said referring to the last edition, where he scored 648 runs with an unprecedented five hundreds to emerge as the highest run-getter. "I was in good shape, good mindset. I want to bring that back and I have time to do that. Trying to recollect what were the right things that I was doing before the 2019 World Cup as a cricketer and as a person. I want to revisit that thought-process of mine personally," the skipper said.

World Cups and the vagaries associated with the results can change a lot of things but for Rohit, one month of cricket can't make or break the player that he is. "A person can't change overnight with his success or failures," he said.

"I don't think one result or one championship can change me as a person. I have not changed as a person in the last 16 years and I don't think anything needs to change on that front," he said.

"The focus will be on how I can achieve my goals in the next two months,

for me and my team. A person can't change in a period of one or two months." Rohit has won five IPL titles as Mumbai Indians captain, Asia Cup as India captain (2018) and led the team to World Test Championship final as recently as June this year.

Do you ever think about your legacy in Indian cricket after being around for 16 years?

"No," pat came the reply. "I am not the person who thinks about what kind of legacy I will leave behind. My legacy will be for people to judge and talk about. Not for me to say."

He has 30 ODI hundreds, second only to Virat Kohli's 46. Add 10 Test hundreds and four T20I tons. A total of 17,000 plus international runs aren't bad numbers.

"I am not a firm believer in numbers. You should be happy and enjoy the time you have in-front of you, and try to live in that kind of moment. I am thinking about what gives me happiness," he added.

"For me, it's all about creating memories and creating a good rapport with my teammates. Be happy in whatever you get and whatever you have."



India will be known as sporting country in 10-15 years: Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar on Monday said India will rise as a sporting country in the next 10-15 years, while lauding historic achievements of javelin sensation Neeraj Chopra, chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa and badminton star HS Prannoy.

Chopra on Sunday became the first-ever Indian to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships, while Praggnanandhaa last week created history by reaching the World Cup final at 18 years.

Prannoy defeated the world No 1 Viktor Axelsen en route to winning a World Championships bronze.

"Earlier, you would see only a few sports would be talked about, media coverage would only be for those," the Indian cricket icon told the media here after he was revealed as the principal advisor of the Midwicket Stories.

outlet and exposure and because of the other sports, we are getting to see the (emergence of) stars."

The Little Master was brimming with joy as he witnessed Chopra's triumphant moment of becoming a world champion in Budapest.

"I remember when he (Neeraj Chopra) had won the Tokyo Olympics gold, the India-England series was going on..."

"I was watching from England, and I was prompted to sing a song 'Mere desh ki dharti sona ugle...' Yesterday, I experienced the same feeling," he said.

"We had seen Neeraj two years earlier when he won the gold medal in the Olympics. Last year he won a silver medal, but for him it was important to win the gold medal and with a long throw he did it," Gavaskar said.

"On the other hand, in badminton Worlds, Prannoy reached the semifinals and he defeated Viktor Axelsen. If you

see, with the exposure that Indian sportspersons are getting..."

"If you think about America and Australia as sporting countries, I feel that in 10-15 years' time, India will also be called a sporting country," he added.

The former India captain said Chopra's historic achievements will inspire others to take up javelin.

"It inspires other (athletes)," he said. "You would have seen that in this World Championship it was not just Neeraj, we had three throwers in the final."

"When one athlete does well it gives encouragement to others to take up the sport as well. It was a joyous moment," he added.

Gavaskar also backed Praggnanandhaa to win many accolades in his fledgling career.

"Praggnanandhaa finished as the runner-up. He is just 18, going forward he can win many titles in the future," Gavaskar said.

India beat Malaysia, qualify for 2024 WC

PTI ■ SALALAH (OMAN)

Skipper Navjot Kaur slammed a hat-trick as India continued their impressive run at the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier and defeated Malaysia 9-5 to enter the final of the tournament here on Monday and also qualify for next year's World Cup. Navjot (7th, 10th, 17th minutes) struck a hat-trick while Mariana Kujur (9th, 12th) and Jyoti (21th, 26th) scored twice each. Monika Dipi Toppo (22nd) and Mahima Choudhary (14th) were the other goal scorers for India.

For Malaysia, Zati Muhamad (4th, 5th), Dian Nazeri (10th, 20th) and Aziz Zafirah (16th) found the net.

The inaugural edition of the Hockey 5s World Cup will be held in Muscat from January 24 to 27 next year.

Even though India started the match on an aggressive note, it was Malaysia, who took the lead through Muhamad.

A minute later, Malaysia doubled their lead as Muhamad was on the score-sheet again, scoring a fine field goal. India, however, pulled one back through Navjot's strike two minutes later.

In-form Kujur then scored



for India to level the scores.

With both the teams constantly creating threatening attacks, Malaysia took the lead through Nazeri.

India immediately counter-

attacked and scored two goals in quick time to take the lead.

Navjot and Kujur scored the third and fourth goals for India.

With a minute remaining in the first half, India extended

their lead through Choudhary.

At the end of the first half, India were leading Malaysia by 5-3. Both the teams came out firing in the second half, making some threatening moves.

But it was Malaysia who first got on the score-sheet through Zafirah. India added three more goals to their tally through Navjot, Jyoti and Toppo to make it 8-5 in their favour.

With four minutes remaining, Jyoti scored the ninth goal for India. India will play the winner of the second semifinal between Thailand and Indonesia in the final of the tournament later on Monday night.