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GOING TO THE MOON
AND BEYOND

WORLD 9
N KOREA MUST BE READY AGAINST
US-LED INVASION PLOTS: KIM

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INDIA, NEW ZEALAND PLANNING
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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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CENTRE GIFTS LPG PRICE CUT ON RAKHI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to common people, particularly housewives on the eve of the festival of Raksha Bandhan, the Centre on Tuesday announced a Rs 200 per cylinder cut in prices of domestic cooking gas.

Among other measures, the Union Cabinet adopted a resolution hailing the soft-landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface, saying the success of the mission is a victory not just for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) but a symbol of India's progress and ascent on the global stage. It also welcomed the fact that August 23 would be celebrated as 'National Space Day' in the country from now on.

The decision of the Narendra Modi Government will bring down the price of domestic cylinder by Rs 200. At present, a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in the national Capital costs Rs 1,103 — more than double the rate it came for in May 2020.

It will cost Rs 903 when the decision is implemented from Wednesday. For Ujjwala beneficiaries, the price will be Rs 703 after considering the continuing Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy. Announcing the deci-



sion, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the move was aimed at providing relief to households. Also, the Government will provide an additional 75 lakh Ujjwala connections, which will take the total Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.

An official statement said, "These decisions come as part of the Government's ongoing efforts to ease the financial burden on citizens and promote the welfare of households. The reduction in cooking gas prices reflects the Government's commitment to prioritise the well-

being of its citizens and ensure access to essential commodities at reasonable rates."

Hailing the decision, Prime Minister Modi said in a post in Hindi on X, "The festival of Raksha Bandhan is about increasing happiness within the family. The reduction in gas prices will provide more comfort to sisters in my family and make their life easier. May every sister of mine be happy and healthy, this is my wish from God."

Cooking gas prices have shot up in the last couple of years and have become a major election issue. Thakur, however, refused to link the decision

with elections saying it was a gift from the Modi Government to women on the occasion of Onam and Raksha Bandhan.

It is not known how much the decision would cost the exchequer but Thakur said the Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy provided to Ujjwala consumers would cost Rs 7,680 crore in the current financial year ending March 31, 2024 (April 2023 to March 2024).

While Ujjwala beneficiaries are only 9.6 crore, there are some 31 crore domestic cooking gas users in the country.

The Government in June 2020 stopped giving LPG subsidies. Cooking gas across the country was priced at market rate, which rose to Rs 1,103 in the national Capital.

The only subsidy that was available was for poor women who got free connections under PMUY. The Government gave Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy for up to 12 refills in a year. This subsidy was transferred into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, who bought LPG at market price from the dealer.

The move to cut prices by Rs 200 would bring back the subsidy regime unless the Government were to ask the oil companies to absorb the cut and not compensate them.

Continued on Page 2

On G20 eve China plays map games again; India rebuffs

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/BEIJING

Amid tension on the border in Ladakh and with Chinese President Xi Jinping expected to attend the forthcoming G-20 summit in New Delhi in September, China has now come out with its "standard map" showing Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as part of its territory.

In a strong rebuff, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that China has a "habit" of releasing such maps and told Beijing that merely including other countries' territories in its maps meant nothing. Making this assertion in an interview to a private television channel on



Tuesday, Jaishankar said, "China has put out maps with territories (that are) not theirs. (It is an) old habit. Just by putting out maps with parts of India... this doesn't change anything. Our Government is very clear about what our territory (is). Making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours." He also de-linked disengage-

ment talks along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China's new map, the release of which was sandwiched between the G20 Summit in Delhi next weekend and last week's "informal conversation" between Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BRICS Summit in South Africa.

Modi had then conveyed to

Jinping, India's "concerns over unresolved issues along LAC and other areas along the Indo-China border."

Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the LAC in the state's Tawang sector in December last year — a face-off that came amid a months-long border standoff in eastern Ladakh that prompted Delhi to bolster overall military readiness along the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh sector as well.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had charged China with trying to "unilaterally" change the status quo and, last month, Jaishankar said the situation remains "very fragile" and "quite dangerous."

Continued on Page 2

J&K's UT status not permanent: Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the Union Territory (UT) status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is not a "permanent thing" and that it will make an elaborate statement on the vexatious political issue in the court on August 31.

The Central Government's response was conveyed to the court by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, after a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, hearing the pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, asked it to set a specific time frame for restoration of electoral democracy in the erstwhile State.

"The Union Territory status of Jammu and Kashmir is not a permanent thing. So



far as Ladakh is concerned, its UT status is going to remain for some time," Mehta said. The top Government law officer said he will make an elaborate statement on the future of the UT status of J&K and Ladakh before the Bench, which also comprises Justices

Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gava, and Surya Kant, on August 31.

The Bench, which was hearing Mehta's submissions defending the Centre's decision to do away with the special status of the former State and its reorganisation, said, "Democracy is important, although we agree that in view of the national security scenario, reorganisation of the State can be done."

The court, however, said lack of electoral democracy cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely. "This has to come to an end... Give us the specific time frame as to when will you restore actual democracy. We want to record this," the Bench said, and asked Mehta and Attorney General R Venkataramani to seek instructions from the political executive and get back to the court.

TMC licking Cong feet for survival in Bengal: Adhir



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Strains appeared in the fragile seams of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) with Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury declaring a "no-friendship policy" with the Trinamool Congress in his State and ridiculing Mamata Banerjee's TMC as a party which was licking the feet of the Congress for its political survival — following survey reports that it was going to fare poorly in the forthcoming elections.

Harsh statements being hurled at the TMC apart the Congress, *a la* the Left Front, on Tuesday decided to stay away from the all-party meeting called by the Chief Minister to discuss Bengal Statehood Day — which much to the chagrin of Mamata was celebrated by Governor CV Ananda Bose on June 20.

"Questions are being raised from several corners on the Congress' stand *vis a vis* the TMC in Bengal... I must clarify that they (Trinamool) will not be accommodated in Bengal... there is no question of any alliance with them in Bengal and there is no question of any alliance with the BJP in Delhi," the PCC chief said in an apparent response to the rumblings within his State unit which on Monday night saw pro and

anti-TMC groups in the Congress exchanging fisticuffs inside the PCC Bhavan.

Launching his strongest attack against the ruling party since Mamata Banerjee joining the Bengaluru INDIA meet — Chowdhury said, "The Trinamool Congress is trying to cozy up to the Congress for its own survival and not to help its cause of throwing out the BJP... they are licking the Congress' feet in order to save themselves and no one else... the fight in Bengal against the TMC will continue with all its vehemence and in every field where it is required."

Adhir, a strong Mamata Banerjee baiter had mysteriously fallen silent after the Bengaluru INDIA meet, incurring the ire of party grassroots led by some PCC Young Turks like Kaustav Bagchi who has a history of publicly confronting — inside the courtyard of the Calcutta High Court — senior advocates and Congress leaders like Abhishek Manu Singhvi and P Chidambaram for defending the TMC in the Supreme Court regardless of the Congress' bitter turf war with it on the issues of rampant corruption.

Chowdhury's latest outburst against Mamata and her party is seen by critics as a ploy to stem the anger in the party rank and file. Rumbblings within the Pradesh Congress had been getting louder with Bagchi openly challenging the national leadership's decision to include Mamata who has "systematically destroyed our party in Bengal and whose men have murdered and looted the houses of grassroots workers" — in the INDIA alliance.

He also criticized Chowdhury in public for submitting to Mamata's shrewd politics "just for the sake of a bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi."



Imran's Toshakhana sentence suspended but cipher case keeps Khan in judicial lock-up

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday suspended Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release from jail. The order came as a major relief to Pakistan's embattled former Prime Minister ahead of the forthcoming General Elections. Though Khan's sentence has been suspended but he was not being released as a special court holding his trial in the Official Secrets Act directed the Attock Jail authorities to keep him in the "judicial lock-up" and produce him on August 30 before the court in connection with the cipher case.

Earlier, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Jahangiri announced the much-anticipated verdict which was reserved on Monday.

"Decision of District Court (has been) suspended by IHC," Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said in a WhatsApp message.

The Bench also ordered release of the 70-year-old leader on the production of surety bonds worth Rs100,000. Khan's legal counsel Naeem Haider Panjtoha posted on X, "The CJ has accepted our request, suspended the sentence and said a detailed decision would be provided later."

Dirty air costs Delhiites 12 years: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new study has flagged concerns that as global pollution rose in 2021 and three-quarters of its impact on global life expectancy occurred in just six countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and Indonesia, it is Delhi which has earned the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted city where residents may lose 11.9 years of their life if the current levels of air pollution persist.

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago also showed that all of India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level

exceeds the 5 g/m3 limit set by World Health Organisation (WHO).

The impact on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, and over five times that of transport injuries like car crashes, said the study. It also found that 67.4 per cent of Indians live in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of 40 g/m3. The study said fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) shortens an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years, relative to what it would be if the 5 g/m3 pollution limit set by WHO was met.

The AQLI said that Delhi is the most polluted city in the world with its 18 million resi-

dents on track to lose 11.9 years of life expectancy on average relative to the WHO limit and 8.5 years relative to the national guidelines. "Even in the least-polluted district in the region Pathankot in Punjab, particulate pollution is more than seven times the WHO limit, taking 3.1 years off life expectancy if current levels persist," it said.

Though particulate pollution in the northern plains is exacerbated by geologic and meteorological factors, the AQLI's dust and sea salt-removed PM 2.5 data imply that human activity plays a key role in generating severe pollution.

That is likely because the region's population density is nearly three times the rest of the

country, meaning more pollution from vehicular, residential and agricultural sources.

"Three-quarters of air pollution's impact on global life expectancy occurs in just six countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and Indonesia — where people lose one to more than six years of their lives because of the air they breathe," said Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and creator of AQLI. Globally, the average person would add 2.3 years onto their life expectancy — or a combined 17.8 billion life-years saved worldwide, if the world were to permanently reduce PM2.5 to meet the WHO's guideline, the researchers said.

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As Siddha Govt finishes 100 days in office, BJP lists '100 failures'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP in Karnataka on Tuesday brought out a booklet on the "100 failures" of the state government, which has just completed 100 days in office, in fulfilling its promises.

The party also charged the Congress government with pursuing politics of vengeance, while also alleging glaring financial indiscipline has resulted in delayed salaries to a section of the government employees.

When asked to comment on the BJP "charge-sheet" (booklet), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hit out at the J.P. Nadda-led party asking: "What moral right they have? They were drowned in corruption during their tenure." Siddaramaiah denied that his government is targeting the previous BJP government.

He said the Congress, when it was in the opposition, had demanded a probe into alleged scams during the BJP regime like "Police Sub-



Inspector recruitment scandal" and "40 per cent commission charge" but they were not investigated. The Congress government has now ordered probe into such scams which it had demanded when it was in the opposition, the Chief Minister said.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, state BJP President Nalin Kumar Kateel and former Minister Govind Karjol released a booklet titled "Kai Kotta Yojanegalu-Hali Tappida Adalita" (washing hands of schemes-Derailed Administration) explaining the '100 failures' of the Siddaramaiah government.

The Siddaramaiah government, which assumed office on May 20, has betrayed people by not fulfilling its promises, Kateel alleged at a press conference.

He said that before coming to power, the Congress had announced five 'guarantees' (pre-poll promises) and made "speeches on corruption".

However, by putting conditions on these guarantees later, the government has backtracked from its promises, Kateel said. Kateel alleged there are two ministers facing corruption charges but the government did not take any action against them. According to him, investors are also mov-

ing out of the state due to inadequate power supply. "There is drought in the state. There were no rains due to which farmers are forced to block roads. The farmers are staring at power outage. The government did not announce any pro-farmer scheme," Kateel said.

The BJP leader explained that Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi under which Rs 6,000 is credited into the account of farmers every year.

When Bommai was the Chief Minister, he decided to add Rs 4,000 more from the state government to the Central scheme. This way, farmers were getting Rs 10,000 every year, he added.

"The Congress today has curtailed the scheme. This is an anti-farmer government. Corruption has spread its tentacles from Panchayat office to the CM office," Kateel charged.

"More than anything, this government is pursuing the politics of vengeance. It is jailing those writing anything on social media against it.

Maha Cong to honour Rahul on Sept 1 for 'standing up' to Modi, fight 'vindictiveness'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress will accord a grand felicitation to party MP Rahul Gandhi at Tilak Bhavan at Dadar in north-central Mumbai on Friday (September 1) for "standing up without fear" to the "dictatorial" tendencies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he was "vindictive" by the Government in a "vindictive" manner.

Announcing this, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Nana Patole said here on Tuesday: "At a time when there is an atmosphere of fear in the country, Rahul Gandhi - by standing up to the dictatorial tendencies of Modi without fear - sent across a message of dero mat to the people across the country. That's why we have decided to felicitate people's leader Rahul Gandhi in the land of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj".

Rahul's felicitations will take place after the conclusion of the two-day Opposition INDIA alliance two-day to be held at



Hotel Grand Hyatt at 6 Santacruz in north-west Mumbai on August 31 and September 1," he said. AICC president Malikiran Kharge, party general secretary K Venugopal and senior party leaders will be present at the felicitation programme.

Recalling as how the Government booked Rahul Gandhi on "trumped up" charges of defamation, disqualified him as a Lok Sabha Member and forced him to vacate his official residence, Patole said that the ruling BJP's "vindictive" did not deter Congress leader one bit and so much so that the latter not only displayed "exemplary courage" in dealing with the situation but he also spread "not to be scared of Modi government" among the people in the country.

Edu Min launches comic book 'Let's Move Forward'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To motivate students to prioritise holistic well-being while entertaining them through storytelling, with key focus on good health and wellness, the Union Education Ministry on Tuesday released a comic book titled 'Let's Move Forward'.

The comic book designed by NCERT and UNESCO, caters to the diverse requirements of adolescents and encapsulates crucial information pertaining to the 11 thematic components of the School Health and Wellness Programme.

Releasing the titles, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted that this book encompasses a comprehensive range of subjects, including emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, gender equality, nutrition and health, substance abuse prevention, healthy

lifestyles, reproductive health, internet safety, and more. Pradhan stressed on the importance of stories in conveying important messages such as mental health and hoped that more such comic books will be developed in future. Good stories are extremely important for developing societal harmony and well-being, he stated.

Secretary, School Education and Literacy Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Atul Kumar Tiwari; Director, NCERT, Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani; officials of the Ministry of Education and UNESCO and students were also present at the launch event. Pradhan urged UNESCO to spread Indian stories so that it benefits not only youth of India but that of the entire world. 'Explore', The comic book imparts life skills essential for fostering responsible and health-conscious behaviour among adolescents.

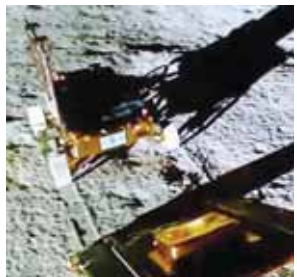
Rover confirms presence of sulphur on Moon: ISRO

Search for Hydrogen underway, says Indian space agency

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy instrument onboard 'Pragyan' rover of Chandrayaan-3 has unambiguously confirmed the presence of sulphur on the lunar surface near south pole, through first-ever in-situ measurements, ISRO said on Tuesday.

It also said the instrument detected aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium, titanium, manganese, silicon and oxygen, as expected. "The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the



elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole. These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," the space agency said in a statement.

According to ISRO, LIBS is a scientific technique that analyses the composition of materials by exposing them to intense laser pulses. "A high-energy laser pulse is focused onto the surface of a material,

such as a rock or soil. The laser pulse generates an extremely hot and localised plasma. The collected plasma light is spectrally resolved and detected by detectors such as Charge Coupled Devices.

Since each element emits a characteristic set of wavelengths of light when it's in a plasma state, the elemental composition of the material is determined," it said.

Preliminary analyses have unveiled the presence of Aluminium (Al), Sulphur (S), Calcium (Ca), Iron (Fe), Chromium (Cr), and Titanium (Ti) on the lunar surface. Further measurements have revealed the presence of manganese (Mn), silicon (Si), and oxygen (O), it said.

"Thorough investigation regarding the presence of Hydrogen is underway," ISRO said. LIBS instrument is developed at the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems at

Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru where the first India satellite was fabricated in 1975.

India on August 23 scripted history as ISRO's ambitious third Moon mission Chandrayaan-3's Lander Module (LM) touched down on the lunar surface, making it only the fourth country to accomplish the feat, and first to reach the uncharted south pole of Earth's only natural satellite.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the decision to name the spot where Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander made soft landing as 'Shiv Shakti Point' and the site where the Chandrayaan-2 lander crash-landed on the Moon's surface in 2019 would be known as "Tiranga Point".

Also, August 23, the day the Chandrayaan-3 lander touched down on the lunar surface, would be celebrated as 'National Space Day', Modi had said.

'Fatigue, breathlessness still haunting Covid survivors'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 global health emergency is on the wane, but at least about 17.1 per cent patients infected with the deadly virus continue to suffer persistent or new onset symptoms, according to a new study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The symptoms of long Covid or post Covid condition (PCC) include fatigue, breathlessness or neurocognitive abnormalities. PCC was also linked with 2.7 times higher odds of post-discharge mortality.

The study led by ICMR's Clinical Studies and Trials Unit also showed that 6.5 per cent patients hospitalised due to Covid lost their lives a year post-discharge. Younger as well as older age, male gender, moderate-to-severe disease and



presence of comorbidities are associated with higher odds of post-discharge one-year mortality, revealed the study based on the data of 14,419 patients across 31 hospitals.

Among the 14,419 participants who were followed up at least once between four weeks and one year post-discharge, 942 (6.5 per cent) had died, and the remaining 93.5 per cent were reported alive during one year of follow-up. The odds of dying after the first follow-up between 4-8 weeks were higher among those with comor-

bidity and those who reported PCC. "The odds of death after the first follow-up were lower among those who had a moderate-to-severe disease during initial hospitalisation and had received anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccination, although the association was not significant," the researchers said, in the paper published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

However, vaccination before the Covid-19 infection offered 60 per cent protection, the study showed. "Vaccination before the Covid-19 infection confers protection to post discharge mortality," it added.

Multiple studies have identified increasing age as a risk factor for post discharge death. The current analysis additionally showed that the participants younger than 18 years had 1.7 times higher odds of dying after discharge from the hospital. "Our earlier reports

have shown that comorbidities among admitted children are more severe, such as malignancies, kidney disorders, haematological disorders and others."

The ICMR study comes close on the heels of yet another similar research published in August 21 in Nature Medicine which noted that even two years after infection with the virus, fallout from Covid-19 may persist.

The researchers found that people who had Covid - including those who were hospitalized within the first 30 days following infection and those who were not - were still up to two years after infection, at an elevated risk for many long COVID-related conditions including diabetes, lung problems, fatigue, blood clots and disorders affecting the gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal systems.

Teacher booked for hurling communal slurs in class

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Government school teacher was booked for allegedly hurling communal slurs against a few students inside a class last week.

Hema Gulati of the Kailash Nagar Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Gandhinagar area made the offensive statements on August 23, when students of Class 9 were celebrating the success of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission.

The development follows the outrage over a viral video purportedly showing a school teacher instructing students to take turns to slap a classmate from the minority community at a school in Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. Parents of the students approached the Delhi Police and Directorate of Education to complain about the teacher for verbally abusing

the children and using religious slurs in the class.

A group of students and their families protested outside the school. In a statement, the AAP government said enquiry committee has been set up to look into this matter. "Guidelines are also being issued to all teachers and principals for ensuring non discrimination along lines of religion, caste, region, language," it said.

According to police, she has been booked under IPC Sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), 295 A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 298 (uttering words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings).

Delhi to get 2nd exhibition-summit conference centre IICC next month

New Delhi: The national capital will get its second world-class exhibition-conference centre with the inauguration of the first phase of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) at Dwarka next month, a senior official has said.

The first phase of the project has been built at a cost of over Rs 5,400 crore, the official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the centre in September 2018.

The IICC is being developed as a modern centre to promote meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) activities to attract and promote business and industry. The project is being developed in two phases. PTI

SC postpones hearing on Kejriwal's plea over poll law violation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned for four weeks the hearing of a plea by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking discharge in a case against him for allegedly making objectionable remarks against the BJP and the Congress in Uttar Pradesh during the 2014 Lok Sabha poll campaign.

Kejriwal has moved the apex court against an order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court which had declined to discharge him in the criminal case pending before a trial court in Sultanpur. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and J B Pardiwala noted there was a request for adjournment by

Kejriwal's counsel. The top court said it will take up the matter after four weeks. Kejriwal has been accused of promoting enmity between classes in connection with elections under section 125 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951.

On the campaign trail, Kejriwal had allegedly said, "Jo Congress ko vote dega, mera manana hoga, desh ke saath gaddari hogi... Joh Bhajapa (BJP) ko vote dega use Khuda bhi maaf nahin karega (Those who will vote for the Congress will be betraying the nation, and God will not forgive those who will vote for the BJP)." In his plea before the apex court, Kejriwal has said the petition raises some important questions of law.



Vehicles pass by a mural designed under a railway bridge in preparation for the forthcoming G20 Summit at Ring Road. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

CENTRE GIFTS LPG PRICE CUT...

From Page 1
The Government in October 2022 provided a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 crore to oil companies to cover for the losses they had incurred on selling LPG at low cost in the previous two years. On the other decision of the Cabinet, Thakur said the Cabinet congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

It thanked the scientists and noted that India has become the first country to land near the Moon's south pole. "Landing on the moon, with predicted accuracy, in itself is a momentous achievement. Landing near the South Pole of the Moon, overcoming the arduous conditions, is a testament to the spirit of our scientists who since centuries have sought to push the bound-

aries of human knowledge," read the resolution. The Cabinet said it believes that India's advancements in the space sector are more than just monumental scientific achievements. They represent a vision of progress, self-reliance, and global leadership. This is also a symbol of the rising New India.

"This Cabinet commends and appreciates every individual who has contributed to this landmark mission, acknowledging that Chandrayaan-3 is a glowing testament to what India can achieve with passion, perseverance and unwavering dedication," the resolution said.

The wealth of information being sent by the 'Pragyan' rover from the Moon will advance knowledge and pave the way for ground-breaking

discoveries and insights into the mysteries of the moon and beyond, the resolution said.

"The Cabinet is proud to see that a large number of women scientists have contributed to the success of Chandrayaan-3 and India's space programme in general. This will motivate several aspiring women scientists in the years to come," the resolution noted.

It also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "visionary and exemplary leadership, and his unwavering commitment to India's space programme for human welfare and scientific progress." "His faith in the capabilities of our scientists and his constant encouragement have always fortified their spirit," the Cabinet resolution pointed out.

On G20 eve China plays map games again...

From Page 1
"The 2023 edition of China's standard map was officially released late on Monday night and launched on the website of the standard map service hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources," State-run Global Times said in a post on X.

This map is compiled based on the drawing method of the national boundaries of China and various countries in the world," the post said. The map displayed by the Global Times showed Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as South Tibet, and Aksai Chin, occupied by it in the 1962 war, as part of China. India has repeatedly told China that "Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of

India". The map also incorporates as Chinese territory the island of Taiwan and a large part of the South China Sea, both of which China has laid claim to. China claims Taiwan as part of its mainland and its integration with the mainland is part of a vowed objective of Jinping.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims over the South China Sea areas. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei have all claims over the South China Sea areas.

Earlier this year in April, after China released a third set of names in Chinese, Tibetan and Pinyin characters for Arunachal Pradesh, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had asserted,

"Arunachal Pradesh has always been, and will always be an integral part of India."

While commenting on China's attempt to show its domination in places belonging to India's Arunachal Pradesh said: "This is not the first time that China has attempted something like this (changing the names of areas in Arunachal Pradesh) and we have already condemned any such attempts.

Regarding Arunachal Pradesh, we had also said that Arunachal Pradesh is an inseparable part of India) and imposing invented names like these will not at all change the reality." The latest map was released by China's Ministry of Natural Resources during the celebration of Surveying and Mapping Publicity Day and

National Mapping Awareness Publicity Week on Monday in Deqing county, Zhejiang province, as per China Daily newspaper. Chief planner of China's Ministry of Natural Resources, Wu Wenzhong, said surveying, mapping and geographic information play an important role in boosting the development of the nation, meeting the needs of all walks of life, supporting the management of natural resources, and helping the construction of ecology and civilization.

"The next step will be to accelerate the application of geographic information data such as digital maps and navigation and positioning in the development of the digital economy, such as location-based services, precision agriculture, platform economy and

intelligent connected vehicles," Wu said, as per China Daily. Zhejiang has in recent years focused on the deep integration of the digital and real economies and has continued to promote the development of the digital economy, according to Li Yaowu, deputy secretary-general of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government.

Beijing had in April this year unilaterally "renamed" as many as 11 Indian locations, which included names of mountain peaks, rivers and residential areas. This is not the first time that Beijing has employed such tactics. Previously in 2017 and 2021, China's Civil Affairs Ministry had renamed other Indian locations triggering another political confrontation.

DDA amends norms, allows flat, plot owners to apply

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
To provide opportunity to all home buyers to participate in Delhi Development Authority (DDA) housing schemes, the authority on Tuesday approved an amendment in housing regulations doing away with the restrictions that a person owning a house or plot in Delhi cannot apply for allotment of DDA flat. The authority has also approved a proposal for change of land use of an area measuring 868 sqm. in Pocket-III, Rouse Avenue, DDU Marg, New Delhi allotted to Communist Party of India (Marxist) and also gave permission for allotment of land for construction of six state guest houses or State Bhawans.

The authority meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approved the proposals on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by DDA vice chairman Subhash Panda and other senior officials. In a statement, the Raj Niwas said the authority has approved an amendment in housing regulations doing away with the restrictions that a person owning a house or plot in Delhi cannot apply for allotment of DDA flat. The approved proposal will be sent to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India for final approval and notification. "It has been observed that restrictions imposed by the regulation has affected sale of



DDA flats from the demand side in terms of inability to sell flats to those who own a flat or plot in Delhi, due to increased family sizes and even though they may be willing and have purchasing power to buy the flat," read the statement. "There is a need to provide

a level playing field for selling all kinds of DDA's built-up inventory of flats which is getting accumulated year after year. This would lead to maximum fresh inventory of DDA getting sold in the initial stage itself leading to recovery of capital, avoidance of repair/maintenance expenses and depreciation of inventory leading to their vintage nature", it added. "The regulations were drafted in 1968 when affordable housing for all was DDA's mandate. Since then, the city has changed a lot and NCR cities such as Noida and Gurugram have opened up a host of housing choices to the people," said a senior DDA official. DDA (management and disposal of housing

estates) regulation, 1968, were issued under section 57 of DDA Act, 1957. Regulation 7 of these rules detailed eligibility of allotment of the flats. It stated, "A dwelling unit or flat in the housing estates of the authority shall be allotted only to such person who or his wife/husband or any of his/her dependant relations including unmarried children do not own in full or in part on freehold or leasehold basis a residential plot or house in the urban area of Delhi, New Delhi and Delhi Cantonment". The authority also approved a proposal for change of land use of an area measuring 868 sqm. in Pocket-III, Rouse Avenue, DDU Marg, New Delhi allotted to Communist Party of India

(Marxist). Now, the public notice will be issued for inviting objections/suggestion from general public. It has also approved a proposal for change of land use from Recreational, Residential to Public and semi-public facilities of 3 plots measuring 12183.57sq.m. (3.01 Acre), 8134.18 sq.m. (2.01 Acre) and 3601.70 sq.m. (0.89 acre) to Public and Semi-public Facilities (PSI), currently under the ownership of RML Hospital. The authority also gave permission for allotment of land for construction of six State Bhawans / State Guest Houses, as per requirement received from time to time, on a plot measuring 1.6 Hectare in Sector-17 of Dwarka.

G20 Summit: Biden to stay in Maurya Sheraton, Xi in Taj Palace

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
As the national Capital gears up for the high-profile G20 summit from September 8-10, heads of States and delegates will start arriving here soon and will be lodged in more than 30 hotels here and suburbs including Gurugram, Noida and Faridabad. It was learnt US President Joe Biden will stay in ITC Maurya Sheraton and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Taj Palace. Reports said 23 hotels in Delhi and nine in the suburbs will accommodate the G20 delegates. The hotels in Delhi include ITC Maurya, Taj Mansingh, Taj Palace, Hotel Oberoi, Hotel Lalit, The Lodhi, Le Meridien, Hyatt Regency, Shangri-La, Leela Palace, Hotel Ashoka, Eros Hotel, The Surya, Radisson Blue Plaza, JW Marriott, Sheraton, The Leela



Ambience Convention, Hotel Pullman, Rosette Hotel and The Imperial. As regards the suburbs, The Vivanta (Surajkund), ITC Grand (Gurugram), Taj City Centre (Gurugram), Hyatt Regency (Gurugram), The Oberoi (Gurugram), WestINN (Gurugram), Crown Plaza (Greater Noida) figure in the list. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will stay at the

Taj Palace, Delhi, and the Indonesian and Australian delegations will be accommodated in the Imperial Hotel. Shangri-La will host the delegations from the United Kingdom and Germany, while Hyatt Regency in Delhi will accommodate the Italian and Singaporean delegations. The Oman delegation will stay in the Lodhi Hotel, the French delegation in Claridges Hotel and the Bangladesh delegation at the Grand Hyatt in Gurugram. The Lalit Hotel in Delhi will host the delegations from Canada and Japan, they said adding the Korean delegation will stay in the Oberoi Hotel in Gurugram, the Egyptian delegation in ITC Sheraton in Saket and the Saudi Arabian delegation in the Leela Hotel in Gurugram. The UAE delegation will stay in the Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi.

French President Emmanuel Macron at the Claridges Hotel. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will stay at the Imperial Hotel, sources said. The Oberoi Hotel in Delhi will house Turkish delegations while delegations from Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria and Spain will stay in Le Meridien, sources said. The delegations from China and Brazil will stay in the

Langur mimics, its cut outs to deal with monkey menace

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
In a move to tackle monkey menace during the G20 meeting in the national capital, the authorities are taking steps to deploy langur mimics and put up cut outs of the simians at vantage points to scare away monkeys. According to authorities, a band of about 30 to 40 men who can mimic the call of a langur and lifelike cutouts of the distinctive black faced simian at vantage points will be the stratagem to scare away monkeys. Authorities said that monkeys menace is the major issues as the heads of major countries are coming to Delhi during the G20 summit. The unchecked population of monkeys has led to their ever-increasing num-



bers across the city, including in New Delhi areas (Lutyens' Delhi), with the animals loitering around and often attacking and biting people. In view of this, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Forest Department of the Delhi government have taken steps to ensure that monkeys are not allowed to play spoilsport dur-

ing the important G20 summit, to be held from September 9-10. "All the important sites, including the main venue of the Summit, hotels where foreign dignitaries and delegates would be staying are being covered to ensure the monkey hordes are not visible there during the event," a government official said. NDMC vice chairman Satish Upadhyay said the civic body will deploy 30-40 trained persons who can mimic langur voice to scare away the monkeys. "These trained persons are registered with us and they have been hired as they are effective in scaring away monkeys by making sounds of langur. We will deploy one each at hotels where delegates would stay, as well as in places where

monkey sightings are reported," he said. An official said over a dozen cut-outs of langur were placed strategically in areas, including Sardar Patel Marg, that are heavily infested with monkeys. He said apart from other problems, the monkeys have damaged plants and flowers that were part of horticulture landscaping for the G20 Summit by different agencies. Sardar Patel Marg that connects New Delhi to the IGI airport has been given a facelift with installations of statues, fountains, street furniture and lot of greenery and flowering plants since all the delegates and dignitaries for the Summit will pass through the road, the officials said.

LG monitors G-20 preparations, holds meetings with departments, agencies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
To present a beautiful national Capital to the visitors during the global G20 summit next week, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has been monitoring personally by taking stock of the preparations and beautification. According to a Raj Niwas Press release, Saxena undertook 351 km of total foot walk spanning 58 days which comes to approximately 6.5 km per day in four hours translating into a dedicated 216 hours for the purpose. In this regard, Saxena conducted two dozens high-level meeting with all stakeholders departments and agencies, spread over more than 48 hours on different dates. Saxena took up the task of bringing together various departments / agencies for seamless coordination between them which was essential for this major event, especially in the light of multiplicity of authorities, that exists in Delhi. The agencies involved to keep the national Capital clean, green and beautiful are NDMC, ITPO, DDA, MCD and PWD. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Delhi International Airport



Limited (DIAL) too have been working in coordination as a team for a successful event in Delhi. Saxena had constituted District-Level Monitoring Committees, with representatives of all stakeholder departments / agencies and headed by a senior IAS officer to ensure that all works at the ground is complete. L-G alongwith his officials undertook 54 visits on the streets and roads for inspection and review of the repair, restoration, beautification, according to a Raj Niwas spokesperson. The ITPO area which is the venue for the Summit has been fully decked up and the Lieutenant Governor has been regularly inspecting it since the National Capital was inundated by floods in July this year. DhaukaKuan area, Cantonment area, Sardar Patel Marg and ISBT area has been regularly

under the Lieutenant Governor's watch list and each of these areas have been visited and inspected by him several times. Altogether, 61 roads, 36 in New Delhi, 05 in South-East, 06 in South, 05 in Central, 03 in Shahdara, 02 in South-West and 04 in East District had been identified for revamp and beautification. Similarly, 23 Hotels, 17 in New Delhi, 03 in South-East and 01 each in South, Shahdara and South-West District have been identified for housing delegates. Saxena also ensured that statues, sculptures, artefacts, fountains, lights and green pots are in place and 100 sculptures including that of Konark Wheel, Tortoise, Chhatris, Horse Family, Yakshinis, Ganpati, Elephant Family, Lions, Buddha, Surya and Nandi have been installed.

BJP slams AAP leaders for taking credit for G20 preparation works

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
The BJP on Tuesday condemned the Arvind Kejriwal government's ministers for the preparations being made by the central government for the G-20 in the national capital. The party said it is shameful to see them trying to seek credit for work being done by the Union government with detailed facts. Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, however claimed that the whole national capital's decor and beautification has been done by the AAP-led government's funds and "taxpayers' money" and the central government did not provide even a single penny. Addressing a press conference, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and the Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the character of AAP is shameless and its ministers are taking the credit for the beautification of Delhi by making statements with the same shamelessness. "Organizations looking after beautification work in Delhi are NDMC, ITPO, DDA., Indian Airforce, Delhi International Airport Limited, Delhi Police, M.E.A. MHA etc. All the departments are centrally governed. Giving detailed information about the routes on



which work has been done, he said that Raj Ghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Pragati Maidan, Bharat Mandapam, India Gate, Khan Market, Malcha Marg, Akbar Road, many important places of Lutyens' Zone, from Dhauka Kuan to Airport, Palam Airport etc., was personally visited by the Lt. Governor to ensure the timely completion of projects. "There are total 61 roads where beautification works are being done out of which 36 are under NDMC area. 5 roads of South-East, 6 of South Delhi, 5 of Central, 3 of Shahdara, 2 of South-West and 4 of East Delhi have been identified for beautification," he added. Sachdeva said that the LG has shown his readiness by walking a total of 351 kilometers for inspection in 216 hours of work, but on the contrary, if Arvind Kejriwal or any of his ministers has made

a single inspection tour, then they should tell. Earlier, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed said that the whole national capital's decor and beautification has been done by the AAP-led government's funds and "taxpayers' money". He further stated that the BJP was showing its "shallow politics" by talking about the funding. The AAP leader said, "BJP has reflected its shallow politics by talking about funds. We didn't talk about funds." Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Bharadwaj said, "Delhi is completely ready to welcome guests. Delhi has been beautified. All the major routes are being cleaned, repaired and resurfaced. Walking and cycling tracks have also been created separately. Trees and flower pots are being used."

Atishi checks Lodhi Road, Pragati Maidan stretch



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Atishi on Tuesday inspected the newly transformed Lodhi Road and Pragati Maidan stretch to take stock of G20 preparations. Speaking about the comprehensive makeover of Lodhi Road and other significant city roads, Atishi said she inspected Lodhi Road, a vital part of Central Delhi. PWD has completely transformed this stretch with contemporary design and architecture. The addition of fountains, modern street sculptures, lighting, state-of-the-art furniture, green spaces, and a walking path has made the road aesthetically appealing. As Delhi will welcome the G20 delegates soon, we aspire to showcase our finest work to them." Pragati Maidan, which is the main venue of the G20 summit and will witness the

presence of the leaders of 20 nations, in this regard, the AAP government has also worked on beautifying the roads here. Along with the black-topping of the roads, the Public Works Department (PWD) has also installed impressive street art here. Additionally, a large number of plants of various species have been planted here to ensure greenery, she added. The PWD Minister emphasized that both the MCD and Delhi Government are working tirelessly to present Delhi at its best during the G20 summit. The Delhi government has orchestrated a splendid transformation of major roads, including Ring Road, Lodhi Road, Aurobindo Marg, Shantivan Road, among others. Simultaneously, the MCD has deployed a large number of sanitation workers and mechanized sweeping to ensure the capital's cleanliness.

Tihar jail Assistant SP duped of ₹50 L, files complaint

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
An assistant superintendent at Tihar Jail, has lodged a complaint against a woman wrestler and her husband who allegedly swindled him of Rs 50 lakh under the pretense of involving him in a health product business. According to police, Deepak Sharma, renowned for his dedication to bodybuilding, claims that he fell victim to a scam orchestrated by professional wrestlers Raunak Gulia and her husband, Ankit Gulia. During the show, Raunak introduced herself as a performer and said that her husband is a known entrepreneur and mogul in the field of healthcare products, police said. As per FIR, in the year 2021, Sharma appeared in one reality show 'Ultimate Warriors'

on Discovery Channel where he met Raunak Gulia who was also a partaker/participant on the said show. In May 2022, Rounak introduced Sharma to her husband -- Ankit Gulia -- at the launch party of their supplement brand in which Rounak was a director. In January, the woman told Sharma that her husband's business was flourishing and they were getting a huge profit but required funds so that they could make multiple brands and set up more outlets to earn maximum profit, it stated. Raunak persuaded the victim that if he can capitalise around Rs 50 lakh then her husband would shell out 10 to 15 per cent profits with no share in losses and also induced him to be a brand ambassador of the said company and brand, the FIR said.

Delhi Govt appoints retired HC judge Nath as pro tem DERC chairperson

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
Weeks after a Supreme Court order, the Delhi government has appointed retired Delhi High Court judge Jayant Nath as the pro tem chairperson of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). Amid differences between the AAP government and Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena over the chief of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), Nath was appointed as a stop gap chairperson of the commission. Sources said the new chairperson would be administered the oath of office soon. Sources said the power department had issued the order following the approval of his appointment by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. "In compliance with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Order



dated August 04, 2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 669/2023, the Lt. Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is pleased to appoint Justice (Retd.) Jayant Nath as pro-tem Chairperson of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission on an honorarium of a lumpsum amount of Rs. Seven Lakhs Per Month (without any facility such as Basic Salary, HRA/accommodation, DA, EPF etc.) along with a working office and a staff car with driver as available to the Chairperson, DERC, as decided by Chief Minister and

Lt. Governor in consultation with Justice (Retd.) Jayant Nath," read the order issued by Delhi government's power department. Retired from Delhi High Court in November 2021, Justice Nath was nominated as the interim chairperson of the power regulator by the Supreme Court on August 4 after the LG and the AAP government had failed to reach a consensus for the post. The order further said that he would continue to be engaged in other work, including arbitration, except in works which are in conflict of interest vis-a-vis functions, duties and responsibilities of Chairman, DERC. Earlier, the AAP government had moved the apex court against the Centre's June 22 notification to appoint retired Allahabad High Court judge Umesh Kumar to the post.

Kejriwal orders suspension of school staff for failure to report sexual assault

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday ordered the suspension of the vice-principal and teachers of a government school in north-west Delhi over their alleged failure to report to police the sexual assault of two boys by their classmates. He also directed the Directorate of Education (DoE) to prepare high-quality material for reference of all teachers and principals and issue guidelines for schools to handle cases of abuse in a supportive environment for children. This comes after the media highlighted the matter. On the direction of the chief minister, Delhi Education Minister Atishi has written to the DoE to ensure rigorous training of all principals and teachers on provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, manda-



is aware of the abuse - is a criminal offence," Atishi noted. She asserted that everything must be done to ensure children are safe and secure at all times. "While the criminal proceedings into the matter will continue, the teachers and the vice principal concerned should be suspended immediately. Disciplinary action should be initiated against them for failing to report the matter to police," she said, citing the directions of Kejriwal. The minister also underlined that all possible steps have to be taken to ensure that such an instance is not repeated in schools. The two boys, aged 12 and 13 years, have filed separate complaints with the police alleging that they were sexually assaulted by five to six classmates. Police said the alleged incident took place in April during a summer camp organised by the school.

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India, Kenya agree to deepen Defence ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Kenya on Tuesday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties during talks here between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Defence Aden Bare Duale.

Both the Ministers agreed that the defence defence relationship between the two countries has evolved from being training-centric to include more strategic aspects.

Giving details of the parleys, Defence Ministry officials said Rajnath underscored the importance India attaches to the ties with African nations. In particular, the relationship between India and Kenya has been growing from strength to strength.

Capacity building and cooperation in defence industry and equipment was also discussed at length by the two sides. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Goa Shipyard Ltd and Kenya Shipyard Limited in the field of capacity building and for collaboration in ship design



order to maintain continuity and extract greater benefit out of such programmes.

As a token of friendship, Rajnath presented 15 pairs of parachutes (main and reserve) manufactured by the Gliders India Limited to the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Defence for use by the Kenyan Forces. India also extended support towards setting up of an advanced CT scan facility in Kenya.

Aden Bare Duale appreciated the growing prowess of the Indian defence industry, including the private sector, and highlighted the areas in which the Indian industry can support the requirements of the Kenyan Forces. He also suggested 'training of trainers' of Kenyan Forces by the instructors of Indian Armed Forces in

BJP may opt for more young faces in LS elections

Many prominent RS MPs would be asked to get elected to Lower House

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP may go for a young list of candidates in the Lok Sabha 2024 elections with many of its prominent Rajya Sabha MPs would be asked to get elected to the Lower House.

While retiring some of the leaders crossing the age-bar or elected two to three times to the Upper House, others may be fielded in the Lok Sabha Parliamentary polls which are barely six-months away. The BJP with 92 Rajya Sabha MPs has 18 of them with more than one term in the Upper House.

According to sources, RS berth will be increasingly offered to people who have distinguished themselves in a 'specialized field' like law, economics, science, medicine, environment or art.

Some of the top Union Ministers like Ashwini Vaishanaw and Dharmendra Pradhan who are members of the Upper House have already said that they might be contesting the Lok Sabha polls.

In a signal to the BJP leaders that they must take plunge in the electoral politics Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, during the meeting of National



Democratic Alliance (NDA) in July, sought that Rajya Sabha members should contest at least one direct election, even if it were to be a civic election.

The list of BJP leaders having served more than one Rajya Sabha term includes Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupender Yadav, Piyush Goyal, Mansukh Mandaviya, Parshottam Rupala, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, and Hardeep Singh Puri. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2019, was re-elected for a second term in July.

Puri had contested Lok Sabha poll from Amritsar but lost his election.

Nadda appoints Antony national spokesperson, Sirsa national secretary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



BJP president JP Nadda on Tuesday appointed Anil Antony as the party's national spokesperson and former Delhi MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa as BJP National Secretary.

Antony, son of senior Congress leader A K Antony, joined the saffron party in April this year. He was appointed as National Secretary earlier this month.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has appointed Shri Anil Antony, National Secretary as National Spokesperson also of the Bharatiya Janata Party. This appointment comes into immediate effect," the National General Secretary Arun Singh said in a statement. Antony had quit the Congress in January this year after he defied his party line and criticised a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India, Brazil review bilateral Defence ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Brazil on Tuesday reviewed the whole gamut of their bilateral defence ties here during talks between General Tomas Miguel Mine Ribeiro Paiva, Commander of the Brazilian Army and the Indian top brass including Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Manoj Pand and Defence Giridhar Aramane.

The Brazilian chief is here on a six day visit to India from August 28 to September 2. The visit marks a significant milestone in the longstanding relationship between the armed forces of India and Brazil, army officials said.

Pande and Paiva exchanged ideas and held constructive discussions on various contemporary issues. They also discussed issues pertaining to strengthening bilateral coop-



eration between the two armies. The visiting chief later called on the CDS and Defence Secretary and held discussion underscoring the shared goals of enhancing defence cooperation and collaboration between the two nations.

During his visit, General Tomas also engaged in productive interactions with senior officers at the Army Headquarters, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas. These engagements exemplify the commitment to mutual growth and shared excellence in military best practices.

NIA chargesheets 2 members of Al-Qaeda module in Assam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against two active members of an Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group's active module operating from Assam in conspiracy to spread terror and violence in India.

"The two accused, Md Akbar Ali alias Akbar Ali and Abul Kalam Azad, had conspired with the other accused to instigate and promote terrorist activities, as part of an active terror module of the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), which is affiliated to the proscribed terrorist organisation, Al-Qaeda in Indian Sub-Continent (AQIS)," the NIA said in a statement.

They were engaged in strengthening the Al-Qaeda/ABT and grooming the youth to commit terror acts, as per NIA investigations in the case.

Both Akbar Ali and Abul Kalam Azad were arrested on April 5, 2023 and have now been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal



Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act by the NIA, which had filed the original chargesheet against eight other accused in August last year.

"Investigations have also revealed that the two accused were co-conspirators in organising meetings for expanding the activities of AQIS to various religious places in the neighbouring districts of Assam. The radicalization and mobilisation of Muslims was being done under the active guidance of the module's Bangladeshi handlers, namely Zakir alias Mehdi Hassan, Mehboor Rahman alias Mehboob Alam.

The case was filed originally by the Assam Police on March 4, 2022 and taken over

by the NIA on March 22, 2022 under relevant sections of IPC, UA (P) Act, Passports Act and Foreigners Act after the activities of the ABT module came to light.

The module, operating in Barpeta District of Assam, was led by a Bangladeshi national, Saiful Islam alias Haroon Rashid.

Investigations revealed that Saiful was cleverly operating under the cover of an Arabic teacher at 'Shaikhul Hind Mahmudul Hasan Jamil Huda Islamic Academy' (Dhakaliapara Madarsa) and Imam at the Dhakaliapara Masjid.

The NIA said Saiful was actively engaged in indoctrination and radicalisation of Muslims to join Jihadi outfits to work in modules ('Ansars' - sleeper cells) for building a base for Al-Qaeda and its various manifestations/outfits in India.

A search is on for the Bangladeshi handlers of the module and other members involved in promotion and perpetration of terrorism for Al-Qaeda and ABT in the country, the agency added.

NIA arrests 2 wanted accused in ISIS-inspired terror conspiracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested two wanted absconding accused, including the kingpin, in the 2022 case relating to seizure of explosives and IED material from district Chittoargarh of Rajasthan, as part of the ISIS-inspired terror conspiracy of the 'SUFU' terrorist outfit.

The duo, Mohammad Yunus Saki and Imran Khan alias Yusuf, both residents of Ratlam, were produced before the NIA Special Court, Jaipur on Monday. The NIA expects their arrest to lead the agency into establishing the missing links in the case and unearth the outfit's linkages to active members and sleeper modules of the ISIS in India, including the Rajasthan terror conspiracy case. Mohammad Yunus Saki

Key accused in fake Indian currency case gets 7-year RI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA Special Court, Patna has sentenced a key accused in the East Champaran, Bihar, 'fake Indian currency notes' case to seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) along with fines in two separate cases.

"Abi Mohammad Ansari, hailing from Nepal's Bara district, has been convicted and awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5,000 under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," the NIA said in a statement.

He is the second accused to be convicted in the case relating to the seizure of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN). The high quality FICN, in the denomination of Rs 500 with total face value of Rs 25,43,000, was seized on September 30, 2015.

Dhankhar nominates Chidambaram to Parliamentary Panel on Home Affairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha chairman Ragdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday nominated former Home Minister and Congress member P Chidambaram to the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. Chidambaram's nomination comes in the wake of the retirement of Congress member P Bhattacharya from Rajya Sabha.

The Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs is currently looking into the three new bills Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, seeking to replace criminal laws Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act.

"The Chairman, Rajya Sabha has, on the 28th August, 2023, nominated Shri P. Chidambaram, Member, Rajya Sabha, to the Committee on Home Affairs vice Shri P. Bhattacharya, who retired from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 2023," a bulletin from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said.

Dhankhar had on August 18 referred the three proposed laws that will replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and asked it to submit its report within three months.

The three bills were introduced in Lok Sabha by Home Minister Amit Shah on August



11. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is of the Rajya Sabha and has members from both Houses of Parliament. BJP member Brij Lal is the chairman of the committee.

The Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita provides for several changes in the existing provisions including that of defamation, attempt to commit suicide and expanded the scope of offence against women pertaining to sexual intercourse by employing "deceitful means".

It also lists new offences such as acts of secession, armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist activities or endangering the sovereignty or unity in the new avatar of the sedition law. For the first time, the word terrorism has been defined under the BNS which was not there under the IPC.

Rahul likely to visit Europe next month, to meet EC lawmakers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is likely to visit Europe next month and meet European Commission lawmakers in Belgium besides addressing students at a university in Paris.

He is also likely to address the Indian diaspora at an event in Oslo in early September, sources said. Notably, his visits abroad will come at a time when the crucial G20 Summit will be held from September 9 to 10 in the national capital.

The sources said the Gandhi scion is likely to leave for Paris in the first week of

September for a five-day tour. He will attend a meeting with European Union members in Brussels on September 7.

According to the sources, the former Congress chief will address students at a university in Paris on September 8 and deliver a lecture there. He is also slated to participate in a meeting of the Labour Union of France in Paris on September 9.

Thereafter, the sources said Rahul Gandhi is slated to visit Norway where he will address the Indian diaspora event on September 10. He will meet members of the diaspora and may also hold a press conference, they added.

One-day Manipur Assembly session a farce: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday termed "farce" the one-day Manipur Assembly session, saying had the House sat for a few more days "fissures" within the BJP would have come out in "full display".

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the BJP, as always, has "converted an opportunity into a formality". The one-day session of the Manipur Assembly was adjourned sine die within an hour of commencement after Congress MLAs created an uproar demanding the session be extended to five days.

Opposition MLAs led by former chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh said one day was not enough to discuss the prevailing situation in the strife-torn state.

All the 10 Kuki MLAs, including the seven from the BJP, were also absent from the House. "Today, the Manipur Assembly met for the first time since March 3rd, 2023. It stood in 2-minute silence in memory of those killed in the state since May 3rd.

The CM read out a resolution and thereafter it got adjourned indefinitely, disallowing any other resolutions," Congress said in a statement. The entire proceedings took much less than an hour, he said. "What a farce! There was simply no reason why with its huge majority the ruling party could not have had



the session for a few days at the very least.

The reason is simple: if the Assembly Session had functioned, the differences and fissures within the BJP would have come into full display and that too on the floor of the Assembly," Ramesh said.

Further, the fact that all 10 Kuki MLAs "boycotted" the session shows the deep divide in the state and how Chief Minister N Biren Singh is "unfit" to take forward the peace process, Ramesh said.

The state government had last month recommended a session by August 21, but later revised it to August 28 after not getting a green light from the Raj Bhavan.

Last week, the chief minister's office announced the assembly will reconvene on August 29.

'One billion lives will be lost if global warming exceeds by 2 deg by 2100'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Human induced global warming is expected to claim nearly one billion lives if global warming reaches or exceeds two degrees Celsius by 2100. Western University's Joshua Pearce says it is likely mainly richer humans will be responsible for the death of roughly one billion mainly poorer humans over the next century.

Climate change induced by human activity is likely to be responsible for the premature death of about one billion people over the next century, if global warming reaches two degrees Celsius, a study suggests.

The oil and gas industry is directly and indirectly responsible for over 40 per cent of carbon emissions -- impacting the lives of billions of people, many living in the world's most remote and low-resourced communities, the researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Energies, proposes aggressive energy policies that would enable immediate and substantive decreases to carbon emissions.

It also recommends a heightened level of government, corporate and citizen action to accelerate the decarbonisation of the global economy, aiming to minimise the number of projected human deaths. The researchers found the peer-reviewed literature on the human mortality costs



of carbon emissions converged on the "1,000-ton rule," which is an estimate that one future premature death is caused every time approximately 1,000 tons of fossil carbon are burned.

"If you take the scientific consensus of the 1,000-ton rule seriously, and run the numbers, anthropogenic global warming equates to a billion premature dead bodies over the next century. Obviously, we have to act. And we have to act fast," said Joshua Pearce, a professor at the University of Western Ontario in Canada.

Pearce hopes by changing and challenging the language and metrics of global warming, more policymakers and industry leaders will better understand the hard truths about the world's reliance on fossil fuels. "As predictions of climate models become clearer, the harm we are doing to children

and future generations can increasingly be attributed to our actions," said Pearce.

When this direct correlation is recognised, greenhouse gas emissions liabilities can no longer be ignored, the researchers said.

The study found that to limit these enormous future liabilities and save many human lives, humanity needs to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible by following a more aggressive approach to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

To be clear, predicting the future accurately is hard. The 1,000-ton rule is only an order of magnitude best estimate. The number of caused deaths will likely lie between a tenth of a person and 10 people per 1,000 tons. Regardless, the bottom line that we need to act fast is still crystal clear," Pearce added.

Allogeneic stem cell transplant conducted successfully in BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Division of Paediatric Hematology Oncology, Department of Paediatrics, Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has carried out the first allogeneic stem cell transplantation in an 11 years old child with relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Blood Cancer) at BMT-SRC, IMS, BHU. This is the 15th stem cell transplant carried out by the division in the last two years. The first 14 transplants were autologous stem cell transplants where the stem cells were collected from the patient himself/herself. They were performed for paediatric solid tumors (tumors in abdomen and cancer of lymph nodes). "For the allogeneic transplant, the donor was identified by HLA typing. Patient was found to have a full match with his elder sister. Stem cells were collected by the process of apheresis from the donor (elder sister) and given to the patient. Patient tolerated the procedure well and was discharged after two months of hospital stay," said Prof Vineeta Gupta, In-charge Division of Paediatric Hematology-Oncology, who carried out the rare transplant along with Dr



Doctors seeing health of first allogeneic stem cell transplanted child patient at BHU Hospital in Varanasi.

Priyanka Aggarwal and the team of fellows, junior residents and nursing officers. This was supported by the team from Blood Bank under the guidance of Prof Sandip Kumar, Dr SK Singh and Dr Dinesh Singh and administrative support was provided by the Professor-Incharge Trauma Centre and

the Head, Department of Paediatrics. "The cost of the procedure was one fifth of the cost at the corporate hospital. The Division of Paediatric Hematology Oncology aims to extend these services to paediatric patients with other blood disorders such as aplas-

PMC proposes annual house tax rates for 20 wards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) has proposed annual house tax rates for 20 wards of Sangam city that have recently been added to the city limits following delimitation.

The PMC has also invited objections and suggestions from house owners by next month. The highest annual assessment rate -- Rs 4/sq ft -- has been proposed for fast-developing areas of Mahewa, Naini, Dadri, Jhalwa and Shantipuram wards.

The rate for Lawayan Kalan ward in Jhansi has been proposed at Rs 3.50/ sq ft while for Chaka, Arai, Peepal Gaon, Bamrauli Uparhar, Bahamalpur, Malak Harhar, Kanihar, Andawan, Chhatnag, Haveliyani, Jhansi Kohna, Naini Dadri it is Rs 3/sq ft. For Baswar, Mawaiya, Bhadri Amarsapur, Katka, Neevi taluka, Tenduawan, Mohabbatganj and Sonauti Malwan the rate of Rs 2/sq ft has been proposed. The PMC has justified the

imposition of tax after finding all basic amenities in these colonies up to the mark. According to the PMC plans, residents of Shantipuram Housing Scheme in Phaphamau, the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) and Awas Vikas colonies in Jhalwa, the PDA colony in Naini and the PDA and Awas Vikas colonies in Jhansi will come under the tax ambit from this year itself.

According to chief tax assessment officer, Prayagraj, PK Dwivedi: "The proposed house tax rates have been decided as per the parameters followed for the rest of the wards based on RCC roofing, other concrete structures and makeshift constructions along roads exceeding 24m, between 12-24m and under 12m. A hearing will take place after receiving all objections, following which the rates will be fixed and the bills will be dispatched."

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PLAYERS:

The National Sports Day is an annual celebration held at Girls' High School & College which also happens to be the birth anniversary of the renowned hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. This special day has been designated to honour and commemorate India's rich sports tradition. It serves as an opportunity to pay tribute to national sports icons who have made significant contributions and achieved remarkable success on the international stage.

In 2019 the National Sports Day gained even greater significance with the grand launch of the Fit India Mission by the Prime Minister. Building on this momentum, it is proposed that the National Sports Day 2023 be celebrated from August 21 to 29 encompassing a week-long series of sports events and engaging activities that cater to people of different age groups and backgrounds.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Sports as an enabler for an inclusive and fit society." The power and influ-

ence of sports in fostering positivity and harmony within society are universally acknowledged. It is with this same spirit of unity and inspiration that this day is being celebrated.

At Girls' High School and College, a variety of engaging activities were organised to pay tribute to national players. These activities included races, volleyball matches, badminton tournaments, chess tournaments, basketball games, lemon races, and kho kho matches, among others. The excitement among the participants was palpable and their energy was contagious.

All the players wholeheartedly participated in the events showcasing their enthusiasm and a competitive spirit. To recognise their achievements and encourage their continued dedication on Tuesday certificate was awarded to the winners by Principal Rev Dr V Eusebius. These prizes served as a symbol of appreciation for their outstanding performance and commitment to sports.

DC reviews preparations of KSSM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma reviewed the preparations of Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Mahotsav (KSSM), scheduled to begin in this parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from September 1. Presiding over a meeting here on Tuesday, the DC also reviewed the preparations of all the committees formed for the successful organisation of the festival. He asked all the zonal in-charges to submit the complete plans soon so that necessary funds could be released.

Sharma stressed the need of inviting the general public apart from corporators, MLAs and other public representatives. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal that under the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency, four zones of the urban areas and three blocks including Sewapuri, Arajiline and Kashi Vidyaapeeth of the rural areas will organise events in four disciplines of dance, singing, music and drama. The CDO also informed that in these events till now, about 40,000 applications for participation have been received.

He further informed that the competitions at panchayat level will be organised from September 1 to 5; block level from Sept 6 to 12, Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation) level from September 1 to 10 and district level from September 13 to 17. Then a mega event will be organised on September 27 at Rudraksh International Convention Centre (RICC) at Siga. The CDO also informed that certificates of the partici-



DC KR Sharma reviewing preparations of KSSM in Varanasi on Tuesday.

tion in the festival will be generated online only and asked the concerned officers to ensure good arrangements for light and sound at all the venues.

In reply, the DC stressed the need for effective publicity of all the programmes venue-wise and date-wise through hoardings and posters etc in Vikas Bhawan, newspapers and social media so that everyone gets complete information about the programmes. He asked all the schools to give information so that no school could be left out and also asked to keep open registration for the left out candidates. He asked to issue certificates to all the participants on the same day of their participation. Sharma also reviewed the preparations of second programme Sansad Khel Mahotsav, which will be organised from October 10 to November 2, for which online registration will be held from September 15 to 30, in which there will be a total of 31 events in five categories. A separate category has also been made for the Divyangjan (persons with disabilities). This festival will also be organised right from Panchayat to district level

in view to promote sports and provide a platform to all. The DC directed the Yuvak Mangal Dal and Nehru Yuva Kendra units to compulsorily participate in sports and asked them to prepare the playgrounds so that most of the events can be held on the same grounds. He directed the concerned officers to complete all the preparations by September 20.

Besides, the DC also reviewed the preparations of Sansat Gyan Pratiyogita (quiz contest) in which knowledge of the participants about the religious and cultural glory of Kashi will be tested apart from questions related to the PM, famous personalities of the city, political persons, development works, government departments, geography of Banaras etc. The CDO said that so far about 3,000 questions have been prepared along with 20 themes and 40 sub-themes. The competitions will be organised from January 12 to 26 next year. The DC appealed to take questions and answers on these 20 themes with facts on WhatsApp.

Sharma also asked about the final event which is related

to the knowledge of tourist guides relating to their speech, essay writing, reel apart from quiz on 11 categories including ghats of Banaras, Jainism, Buddhism, handloom, handicraft, temples, food etc will be tested.

The DC asked the concerned officers to finalise its theme soon as the event will be organised in February next year.

The officers of all the committees apart from ADM (Administration), ADM (City) and others were also present in the meeting.

BPCC chief meets Ajay Rai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The president of Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Akhilesh Prasad Singh met the newly-appointed president of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) Ajay Rai at the latter's Lahurabir residence and gave his best wishes for the new responsibility given to Ajay Rai on Monday evening. When the party counterpart from neighbouring state Bihar reached the house of Rai, the latter warmly welcomed the former by

presenting bouquets and angavastram as per local tradition.

Later, in their meeting, the two leaders discussed various issues including the political scenario in two states which will play an important role in deciding the fate of parties in upcoming 2024 parliamentary elections. The BPCC president greeted Ajay Rai for his new responsibility and praised his personality as the latter is known for his strong ground hold and always availability for the workers by sharing their moments of happiness and sorrows.

Dr Singh also hailed Rai's sincere and honest thinking towards the strength of the party organisation and it was the reason why the top leadership of Congress has made him the party's head of a very important state like UP.

"I heartily thank Ajay Rai for this responsibility given by the top leadership and convey my best wishes to him. I have full faith that under Rai's hard work and efficient leadership, the Congress in Uttar Pradesh will achieve historic success in the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-

tions to be held in 2024," he said, while talking to the reporters in an informal chat.

The BPCC chief was also accompanied by party's MLAs Anand Shankar Singh, Munna Tiwari, ex-MLA Bunty Chaudhary and others who also extended their best wishes to Ajay Rai for the bright future of the party in Uttar Pradesh.

On the occasion, city Congress president Raghavendra Choubey, corporator Prince Rai Khagolan, Anubhav Rai and many other local party leaders were also present.

Work under Vindhya Corridor Project inspected

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Divya Mittal while inspecting the ongoing work under Vindhya Corridor Project on Monday directed the working agency to complete the work within the stipulated time. During her visit to Vindhyachal she inspected the gates on VIP road, New VIP Road and Pakka Ghat and issued necessary directions. Inspecting the first floor of Parikrama path the DM took the working agency to task for tardy progress and asked to carry out the work in two shifts by engaging more manpower. During the inspec-

tion of the ongoing work at Kotwali road the district magistrate expressed discontent over its quality and directed to improve it.

DIRECTIVE: Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Police, Vindhyachal range, RP Singh, while supervising public hearing in the range on Monday directed all officials concerned of the range to ensure public hearing from 10 am to 12 noon daily and dispose of cases on merit. He directed the officials to maintain register having details about cases and progress in disposal so that the person concerned is aware of action in his case. He

directed all COs to supervise public hearing of police stations daily through the Google Meet. He supervised the public hearing through Google Meet.

CHECKED: A team led by sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), Lalganj, Bharat Lal Saroj, comprising drug inspector Kumar Saumitra and police force raided the medicine shops under the Lalganj CHC on Monday. During the raid two samples of medicine were collected and further action will be taken after their report is received.

JHOOLANOTSAV: The five-day Jhoolanotsav started at

the historical temple of Sri Dhwakadheeshji Maharaj on Monday. The trustee of the temple Pradeep Bajaj at a press conference said the city has a glorious past of cultural activities under which the trust was holding the Jhoolanotsav for years. About the programme he said it is the result of hard labour of team of workers and artists led by Shambhu Nath Chitrakar that the temple is being decorated with the tableaux depicting the Pauranic stories pertaining to deities. He said the trust is going to hold a mega event to mark the concluding ceremony.

Student killed, five accused held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A class 10 student was allegedly lynched for protesting against molestation of his sister. The assailants surrounded him in the middle of the road and beat him with a plank till he became half-dead. Acting swiftly police arrested all the five accused, including the head of Kheri gram saba Mohammad Yusuf, who was accused of killing the student. The student breathed his last in a while. The incident took place on Monday evening. After the demonstration till late on Monday night, the crowd again turned furious on Tuesday.

On seeing the matter taking a communal colour, the police and PAC of several police stations has been called on the spot. Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma and DM Sanjay Khatri somehow pacified the angry people. After massive protests and demonstrations in the case, the police have arrested all the five accused in the murder. The commissioner suspended SO Naveen Kumar Singh and out-post in-charge for negligence. The police have not yet disclosed the names of the attackers. Earlier, after the murder on

Monday, many senior officers including Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma reached the spot. The relatives demonstrated for hours. After this, the commissioner got the jam lifted by assuring action against the accused.

The deceased student was identified Satyam Sharma (16) of Puradalu village who studied in 10th standard in Parmanand Inter College. His cousin also studied in the same school in class X. The victim girl said while they going home from school on Monday brother Satyam got into a brawl with the goons. After this everyone attacked Satyam and hit him with a bat till he fell on the ground. He collapsed on the ground breathing profusely. The assailants fled while threatening. On information the relatives took Satyam to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. On reaching there, the doctors declared him brought dead.

On the death of the student, a large number of people got angry and reached Kheri crossing. They blocked the intersection and insisted in the arrest of the accused. The force of many police stations reached the spot. ACP Rajeev Yadav and SO tried

a lot to persuade the villagers, but the jam was not lifted till late at night.

Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma and District Magistrate Sanjay Khatri reached around 11 pm and sat on the road with family members. ACP Rajeev Yadav says, "The allegation of molestation is false. The relatives have given a named written complaint. After the FIR was registered against five accused, they were apprehended. Of them one is the current head of the village Mohammad Yusuf and the other is Mohsin who is close to the village head.

Several criminal cases were registered against village head Mohammad Yusuf. The family alleged, "Earlier also the students had molested the daughter in the school, against which she had lodged a protest with the manager and complained. The management did not take any action on this, nor did it complain to the police.

Manager of Parmanand Inter College Manoj Pandey says, "On the complaint, he called the youths and explained to them. Complaints were also made to the local police several times that police arrangements should be made here."

Public notice from ICICI Bank regarding a defaulted borrower. Includes details of the borrower (Pawan Kishor Sarla Devi), loan account number (145398), and property address (Fiat No. B3-2003, 20th Floor, Tower B3, Emerald Bay, Sector-104, Village Dhanwapur, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122012). Date: August 30, 2023.

Corrigendum notice from ICICI Bank regarding a defaulted borrower. Includes details of the borrower (Ashok Mallick/Barnali Das), loan account number (629705015540), and property address (Flat No. B 2nd Floor In The Apartment *Kunja Apartment* Situated At Rs Khatian No. 2955/1, Orchid Apartment At Rs Khatian No. 2955/1, Appertaining To And Forming Part of Rs Plot No. 10134/14263, Mouza Siliguri, Ward No. 15, Under Siliguri Police Station, Hakimpura, Siliguri, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of Flat Measuring More or Less 800 Sq.ft. Including Super Built Up Area And Proportionate Share of Staircase At The Front Side And One Open Car Parking Space Measuring 200 Sq.ft. Out of Total 381.64 Sq.ft. of Open Parking Space Situated At Western Side of Ground Floor). Date: August 30, 2023.

Public notice from ICICI Bank regarding a defaulted borrower. Includes details of the borrower (Ashok Mallick/Barnali Das), loan account number (629705015540), and property address (Flat No. B 2nd Floor In The Apartment *Kunja Apartment* Situated At Rs Khatian No. 2955/1, Orchid Apartment At Rs Khatian No. 2955/1, Appertaining To And Forming Part of Rs Plot No. 10134/14263, Mouza Siliguri, Ward No. 15, Under Siliguri Police Station, Hakimpura, Siliguri, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of Flat Measuring More or Less 800 Sq.ft. Including Super Built Up Area And Proportionate Share of Staircase At The Front Side And One Open Car Parking Space Measuring 200 Sq.ft. Out of Total 381.64 Sq.ft. of Open Parking Space Situated At Western Side of Ground Floor). Date: August 30, 2023.

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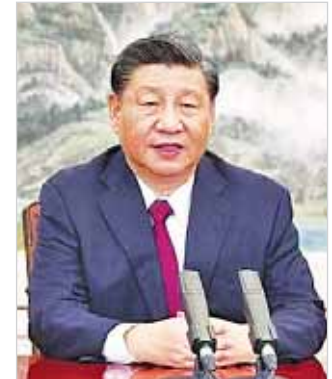
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Mapping mischief

China continues to show the entire Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as its territory

It is nothing new for China to show its map with Arunachal Pradesh as its territory but what is intriguing this time is the timing. It is just days ahead of the G20 summit, during which global leaders will be in India to deliberate on ways to build a harmonious and peaceful world. The Chinese government on August 28 released the "2023 edition of the standard map of China", which continues to show Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin region within its borders. The map, though the same as the previous one, shows the territorial claims on China's western borders. The nine-dash line covering the entire South China Sea is also marked as Chinese territory. Interestingly, a "tenth dash" is placed east of Taiwan, underlining Beijing's claims over the island. The latest map follows Beijing's April announcement that it would "standardise" the names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh. It was the third such list of "renaming" places in Arunachal Pradesh and was seen by observers as a response to India holding events in the runup to the G20 summit in the State, which Beijing had opposed. Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend the September 9-10 summit in New Delhi. China actually achieves nothing, not even the sympathy of the world.



All it does is to escalate tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours. The territorial dispute has led to a military standoff in the past, as seen in the Doklam crisis of 2017. By asserting its claims, China risks destabilising the region and raising the potential for military clashes. This move by China is likely to strain its relations with India further. Their bilateral ties have been characterised by a mix of cooperation and competition, with both recognising the importance of economic engagement. However, territorial disputes have repeatedly strained diplomatic relations. China's decision to portray Arunachal Pradesh as its territory sends a strong message to India and could lead to a diplomatic fallout. India's response will be closely watched as it balances its territorial integrity with maintaining peaceful relations with its powerful neighbour. China's decision to depict Arunachal Pradesh as its territory in official maps just ahead of the G20 summit has significant implications for regional stability, bilateral relations and global perception of China's intentions. The international community will be closely observing how China's actions influence diplomatic dynamics in the coming weeks. What is more worrisome is that it casts a shadow of doubt over the efficacy of G20 and brings to fore the inherent contradictions within. G20 can function as a cohesive unit only if all nations are on the same page and have the will to resolve mutual issues amicably. As the world grapples with economic and political challenges, this territorial dispute reminds us of the importance of peaceful conflict resolution and the delicate balance required to maintain stability in an increasingly interconnected world.

PICTALK



Women buy 'rakhi' ahead of 'Raksha Bandhan' festival, in Kolkata

PTI

Going to the Moon and beyond

ISRO has accomplished remarkable progress in space exploration and requires more funding to sustain its work



KALYANI SHANKAR

India successfully landed the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft on the Moon last week. It is the fourth country to do so. Congratulations to ISRO for this achievement, which fills every Indian with pride. Scientists worldwide are especially interested in the Moon's South Pole region.

The Chandrayaan 3 success has boosted India's soft power prestige, especially considering its failed attempt in 2019. The victory is sweeter since it happened shortly after Russia's unsuccessful attempt at a lunar landing.

The United States was the first to land humans on the Moon in 1969. NASA, the American space research organisation, achieved this extraordinary accomplishment through the Apollo Program over 50 years ago. With technological advancements, the interest in exploring the Moon and the other planets is growing in other countries also.

We owe this moment of success to our great scientists and visionary leaders, such as our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The contributions of his successors, including Prime Minister Modi, have been instrumental in maintaining this success.

The Moon always fascinated us as kids. Many children innocently attempted to touch it. Our mothers and grandmothers shared beautiful stories. They struck a relationship with the Moon and called it Chandamama (Moon Uncle). Indians have known astronomy for centuries. There were renowned astronomers such as Aryabhata, Varahamihira, and Brahmagupta. Our ancestors held a profound respect for celestial bodies. They believed in a four-tiered universe consisting of the Earth, the middle region, Indra's heaven, and the higher heaven of the immortals. According to the Rig Veda, the Sun is at the centre of the solar system, with all other planets revolving around it.

People used the Moon's phases for centuries to make the lunar calendar. It was an essential tool in their daily lives. It's still noticeable today, even though it's not widely used anymore. Air Force pilot Rakesh Sharma made history by becoming the first



Indian to embark on a space mission to the Salyut 7 space station, an invitation extended by the Soviets. His mission in 1984 lasted for seven days, twenty-one hours, and forty minutes. This accomplishment opened the doors to outer space research, thanks to the ISRO.

Even politicians use the Moon to bribe their voters. In the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly election campaign, Thulam Saravanan, an independent candidate, made an exceptional pledge to his voters. He promised a trip to the Moon if he won, but his voters knew it was an empty promise. What inspires individuals to venture into outer space? It's a natural curiosity and fascination with the unknown. Throughout history, people have explored and discovered new frontiers. Our quest for planets outside our solar system has grown significantly in recent years.

Space exploration inspires motivation and provides better communication on robotics and advanced science. It also facilitates collaboration in science, technology, and diplomacy. Additionally, it can enhance resource extraction, human habitation, and long-term space-living research. Scientists believe there is water



WE OWE THIS MOMENT OF SUCCESS TO OUR GREAT SCIENTISTS AND VISIONARY LEADERS

ice on the Moon. It could be utilized for fuel and living spaces. The objective of the Chandrayaan 3 is to locate these deposits and study them.

The possibility of establishing a base on the Moon is also being explored. Studying the Moon is crucial for investigating other planets, including Mars. Technological advancements and lower exploration expenses have increased the Moon research. Utilizing the Moon as a launching platform promotes space tourism.

The demand for satellite imaging, positioning, and navigation data is high, leading to significant growth in the space economy. The global space industry will reach USD 546 billion by the year-end of 2023. India's space industry is valued at \$8 billion, representing just a 2% share of the global space economy. Since 1999, the country has launched 381 foreign satellites for 34 countries, earning \$279 million. With the success of the Chandrayaan 3 Mission, there is potential for a further boost to India's space economy.

Exploring the Moon and other planets is a significant investment for the US and Russia. In July 2023, India joined China and Russia in the race to build infrastructure on

the Moon with the development of the International Lunar Research Station. This Moon base is under construction.

India's space programme received early support from the US, Russia, and France. It has experienced both achievements and obstacles over time. Since its creation in the 1960s, ISRO has made noteworthy advancements and strengthened its partnership with NASA. Thanks to its cost-effective programs, it has conducted missions to explore the Moon and Mars, including Chandrayaan-3.

There is a debate about whether we should invest more money into space exploration or concentrate on solving problems here on Earth. Some people think that space research deserves more financial support, while others believe that we should deal with issues on our planet before anything else. Nonetheless, it's clear that ISRO has accomplished remarkable progress in space exploration and requires more funding to sustain its work. The present success will also enhance ISRO's standing in the global space industry.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEERAJ CHOPRA, THE GOLDEN BOY

Sir — It refers to the "Golden boy." First, he won an Olympic Gold medal in Tokyo, then a Gold medal in the Diamond League, Lausanne, Switzerland, and now he has become the first Indian athlete to win a Gold medal in the World Athletics Championships. Neeraj Chopra has now ticked the final box in his staggering list of accomplishments. Since winning the Gold medal in Tokyo with an 87.58 meters throw, he has thrown bigger distances on 10 occasions, which truly reflects how he has gone from strength to strength in the last few months.

It is not that he needed to win this Gold medal to prove his mettle; he has already won Asian Games and Commonwealth Games Gold. But what this medal does is further strengthen our belief that he is arguably the greatest Indian athlete of all time. Now hopefully, he will still have the hunger to do well in the forthcoming Asian Games and the Paris Olympics too. Last but not least, it is to his credit that youngsters have started taking up this sport, and the World Athletics Championships finals also have two more Indians than Neeraj Chopra to make us proud.

Bal Govind | Noida

ISLAMIC COUNTRIES SHOULD UNITE

Sir — The Prime Minister of the North African country Libya, which itself is long-ing for stabilization and the restoration of internal peace, Abdul Hamid Dabibe, on Monday sacked his Foreign Minister Najla al-Mangoush. While the whole world knows that the task of restoring relations with Israel falls on the Prime Minister and President of the President's Council, Mohamed Al-Menafi assigned Ms. Najla Al Mangoush. Now when the mass movement against it started inside Libya, the foreign minister was made a scapegoat, whereas the resignation should have been given by the PM and President of the President's Council itself. Israeli official Mr. Cohen said that talks were held with Ms. Najla Mangoush in Italy's capital Rome last week.

HS Prannoy breaks the jinx



India's top-ranked men's badminton player, HS Prannoy, broke the jinx of being a giant killer without going too far in a tournament by winning the Malaysia Masters 2023 crown in May. Later, the top-ranked Indian finished second at the Australian Open. Now, the gritty shuttler has made India proud by bagging the bronze at the World Championship in Copenhagen, becoming the fifth Indian male player to do so. Before going down in the semifinals to Thailand's ace Kunlavut

Vitidsarn, who emerged as the champion, Prannoy had scalped the great Viktor Axelsen in round 8. Although the Indian had beaten Axelsen earlier, beating him in front of his home crowd was special.

Even against Vitidsarn, Prannoy won the first game and was ahead by 5-1 in the second before the Thai came into his own to pip him. The 31-year-old was unable to click at the right moment and squandered the golden opportunity of becoming the first men's player to win a silver at the World Championship. The Indian champion has, however, continuously ranked within the top ten in the world, notwithstanding the crippling injuries that have haunted him. From here, Prannoy should aim to add another glittering feather to his cap, preferably the Wimbledon of badminton, the All-England Championship. Only two Indians have won the coveted trophy; it's time for Prannoy to rewrite history.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Artificial Intelligence in legal field will effect a sea change

The amalgamation of Artificial Intelligence and legal jurisprudence is an awe-inspiring endeavour full of immense possibilities

In the annals of human history, transformative advancements have often emerged at the intersection of innovation and tradition. As we stand on the cusp of an extraordinary era, a groundbreaking fusion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Legal Jurisprudence has begun to redefine the landscape of justice and the administration of law. AI's integration with Legal Jurisprudence is not merely a fleeting trend but a monumental shift that promises to redefine the very essence of justice. With the ability to process colossal datasets, identify patterns, and extrapolate insights, AI breathes newfound efficiency into legal research.

One of the most profound contributions of AI to Legal Jurisprudence lies in enhancing access to justice. As AI systems grow in sophistication, they can help bridge the gap between underprivileged individuals and legal services, making justice more accessible to all. Automated legal advice, document review, and dispute resolution mechanisms are just a few examples of how AI is democratizing justice by reducing



cost and time barriers.

AI's prowess extends beyond research; it permeates the courtroom itself. The realm of predictive justice emerges, wherein AI algorithms forecast case outcomes with remarkable accuracy. While this holds the promise of streamlining the legal process, it is imperative to strike a delicate balance between AI-driven insights and human discretion, preserving the core values of empathy and understanding in the pursuit of justice. Yet, even as we marvel at AI's prowess, ethical considerations beckon us. The AI-based outcomes which are expected to be streamlined to the precedents and legal patterns pose serious threats to judicial activism and inclusivity. As we tread this uncharted territory, we must be acutely aware of the ethical dilemmas that AI brings to the fore-

front. The CJI, D.Y. Chandrachud recently said, "technological use has to fulfil and represent some human values and therefore, values matter". Transparency, fairness, and accountability must guide our every step in this AI-infused legal landscape. The issue of bias, which can inadvertently be perpetuated by AI models if not carefully calibrated, demands our urgent attention.

As creators of these intelligent systems, we bear the responsibility to ensure they remain impartial and free of any bias that may taint the pursuit of justice. Ensuring that AI algorithms remain explainable and that their decision-making processes are understandable to humans is vital to maintaining public trust and upholding the integrity of justice. The future of AI and Legal Jurisprudence is an uncharted path, ripe with transformative potential and riddled with ethical dilemmas. In this pursuit, interdisciplinary cooperation among legal experts, AI researchers, ethicists, and policymakers becomes paramount.

We must confront the

ethical challenges of integrating AI into the courtroom. While AI systems may exhibit remarkable accuracy in predicting case outcomes, the delegation of decisions to non-human entities requires careful contemplation. Preserving the human element in the legal process, along with adequate safeguards to prevent undue reliance on AI-driven determinations, is indispensable in preserving the essence of justice.

As we advance in this AI-infused journey, it is incumbent upon us to collaborate and navigate this transformative era responsibly. Embracing multidisciplinary collaboration between legal experts, AI researchers, ethicists, and policymakers is the key to creating a robust legal framework that ensures AI's positive contributions and safeguards against potential pitfalls. We find ourselves on the cusp of a new dawn—a future where Artificial Intelligence empowers us to administer justice more efficiently, inclusively, and equitably.

(The writer is a Delhi-based legal researcher. The views are personal)



KUMAR ABHINAV

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

THE THREAD OF BROTHERHOOD

We all share a common bond of love and empathy



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Raksha Bandhan is one such festival that holds a special place in the hearts of all sisters and brothers because, on this day, they reinstate the commitment to their pure relationship. Sisters tie a decorated string around the wrists of their brothers, thereby metaphorically strengthening the bond of love that exists in their relationship and return, the brothers make a promise to the sisters to safeguard them against all threats, whether physical or financial. The beauty of this divine bond between brother & sister is that it is guaranteed without uttering a single word. The simple gesture of tying the thread, exchanging sweets and sometimes a little pocket money simply endorses that relationship & does it all!

With time, this festival has acquired different expressions and connotations. However, one wonders as to why and how it all began. Not long ago, during the times of royal dynasties in India, a similar kind of event used to be held in the presence of a family priest. And even now it happens in many South Indian families. The priest, after offering some formal prayers, would tie a sacred thread to all the family members thus figuratively signifying that they are protected against all evils. This also used to be a tradition when the men of the family would set out for a battle. It is interesting to note how these people sincerely believed that a small string would be able to protect them from various kinds of dangers. Looking deeper, one would ponder whether it was just the string or was it the extent of pure energised intentions and good wishes that went with it.



Sadly, today we seem to have lost the degree of self-conviction, and pure vision that we had for the traditions as well as love for our family members, till a few hundred years back. But, the question that arises is that what is the real reason behind this change in the mindset of our civilization? Some people blame the modern or urban lifestyles and claim that it is due to exposure to Western ways that we Indians are losing our cultural roots. But we must not forget that it works both ways. It is right that we are exposed to a much greater diversity of cultures and ways of thinking and living than any of our past generations. But at the same time, this exposure comes with a greater freedom to make a choice! Therefore, to say that we are behaving in this manner due to this or that or them is simply making excuses for our convenience.

After all, one's behaviour should be guided by one's own decisions and value systems and not by what others are expressing or following. Hence, the need of the hour is not to banish media or globalisation for that matter, but to focus on the restoration of human values and individual self-respect, because ultimately the seed of all our actions lies in the thought that our mind generates. And it is only when we consciously look into our thought patterns that we'll be able to rectify and make the right decisions. The understanding of the concept of soul and karma is very helpful when it comes to checking on our value base. The most important realisation that comes with the knowledge of the soul is that of universal brotherhood. And once we have realised this aspect then our feelings, vision and attitude towards others will automatically be respectful, tranquil & serene. So, while tying the sacred thread on the brother's hand, all the sisters should remind themselves as well as their brothers that we human souls are children of "One Supreme" and we are connected through spiritual brotherhood. By committing ourselves to values such as purity, honesty, respect, cooperation and compassion, we strengthen the bond of pure love with each other, for only pure thoughts and actions can ensure protection from hatred, violence and harm. So, let us take this opportunity of Raksha Bandhan to remind ourselves of the eternal truth of souls' brotherhood. And let us use this thread of divine love to enhance our inner attributes to a new height and thus ensure that we hold the purest and the most cherished feelings for all & forever.

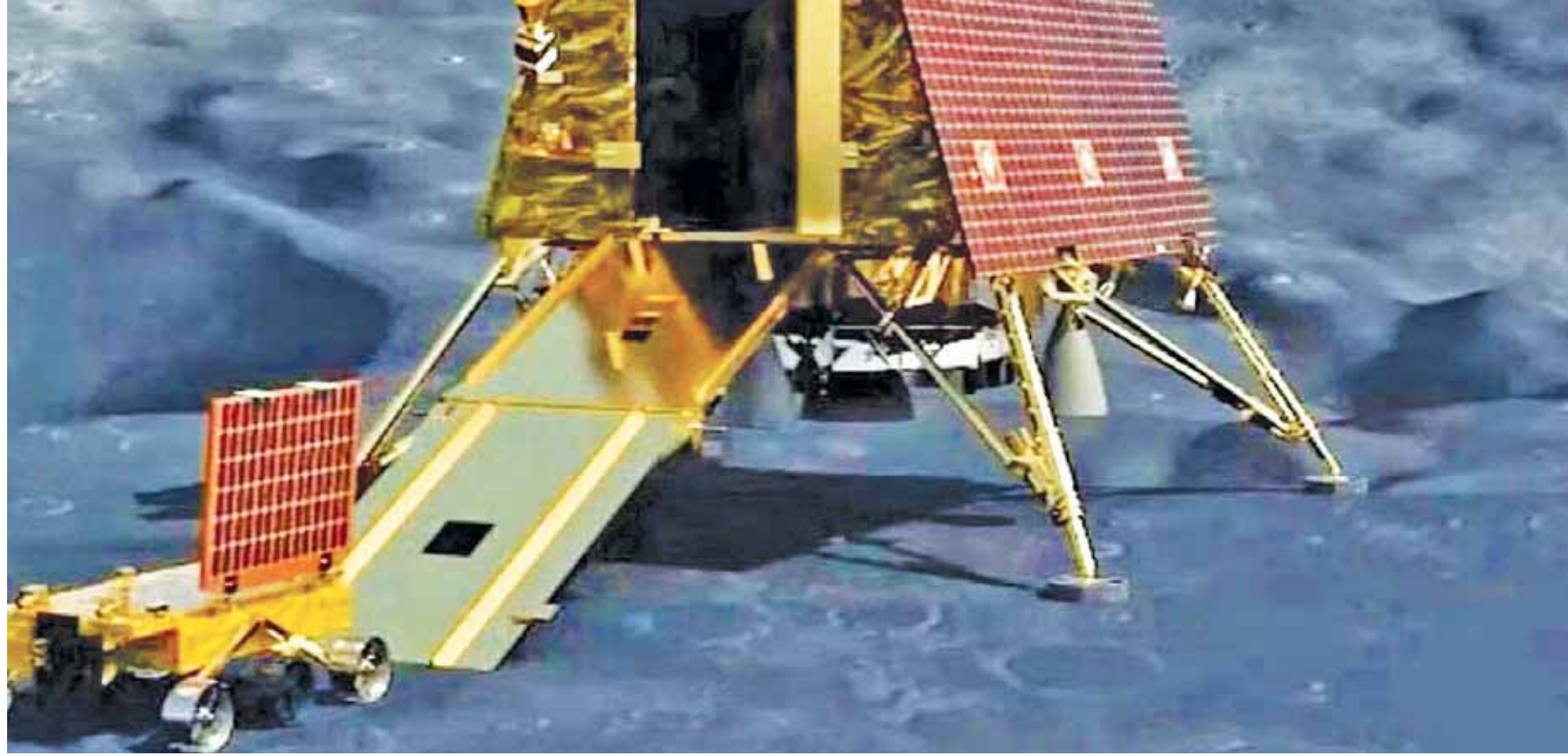
(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK)

Economics of India's space programme

After the success of its Moon mission, India will become a serious player in space market due to its efficiency, accuracy and low cost



ASHWANI MAHAJAN



August 23, 2023, will be considered a historic day when Chandrayaan-3 of India's moon mission made a successful soft landing on the moon. It was the third lunar mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the world's first spacecraft to reach the Moon's South Pole. The mission was launched on 14 July 2023 and on 23 August 2023, the lander Vikram landed on the lunar surface. India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1 was launched on October 22, 2008. The spacecraft carried scientific equipment from the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, and Bulgaria, apart from five Indian instruments. Its scientific goals included the study of the chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon. This campaign has been instrumental in developing our understanding of the Moon.

Chandrayaan-2, launched on July 22, 2019, consisted of an Orbiter, Lander and a Rover. The Lander Vikram and the Rover Pragyan were supposed to land on the Moon's South Pole, but Vikram crashed about 600 meters from the landing site. The mission's orbiter is still working and collecting important data about the Moon. India's space programme has reached a significant milestone after Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon's South Pole. That is, it can be said that India's moon mission has been successful to a great extent so far. There are only a few countries in the world that have their independent space programme. Apart from India, the USA, Russia, China, the European Space Agency, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Israel etc. have their space programs. But if seen, India is the fourth country in the world to land its spacecraft on the surface of the Moon, but India is the first country to land a vehicle on the South Pole of the Moon.

It is believed that due to the rough surface of the Moon and low gravitational force, it is very difficult to land a spacecraft on the Moon, and it's still more difficult to land a spacecraft on the South Pole of the moon. Indian scientists have intelligently



AFTER THE SUCCESS OF CHANDRAYAAN-3, THERE IS GOING TO BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE WORLD TOWARDS INDIA

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

and cleverly landed the lander Vikram on the moon, for which Indian scientists deserve special appreciation. The USA is considered the economic, strategic and technological superpower of the world, so naturally the Moon mission was first started by the USA. India sent its spacecraft Aryabhata into orbit of space in the year 1975. In this 358 kg spacecraft, scientific instruments were sent to study the Earth's atmosphere and radiation belts. The process of sending INSAT spacecraft started in 1982 and at present India has 17 INSAT spacecraft in space orbit. In addition to the three Moon missions, in 2013, India launched its Mangalyaan for Mars, which reached Mars orbit in September 2014 and is still studying Mars. India is about to start its first human space flight program soon.

It can be believed that after the USA, Russia and China, India has now become a major player in the world's space programme. India's space programs are generally admired around the world, but despite this, some people in India and abroad criticize the space program saying that India is a poor country and cannot afford the 'luxuries' of such programmes. They say that instead of spending on space programs, we should rather provide facilities for the poor in the country. Some people also say that instead of spending on space programs, it would be better if more is spent on the security of our country.

After the success of Chandrayaan-3, there is going to be a significant change in the attitude of the world towards India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the success of India's Chandrayaan-3 at the very beginning of 'Amrit Kaal' is the first step

towards making India a developed nation in this Amrit Kaal. It is worth mentioning that in the world GDP ranking, India has moved ahead from 10th position in the year 2014 to 5th position in the year 2023 and by 2025, it can reach the fourth position and by the year 2028, it can reach the third position. Based on purchasing power parity, India has already reached the third position with a GDP of over \$12 billion.

THE ECONOMICS

Space missions have been run at huge costs in the world, but the budget of India's space programs is an example of the world. Look at the moon mission, the budget of Chandrayaan-3 is only 615 crore rupees (\$75 million US). The speciality of India's space program is that ISRO partners with the world using the country's technology. The economy with which India's space program operates has taken the world by surprise. Elon Musk, a top billionaire, running one of the world's largest space programs, has praised India's space programme, saying Hollywood's science movie, Interstellar cost USD 165 million, compared to which India's Chandrayaan-3 mission costs only \$75 million US. Significantly, the first phase of the Moon mission of the USA, known as the Apollo program which ran between 1961 and 1972, cost 25.8 billion US dollars (as per value of dollar in the year 1973), which was equivalent to 164 billion dollars in 2021. Each of America's Apollo missions cost 300 to \$450 million (as per the value of the dollar in 1973). The interesting thing is that we have landed Chandrayaan on the Moon at a cost less than what it would cost to build a 20-kilometer highway of four lanes in India.

As far as India's capability is concerned, India has been successful

in launching spacecraft (satellites) not only of its own but of many other countries including the world's superpowers. ISRO has launched satellites in more than 20 countries in recent years, including the United States of America, France, Canada, Italy, Singapore and England. These satellites are launched for various purposes including communication, earth observation, remote sensing and scientific research.

In 1993, India launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for the first time. Though it was launched to place India's remote sensing satellites in sun-synchronous orbit, it has launched 58 flights to date, of which 55 were completely successful, one partially successful and two unsuccessful. The cost of each launch varies between Rs 130 crore and Rs 200 crore depending on its carrying capacity.

But by launching the satellite of our country and other countries, the revenue made by ISRO is much more than that. Notably, PSLV's 37th flight had created a history by putting 104 satellites in space simultaneously.

Interestingly \$30,000 US to \$40,000 US is charged per kilogram of load made by ISRO to launch a satellite, which is much less than the charge made by the American agency 'NASA'. It is believed that the entry of Indian private companies into the space market will further increase competition and reduce costs further. ISRO has already started making efforts in this regard.

It can be believed that shortly, India will be able to register its presence in the world's space market due to its efficiency, accuracy and low cost. This will be the first step towards India becoming the superpower of the world.

Madhumita Shukla case – a saga of love, politics and crime

As the legal battle unfolds, the Madhumita Shukla murder case continues to be a potent symbol of the complex intersect between politics and crime in India

The nation's collective conscience was stirred as the infamous Madhumita Shukla murder case returned to the forefront of public consciousness. The Uttar Pradesh government's recent decision to release former minister Amarmani Tripathi and his wife Madhumita Tripathi, both of whom had been serving life sentences for their roles in the murder, has sparked a storm of controversy. Opposition parties are demanding answers, and the Supreme Court has stepped in, issuing a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government.

In a surprising turn of events, the Supreme Court has declined to halt the release order, opening the door to further legal scrutiny and public debate. This development has



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

(The writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer, Lucknow. Views expressed are personal)

sent shockwaves through political circles and society at large, igniting a firestorm of outrage and disbelief.

While the state government argues that the couple's release is based on their good behaviour during imprisonment, critics contend that the gravity of the crime demands a more substantial explanation.

The Madhumita Shukla murder case, which initially unfolded on May 9, 2003, appeared to be a straightforward case of robbery. However, as investigators delved deeper, they unearthed a web of intrigue that sent shockwaves through the political landscape of Uttar Pradesh.

The victim, Madhumita Shukla, was far from ordinary; she was a celebrated poetess

with influential connections in political circles. What added an extra layer of scandal to the case was the revelation that Amarmani Tripathi, a prominent political figure, was deeply embroiled in the crime. Tripathi's political clout transcended party lines, earning him a secure cabinet position regardless of the ruling party.

The Madhumita Shukla murder case, which shook the nation, involved the cold-blooded killing of the young poetess on May 9, 2003, in Peppercorn Colony, Lucknow. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted a thorough investigation, leading to the filing of a charge-sheet against Amarmani and Madhumita Tripathi, along with other accused, in the Dehradun court.

The case took a dramatic turn when an innocuous comment in the postmortem report unveiled a startling revelation—Madhumita Shukla was pregnant when she was murdered. Subsequent DNA testing unequivocally established Amarmani as the father of the unborn child. In response to growing opposition pressure for a thorough investigation, then-Chief Minister Mayawati's government reluctantly recommended a CBI inquiry.

Amarmani held the position of a minister when Madhumita met her tragic end. Her domestic help eventually exposed the romantic connection and public liaison between the poetess and the minister. Subsequently, Chief Minister Mayawati entrusted

the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Initially, Amarmani denied any involvement with Madhumita. However, when a DNA test confirmed his paternity, he acknowledged their relationship.

The CBI's relentless pursuit of the truth unravelled a compelling tapestry of evidence that firmly implicated Amarmani and his wife Madhumita in the murder. While Amarmani was apprehended, Madhubani fled to Nepal, triggering an extensive manhunt.

Even Madhumita's servant, Deshraj, remained a fugitive until he was eventually captured in Lucknow. Deshraj's startling revelations about the intimate relationship between Amarmani and

Madhumita played a pivotal role in solving the case.

The investigation exposed a sinister conspiracy orchestrated by Madhubani, driven by jealousy over Amarmani's relationship with Madhumita. Allegations of witness intimidation during the CBI probe prompted the case's transfer to a fast-track court in Dehradun. In 2007, this court delivered a verdict that sent shockwaves across the nation—Amarmani, Madhumita, nephew Rohit Chaturvedi, and shooter Santosh Rai were sentenced to life imprisonment.

In an ironic twist, another shooter, Prakash Pandey, was acquitted due to insufficient evidence. However, the Nainital High Court later reversed this decision, finding

Prakash Pandey guilty and sentencing him to life imprisonment, a decision that ultimately led to his release on bail.

Madhumita's sister revealed persistent threats against their family, which continued even after the case was transferred out of Uttar Pradesh. She even said after the release of Amarmani Tripathi from jail, her family will continue to live under the threat.

The release of Amarmani Tripathi and Madhumita Tripathi has not only reopened old wounds but has also raised profound questions about justice, crime, and the intricate interplay between politics and the judiciary in India. It casts a long shadow on the boundaries of justice and the pursuit of truth in our society.

Court suspends Imran Khan's sentence in Toshakhana case

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A high court in Pakistan Tuesday suspended Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release from jail, but the embattled former premier will continue to remain in prison in the ciphers case. A division bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the much-anticipated reserved verdict to release Khan, leaving many to guess if it is a relief ahead of elections or just a stopgap arrangement to fix him in another case.



Imran Khan

"All we are saying now is that (Khan's) request has been approved," Justice Farooq said, referring to the former premier's appeal against his conviction and prison term. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said the decision of the district court has been suspended by the high court.

The bench also ordered the release of the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politi-

cian on the production of surety bonds worth Rs 100,000.

However, the former prime minister will continue to remain in prison as a special court holding his trial in the Official Secrets Act directed the Attock Jail authorities to keep him in the "judicial lockup" and produce him on August 30 before the court.

His deputy and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi is already in custody in the same case.

The case launched earlier this month alleged that Khan and others were involved in the violation of the secret laws of the country. The high court

bench reserved the verdict on Monday after the rival lawyers concluded their arguments on the suspension of the conviction and three-year sentence handed down to Khan by Additional District and Session Judge, Islamabad, Humayun Dilawar on August 5 - a ruling that barred him from contesting general elections.

Khan was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure. He was also barred from politics for five years, preventing him from contesting an upcoming election.

The main issue for supporters of the former premier is if he would be allowed to lead the party in the forthcoming elections.

According to experts, it depends on settling the issue of his disqualification.

"He was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan after conviction in the Toshakhana case and the disqualification is not affected by mere suspension of sentence," senior lawyer Irfan Qadir said in a TV interview. He said that the decision was linked

with the decision of the appeal by Khan against conviction. Others believe that disqualification has also been suspended. "When sentence is suspended, the disqualification is also suspended," lawyer Qauseen Raza said.

The matter will ultimately land in the high court or the supreme court of the country to decide if disqualification was suspended or not.

General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was prematurely dissolved on August 10 by President Arif Alvi. However, the polls are likely to be delayed as the government has announced that the elections could take place only after a new census is completed and new constituency boundaries are drawn. The exercise could take about four months to complete which means that polls may be delayed till next year. The government's announcement had come on the same day when Khan was arrested after being sentenced to three years in prison for "corrupt practices".

Khan challenged his conviction within days and the IHC began a formal hearing on August 22. It 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 was full of shortcomings. He urged the court to set aside the sentence but the defence team demanded more time to complete its arguments.

His party welcomed the IHC verdict, with party Information Secretary Raouf Hasan saying that Khan's arrest in any other case after the suspension of his sentence in the Toshakhana case would be "ill-intentioned and mala fide".

"We are fortunate to be witnessing the re-scripting of Pakistan's political and legal history," he said, adding that "justice shall prevail".

However, former premier Shehbaz Sharif expressed his displeasure at the court's order saying that the sentence was suspended and "not terminated".

Shehbaz slams suspension of Imran Khan's sentence

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday slammed Supreme Court Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial for "favouring" Imran Khan, saying his messages to the lower courts led to the suspension of the sentence of the former premier and called the verdict a "dark chapter" in the country's history.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday suspended Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release from jail, in a major relief to the former Pakistan prime minister. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure. A division bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the much-anticipated verdict which was reserved on Monday.

Separately, a three-member Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice Bandial and comprising Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail is also set to resume hearing petitions against the Toshakhana case.

Taking to microblogging site X, formerly Twitter, Sharif said that the IHC had been influenced by the Supreme Court's leniency toward the PTI chief.

Taking an indirect jibe at Khan, Sharif said, "The 'favourite's' sentence has been suspended, not terminated."

"Chief Justice's message of 'Good to see you' and 'Wishing you good luck' reached Islamabad High Court. If everyone knows what the decision will be before the decision comes, it should be a moment of concern for the justice system," the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President said, slamming the court for suspending Khan's sentence.

Pak human rights lawyer handed over to police

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistani human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari was handed over to the Islamabad police on three-day physical remand on Tuesday, a day after she was arrested in a terrorism case.

The Islamabad terrorism court (ATC) on Monday granted post-arrest bail to Mazari and former lawmaker Ali Wazir in a sedition case against surety bonds of Rs 30,000 each. However, hours after the ATC order, Pakistan police re-arrested Mazari outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

The Islamabad police in a post on X said Imaan was arrested in a terrorism case registered at the Bara Kahu police station.

On Tuesday, the additional district and sessions judge, Abul Hasnat, approved Mazari's physical remand on prosecutor Raja Naveed's request, after which the police took her into custody and left the judicial complex premises, the Geo News reported.

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 rally organised by the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), a group of ethnic Pashtun who is highly critical of the Pakistan Army, and also criticised the military.

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.

The authorities wanted both of them as part of an ongoing investigation. It alleged that the two were involved in unlawful gathering, resistance and "interference in state affairs".

On August 21, the ATC sent Imaan and Wazir to a three-day police remand in the sedition case.

French soldier killed in clashes with extremists

Baghdad (AP): A French soldier serving alongside Iraqi forces was killed in combat during a counterterrorism operation north of Baghdad, according to the French military. Such losses among foreign forces in Iraq have been rare in recent years. Two Iraqi soldiers

and four other French troops were also wounded in the operation, which an Iraqi official said was targeting a cell of the Islamic State group. Sgt. Nicolas Mazier of parachute commando No. 10 was on a reconnaissance mission Monday with Iraqi forces about 100 kilometre-

tres north of Baghdad when a group of extremists attacked Iraqi forces, the French military said in a statement. Mazier was wounded in the ensuing shootout and died in the hospital Tuesday, the statement said. Clashes continued until Tuesday morning. French forces were providing air support to the operation, which targeted an IS cell in the al-Aith area of Salahaddin province, said an Iraqi security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

US commerce secy rejects Chinese appeal to ease export controls

AP ■ BEIJING

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said she rebuffed an appeal Tuesday by Chinese leaders to reduce US export controls on technology with possible military uses but the two governments agreed to have experts meet to discuss disputes over protecting trade secrets.

During a visit to revive frosty relations, Raimondo said she conveyed complaints to officials including China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, about Chinese restrictions on US technology companies. She said conditions for foreign companies are getting worse following an expansion of an anti-spying law and raids on consulting firms.

Raimondo joined a series of American officials including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen who have visited Beijing in the past three months. They are



Gina Raimondo

trying to restore relations that are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes over technology, security, Taiwan and other issues. A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other US technology on security grounds. That threatens 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. "Their asks were to reduce export controls on technology" with possible military uses and to retract an order by President Joe Biden that restricts US investment in Chinese companies that might be involved in military development, Raimondo said.

"Of course, I said no," Raimondo said. "We don't negotiate on matters of national security."

The two governments agreed Monday to exchange information about US export controls. Raimondo said Washington hopes that "will increase compliance". Meanwhile, the two governments agreed to have experts meet to "start to resolve trade secrets issues," Raimondo said. "That is one of the big things I hear constantly from business, protection of trade secrets," she told reporters. Earlier, Raimondo met with Premier Li, who

appealed for "concrete actions" by Washington to improve relations, a reference to Chinese pressure for changes in US policy on Taiwan, technology and other issues.

"We do hope that the US side will work in the same direction as the Chinese side, show sincerity and take concrete actions," Li said.

Raimondo said the meeting, which the American Embassy earlier said would be a 10-minute "courtesy call", lasted one hour and 15 minutes.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is trying to revive investor interest in China and reassure foreign companies as part of efforts to reverse an economic slump. Raimondo said, however, she didn't discuss the Chinese economy during her meetings and didn't get the sense her Chinese counterparts were motivated by the downturn.

FORM NO. URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorized to Register) Rules, 2014

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 386 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre that 3K NANO LLP, a LLP may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company are as follows: initiate, undertake, carry on, engage in, promote, assist encourage, finance and conduct scientific and technical research, developments, experiments, investigations, inquiries, studies, projects, analysis, examinations, surveys and test of all kinds including, but not limited to those related to agricultural, medical industrial, mining technical and scientific problems and matters in India/abroad.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at H No R2 G2 S1 C, KH 625, T/7, L/S, INDRA PARK, PAL AM CLY, SOUTH DELHI, NEW DELHI, 110045 INDIA.

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

Name(s) of Applicant
1. Ms. Mayawati
2. Mr. Viven Solanki

Dated this 30th day of August 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, GAIRAJ SINGH S/O SHI. PITHOO SINGH & SANDEEP KUMAR S/O SHI. KARAM VIR SINGH, R/o 402, BORO, OKHASE BIVERA, RUDRAPUR, UTTARAKHAND 261513 is owners of residential property bearing No. A2-2003 at 20th Floor, Project - Superchek Ico Village-2, Address - Plot No. G4-01, Sector-14B, Greater Noida, Distt. GZ (UP). We have lost the original Allotment letter & Payment Receipts with respect to the above said property, if anybody found that or if any objection in this regard, please may contact and return to Transfer Team at M/s. Sawhney & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Office - Plot No. C-2, Sector 96, Noida 201303 (U.P.), within 15 days.

Regards,
Sd/-
DIWAKAR JHA (ADVOCATE)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Neeraj who is purchasing the Plot area measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 1029, Mu. No. 33, Kila No. 21 (84), Waka Musaha Dhatr, Tehsil & District Palwal from Mrs. Sunita Yadav, who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Transfer Deed dated 16.05.2023, which is duly registered vide Document No. 1776, at Sub-Registrar, Palwal, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Roha Housing Finance Private Limited. That original Sale Deed dated 16.05.2023, duly registered vide Doc. No. 8108, on 16.10.2021, at SPO-Palwal is Lost/Misplaced/Not available, an online Lost Property Report vide Application No. 132600832300226 has been lodged by Mr. Manish Chandra in this regard. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucas Legal LLP
Plot no.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact# 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Amit Kumar who is purchasing the Built-Up Upper Ground Floor, without roof rights, out of Built-Up Property No. RZ-J-24, area measuring 71.0852 Sq. Mts. (85 Sq. Yds.), at Khasra No. 232, situated in the revenue estate of village Nasipur, Abadi known as West Sagapur, New Delhi-110049, from Mrs. Kamaljeet Kaur, who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Sale Deed dated 04.02.2021, which is duly registered vide Document No. 1143, at Sub-Registrar, I/K, New Delhi, and intend to register against the financial assistance from the Birla Housing Finance Limited. That original Sale Deed dated 07.04.2015, duly registered vide Doc. No. 3466, at SRO-IX, New Delhi, is Lost/Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucas Legal LLP
Plot no.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact# 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client Mr. Raj Bhusani Prasad & 2) Mrs. Aarti are in process to purchase (availing loan from Pirana Capital & Housing Finance Limited) Plot bearing Kharsa No. 294/2, having land area measuring 02.53 Sq. Mtrs., situated in the residential colony known as Pragati Vihar, Kharsa No. 294/2, Pargasi, Loni, Tehsil & District Ghazabad (U.P.) from Kunwar Pal Singh, who purchased the said property from 1) Mr. Richhpal 2) Mr. Raj Kumar 3) Mr. Satish 4) Mr. Vinod Kumar & 5) Mr. Pawan Kumar inherited after the death of Mr. Niram, who was the father of them, vide Sale Deed dated 01.11.2019, Document No. 13744. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, equitable (registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us, with supporting documentary evidence, at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Malabar Metro Tower Sec-4, Vashi, G.D. U.P., Mob. 9810063351

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Engineering Department Tender Notice
Tender Reference No. GNDU/ENGG/ 2023/08/01-02
The Engineering Department of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar invites online bids for 1 of Civil work and 1 of supply of steel.
Closing date & time: 13-09-2023 upto 04:00 pm
For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any corrigendum/Addendum to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
NA/12/18495/2023/27237
Dated CHD - 8/29/2023

Powerful quake jolts Bali

Denpasar (Indonesia), (AP): A powerful earthquake and two strong aftershocks rocked Indonesia's resort island of Bali and other parts of the country early Tuesday, causing panic but no immediate reports of damage or casualties.



Damage from an earthquake in Bali.

The US Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 and was centred in the Bali Sea 181 kilometers northeast of Gili Air, a tiny island near the coast of Lombok Island, next to Bali. It occurred at a depth of 513.5 kilometers.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of dangers from aftershocks. The agency put the quake's preliminary magnitude at 7.4. Variations in early measurements are common.

The quake was followed by aftershocks of magnitude 5.4 and 5.6 that hit the Bali sea a few minutes later, just before

and panicked as houses and buildings swayed for several seconds.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 270 million people, is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific.

An earthquake in the hilly Karangasem in 2021 triggered landslides and cut off at least three villages, killing at least three people. A magnitude 5.6 earthquake last year killed at least 331 people and injured nearly 600 in West Java's Cianjur city. It was the deadliest in Indonesia since a 2018 quake and tsunami in Sulawesi killed about 4,340 people.

In 2004, an extremely powerful Indian Ocean quake set off a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia's Aceh province.

Many residents and tourists rushed out of their homes and hotels toward higher ground after reporting powerful shockwaves, but the situation returned to normal after they received text messages saying the quake had no potential to trigger a tsunami.

"I thought the walls were going to come down on the hotel," an Australian tourist said on social media.

People in the neighbouring provinces of East Java, Central Java, West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara also felt the tremors

Nigerian army rescues children abducted by Islamic rebels

AP ■ ABUJA (NIGERIA)

Nigerian security forces have rescued dozens of captives mostly women and children held by Islamic extremist rebels in the country's hard-hit northeastern region, the army said. The Nigerian army said late Monday the 25 captives were rescued during "clearance operations" by its troops in Borno state's Gwoza district, a hotbed for the jihadi violence that has upended lives and livelihoods in the region since 2009, when Boko Haram extremists launched an insurgency.

Fourteen of the captives were first to be rescued on Saturday in Gobara village while 11 others were freed on Sunday when troops raided the rebel hideout in Gava village,

both around 130 km (80 miles) from Borno state capital, Maiduguri, said army spokesman Onyema Nwachukwu.

The army shared pictures of the freed hostages that included toddlers. Most of them looked malnourished and wore worn-out clothes, suggesting that they might have been held for a long time.

"All rescued victims are presently in troops' custody undergoing profiling," Nwachukwu said, describing the operations as part of the "unrelenting efforts to clear remnants of Boko Haram terrorists enclaves" in Borno and other states. He said that seven members of a "Boko Haram terrorist family" surrendered to troops on Sunday in a separate operation.

SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED Registered Office: R-13, SIF GREATER KAILASH-1 NEW DELHI-110048 CIN: L34102DL1985PLC020156 Email: sidhindia1985@gmail.com; Website: www.sidhgroup.in Tel No.: 011-41053325

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 38th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED ("the Company") is scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 01:00 P.M. at R-13, SIF Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110048 to transact the Ordinary businesses as set out in Notice convening the AGM of the Company. The dispatch of the notice of AGM, inter alia indicating the process and manner of remote e-voting, along with attendance slip and proxy form, has been completed on August 29, 2023, to the Members whose names appear in the Register of Members/List of beneficiaries received from the depositories in the following manner:

- Through email to the Members who have registered their email ID; and
 - Through post to other Members who have not registered their email ID.
- In terms of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the 'Act') read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended, and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the 'Listing Regulations') and Secretarial Standard on General Meetings (SS2) issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, the Company is providing the facility to its Members to exercise their right to vote by electronic means on any or all of the businesses specified in the Notice convening the AGM of the Company (remote e-voting), through e-voting services of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"). The details pursuant to the Act and Rules made thereunder are as under:
- Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form and whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories, as on the cut-off Date, i.e. September 22, 2023 ('eligible Members'), shall be entitled to exercise their right to vote by remote e-voting as well as voting to be held at AGM on any or all of the businesses specified in the Notice convening the AGM of the Company;
 - The remote e-voting will commence on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 09:00 A.M.;
 - The remote e-voting will end on Friday, September 29, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.;
 - The remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter and voting through electronic means shall not be allowed thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by a Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently;
 - Members may note that:
 - the facility for voting through ballot paper shall be made available at the AGM and the members attending the meeting who have not casted their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their rights at the meeting through ballot paper;
 - A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote at the AGM.
 - In case a person has become a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the AGM Notice but on or before the cut-off date- i.e. September 22, 2023, may obtain the login ID and password by sending request at helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com;
 - A person, whose name is recorded in the register of Members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM through ballot paper.
 - In case of any queries, you may refer to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the Download sections of <http://www.evoting.com> or contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL) at helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com or call at 1800-200-5533 at CDSL Marathon Futurax A-Wing, 25th floor, NM Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013.

- The Board of Directors has appointed Ms. Teena Rani, H/o MSTR & Associate Practicing Company Secretary appointed as a Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting through Remote e-voting and Insta Poll process in a fair and transparent manner.
- The Register of members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Sunday, September 24, 2023 to Saturday, September 30, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

Members may go through the Notice for the AGM for detailed process or manner on remote voting. Any grievances or queries of the Members of the Company, connected with the electronic voting may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurax, Mafatal Mill Compounds, NM Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com or call on toll free no. 1800 22 55 33 or may write to the Company Secretary at the Registered Office of the Company.

The Notice convening the AGM and other relevant documents will be available on the website of the Company at www.sidhgroup.in and the website of CDSL at evoting@cdsindia.com.

By the order of the Board For SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED
Sd/-
ANIL SHARMA
Managing Director
DIN: 02828210

Thousands of Colombians protest 50 pc increase in gasoline prices

AP ■ BOGOTA

Thousands of protesters on cars and motorbikes took to the streets of Colombia's main cities on Monday to reject recent hikes in gasoline prices that have drastically increased the price of fuel in the South American country.

Protesters say that the monthly price hikes set by Colombia's first leftist government are making it harder for small businesses to operate, and could push up the price of food.

But the government of President Gustavo Petro says the gasoline subsidies cost about USD 11 billion a year. It says it must eliminate the subsidies to pay debts to the national oil company



Protesters in Colombia.

Ecopetrol, which produces most of the country's fuel, and to free up more funds for social programmes. The protest comes as discontent grows with Petro's administration a year after he took office promising to reduce poverty and make peace with the

Monetary Fund. "This government is making decisions that are anti-business," said Alejandra Mendoza, the manager of a small company that transports frozen food and other goods for supermarkets in Colombia.

She attended Monday's protest wearing her company's yellow jacket. "Our costs have gone up by a third, and we have to adjust our budget each month because of the gasoline hikes," Mendoza said.

The price of gasoline in Colombia has risen from 9,000 pesos a gallon in August of last year (USD 2.50) to more than 14,000 currently (USD 3.40) as Colombia's government cuts back on subsidies each month.

Petro's administration has struggled to stop violence in rural parts of the country, and to boost Colombia's economy, which is expected to grow by just 1 per cent in 2023, according to the International

Cyprus police arrest 21 trying to attack Syrian protestors

Nicosia (AP): Police in Cyprus say they have arrested 21 people and used tear gas and a water cannon after a group of Greek Cypriots wearing hoods and brandishing bats tried to attack protesting Syrians in a small village that has been a hotbed of tensions between locals and migrants.

Police said Tuesday parallel protests by some 250 Syrians and an equal number of Greek Cypriots in the village of Chloraka in the island's southwest Monday evening degenerated into violence, as smaller numbers of protesters from both groups began setting fire to garbage bins and also torching a building's fence.

N Korea must be ready against US-led invasion plots: Kim

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for his military to be constantly ready for combat to thwart its rivals' plots to invade his country, state media said Tuesday, as the US, South Korea and Japan held a trilateral naval exercise to deal with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats.

Monday that the waters off the Korean Peninsula have been made unstable "with the danger of a nuclear war" because of US-led hostilities, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

He accused the US of conducting "more frantic" naval drills with its allies and deploying strategic assets in waters around the Korean Peninsula. Kim also cited a recent US-South Korean-Japanese summit where an agreement to boost defense cooperation was reached to counter North Korea's nuclear programme.

"The prevailing situation requires our navy to put all its efforts into rounding off the war readiness to maintain the constant combat alertness and get prepared to break the enemy's will for war in contingency," Kim said. South Korea's Foreign Ministry expressed deep regret over Kim's use of "very rude language" to slander the South Korean, US and Japanese leaders.

Tuesday's South Korean-US-Japanese drills in international waters off South Korea's southern Jeju island involved naval destroyers from the three countries. The training was



aimed at mastering procedures for detecting, tracking and sharing information about incoming North Korean missiles, South Korea's navy said in a statement.

The US and South Korean militaries began the 11-day bilateral drills on Aug 21. The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield training is a computer-simulated command post exercise. But they included field exercises this year. North Korea typically responds to US-South Korean military drills with its own missile tests.

North Korea has carried out more than 100 weapons tests, many of them involving nuclear-capable missiles designed to strike the US, South Korea and Japan. Many experts say North Korea ultimately wants to use its boosted military capabilities to wrest greater concessions from the US. The North's testing spree has forced the US and South Korea to expand their drills, resume trilateral training involving Japan and enhance "regular visibility" of US strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula.

their first-ever stand-alone trilateral summit at Camp David. During the meeting, they announced they intend to put into operation by year's end the sharing of real-time missile warning data on North Korea and hold annual trilateral exercises. Kim has been pushing hard to expand his nuclear arsenal and introduce a slew of sophisticated weapons systems.

During his Navy Day speech, Kim said that military units of each service would be given new weaponry in line with the government's decision to expand the operation of tactical nuclear weapons. He said the navy would become "a component of the state nuclear deterrence carrying out the strategic duty". This suggests

North Korea would deploy new nuclear-capable missiles to its navy and other military services. State media photos showed Kim visiting the navy headquarters with his daughter, reportedly named Ju Ae and aged about 10. It was her first public appearance since mid-May. Kim has brought her to a series of public events since November, sparking speculation about her political status. South Korean officials say Kim hasn't anointed her as his heir. They believe Kim likely attempts to use his daughter's public appearance as a way to show his people that one of his children would one day inherit his power in what would be the country's third hereditary power transfer.

UK air traffic control outage to cause chaos for days

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government on Tuesday said that though the air traffic control "technical issue" that led to the severe disruption of hundreds of flights and left thousands of passengers stranded has been resolved, routes will continue to be affected as airlines scramble to recover from the domino effect on their schedules.

Heathrow, the UK's busiest airport, said its services will "remain significantly disrupted" and urged passengers to contact their airline before travelling to the airport.

"The issue has been resolved, however schedules remain significantly disrupted. If you are travelling on 29th August, please ensure you contact your airline before travelling to the airport," it said.

Among the passengers stranded amid the travel chaos are members of the British team who have been competing at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

London Gatwick said it plans to operate a normal schedule on Tuesday following the disruption. However, passengers have been advised to check the status of their flight with their airline before travelling to the airport.

London Stansted airport also said it planned to run a normal flight schedule on Tuesday, but added "our terminal may be busier than anticipated".

Outside of London, Glasgow said a handful of flights will be disrupted as a result of Monday's issue, while departure boards at Manchester and Bristol airports show a small number of services have been cancelled.

There have been reports of "fists flying" and fiery scenes as passengers vent their frustration at being left stranded - in some cases on planes on the tarmac and others in the departure lounges of airports around the world.

Our technical experts have looked at it and are clear that it wasn't a cybersecurity incident," he said.

The Cabinet minister said there would be an independent review into what happened and a report is expected in the coming days. "The system was

Memorial service for Prigozhin held

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG

A memorial service has taken place for mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who was killed in a plane crash last week, his spokesperson said Tuesday in a terse statement on social media.

Earlier media reports about the funeral mentioned other cemeteries in the city as likely sites for the burial, which has been shrouded in secrecy.

It wasn't clear from the statement if Prigozhin has already been buried or if it was still to happen. Earlier, the Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin is not planning to attend a funeral for Prigozhin, who had challenged the Russian leader's authority in an armed rebellion in June.

Kremlin political analyst, noted that Prigozhin has become a legendary figure for his supporters who are increasingly critical of the authorities. "Prigozhin's funeral raises an issue of communication between the bureaucratic Russian government system that doesn't have much political potential and politically active patriotic segment of the Russian public," Markov said.

about the burial because it was a private family matter. The tight secrecy and confusion surrounding the funeral of Prigozhin and his top lieutenants reflected a dilemma faced by the Kremlin amid swirling speculation that the crash was likely a vendetta for his mutiny.

While it tried to avoid any pomp-filled ceremony for the man branded by Putin as a traitor for his June 23-24 rebellion, the Kremlin couldn't afford to denigrate Prigozhin, who was given Russia's highest award for leading Wagner forces in Ukraine and was idolized by many of the country's hawks.

Putin's comments on Prigozhin's death reflected that careful stand. He noted last week that Wagner leaders "made a significant contribution" to the fighting in Ukraine and described Prigozhin as a "talented businessman" and "a man of difficult fate" who had "made serious mistakes in life."

died in the August 23 crash alongside Prigozhin.

Prigozhin's second-in-command, Dmitry Utkin, a retired military intelligence officer who gave the mercenary group its name based on his own nom de guerre, was also among the 10 people killed in the crash.

A preliminary US intelligence assessment concluded that an intentional explosion caused the plane to crash, and Western officials have pointed to a long list of Putin's foes who have been assassinated.

The crash came exactly two months after the brutal and profane mercenary boss launched a rebellion against the Russian military leadership. Prigozhin ordered his mercenaries to take over the military headquarters in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don and then began a march on Moscow.

US Congress asked to update 'outdated' immigration system

Washington (PTI): The Biden administration has asked the Congress to update the woefully outdated immigration system, the White House said Monday.

As we have said many times before, this is an outdated immigration system. We've asked the Congress to update our woefully outdated immigration system. We've been very clear on that, including, including the temporary visa programmes that haven't been updated in more than two decades," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

Under the current regulations, workers on certain temporary visas usually have 60 days to secure new employment, pursue a different visa classification or make preparations to depart the United States. "So, the Congress needs to do their job and pass legislation, updating our immigration laws to reflect the needs of where we are, where we are currently in this 21st century economy," she said.

On the first day of his administration, President Joe Biden put forth an immigration reform legislation because he took this very seriously, the White House Press Secretary said. He wanted to make sure that was the first piece of legislation that he put forward on Day One because "this is such a broken system", Jean-Pierre said in response to a question.

Ultra Low Emission Zone expanded to cover entire London

PTI ■ LONDON

London Mayor Sadiq Khan's controversial Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion to cover every borough of the UK capital came in force on Tuesday, which means drivers must pay a charge of GBP 12.50 per day to drive a non-compliant vehicle anywhere in the city now.

It will be the first trip by a UK foreign secretary to China in more than five years. Both countries confirmed the long-awaited trip on Tuesday.

"The two sides will have in-depth communication on Sino-British relations and international and regional issues of common concern," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said. "We hope the British side will work with us to uphold the spirit of mutual respect, deep exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and promote the stable development of Sino-British relations."

Cleverly's visit is an attempt to stabilise China-Britain ties, which have sunk to their lowest level in decades. The countries disagree over issues such as Beijing's curbing of civil freedoms in Hong Kong, a former British colony, alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region, China's support for Russia and Britain's close security ties with the United States.

Cleverly has said he would raise issues such as Xinjiang and Hong Kong with the Chinese government. Britain has stressed it must engage with Beijing given China's global significance, but Cleverly said Chinese influence

comes with responsibility on the global stage. "That responsibility means China fulfilling its international commitments and obligations," he said.

British's governing Conservative party is split over how tough a line to take with Beijing. Critics had accused former Prime Minister Boris Johnson - a self-declared "Sinophile" - of prioritising trade ties and not taking Chinese threats to national security seriously enough.

Current Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is aiming to pursue a nuanced, non-confrontational approach. He has described China as a growing "systemic challenge" to Britain's values and interests, but he has also stressed the need to maintain a relationship with the Asian superpower.

Conservative lawmaker and former party leader Iain Duncan Smith, an outspoken critic of the Chinese Communist Party, said Cleverly's visit was the latest demonstration of "Project Kowtow." "The problem with our position right now is it smells terribly of appeasement," he said. "It's like we want more business, therefore we don't want to upset the Chinese too much."

Smith was one of five British members of Parliament critical of Beijing who were sanctioned by China in 2021. They are barred from entering mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau and from doing business with Chinese citizens.

Faculty member of North Carolina University shot

Chapel Hill (AP): A University of North Carolina faculty member was shot and killed in a campus building, an official said Monday.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said the shooting was in Caudill Laboratories, and there is no longer a threat to the public. A suspect has been arrested, the school said.

Students and faculty at the flagship campus barricaded themselves in dorm rooms, offices and classrooms for hours until a lockdown was lifted. About three hours after warning students to seek shelter indoors and avoid windows, the school posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, "All clear. All clear. Resume normal activities."

The school's first alert was sent out just after 1 pm. At 1.50 pm, officials posted on X that the shelter-in-place order remained in effect and that it was "an ongoing situation." About 40 minutes later, the school added a post saying: "Remain sheltered in place. This is an ongoing situation. Suspect at large." About two hours after the first alert went out, officers were still arriving in droves, with about 50 police vehicles at the scene and multiple helicopters circling over the school. One officer admonished two people who tried to exit the student centre, yelling "Inside, now!" About 10 minutes later, law enforcement escorted a group of students out of one of the science buildings, with everyone walking in an orderly line with their hands up. Shortly before 4 pm, students and faculty started emerging from campus buildings, with the lockdown over.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Tender Notice Reference No. 737/DR. The Department of Director of Research invites online bids for the following: Sr. No. 1 Item Vacuum Concentrator Quantity 1 NO. Sr. No. 2 Item Fluorescence Spectrophotometer Quantity 1 NO.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/41 Date: 28.08.2023 The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered PWD (Bldg.) contractor for the work, "Repair & renovation works of State Mission Office of Samagra Shiksha, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19" as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website https://www.assamtenders.gov.in.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY FLAT NO. T-18/1103 HAVING SUPER AREA 1375 SQUARE FEET ON 11TH FLOOR IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "LAKE DRIVE" SITUATED IN TDI LAKE GROVE CITY, KUNDLI, SONEPAT - 131001, HARYANA.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No: EMP/ED-29/2023 No.: EM/PE/TECH-26/2023/337 Date: 25.08.2023 Name of the Work: Providing LT Power supply to CB-I & CB-II. Estimated Cost: Rs.2,42,60,283/- Last date & time of submission of bid : dt.18/09/2023 up to 17:00 Hrs.

GOLDEGE ESTATE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED Regd. Office: C-115, Mansarovar Garden Ground Floor New Delhi-110015 Ph. No.-011-25193268 | e-mail: goldedgeestate2016@gmail.com CIN: U70101DL1992PLC047541 | www.goldedgeestate.in

NOTICE 1. NOTICE is hereby given that 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 2023 at 12:00 Noon (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM"), in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, (the 'Act') and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (the "MCA") vide its General Circulars No. 14/2020, No. 17/2020, No. 20/2020 and No. 10/2022 dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 5, 2020, and December 28, 2022, respectively (hereinafter, collectively referred to as the "MCA Circulars") read with the No. SEBI/HO/CFD/POD2/CIR/P/2023/120 dated July 11, 2023, issued in supersession of earlier circulars issued by SEBI bearing No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CM/DT/ CIR/P/2020/79, No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CM/DT/CIR/P/2021/11, No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CM/DT/CIR/P/2022/62 and No. SEBI/HO/CFD/POD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated May 12, 2020, January 15, 2021, May 13, 2022 and January 05, 2023, respectively, (hereinafter, collectively referred to as the "SEBI Circulars") and together with the MCA Circulars referred to as the "Circulars") to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of the meeting.

Lost & Found I. Suchitra Varma Daughter of Shri Surendra Varma R/o 1126, Arun Vihar Sector-37, Noida, UP-201303 signed through Power of Attorney on behalf of Avnish Kumar Lugani inform that I have lost property document such as allotment letter in the name of Anant Ram, possession. Letter in the name of Avnish Kumar Lugani and Mutation from DDA in the name of Avnish Kumar Lugani on 26.08.2023 Near Local Shopping Complex, Pocket-B, Mayapuri Vihar Phase-II, Delhi. I have already complaint about my lost documents having LR No.828663/2023 on 27.08.2023 at 05.24 PM. Suchitra Varma

SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE HIGHER FOR 2ND DAY

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains as metal and power and select financial shares advanced. Losses in index majors Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Airtel, and foreign fund outflows restricted gains, analysts said.

Rising for a second straight day, the BSE Sensex rose by 79.22 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 65,075.82, tracking firm global markets. During the day, it jumped 232.43 points or 0.35 per cent to 65,229.03.

The NSE Nifty gained 36.60 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 19,342.65. From the Sensex pack, Jio Financial Services Ltd jumped 4.72 per cent.

Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, JSW Steel, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies and HDFC Bank were among the major gainers. Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, Reliance

POWER, METAL SHARES SHINE



Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the laggards. "The buoyancy of the global market in anticipation of no further Fed rate hikes, due to subdued economic data, was noticeable in the Indian market as well.

However, heavyweight stocks were muted compared to the sector-wise and mid & small-cap upsides," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. The

jumped 1.73 per cent, realty gained 1.61 per cent, utilities climbed 1.15 per cent, metal (1.12 per cent), power (1.10 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.79 per cent).

FMCG, telecommunication and bank were the laggards. "Currently, there are no fresh positive triggers to recharge the markets, hence investors are preferring to take selective bets.

Also, FIIs taking out money from local shares has prompted traders to stay cautious," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains. European markets were trading in the green.

The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.63 per cent to USD 84.95 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,393.25 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

metals global rallied in anticipation of further green shoots from the Chinese government and central banks, aimed at improving the local economy, he said adding the "benefits from festival demand were evident in sectors such as consumer durables, manufacturing, power, and real estate".

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.69 per cent and midcap index gained 0.45 per cent. Among the indices, commodities

Govt announces up to ₹50L grant for startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday said it will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals to promote innovation in the niche technical textiles segment.

The Startup Guidelines for Technical Textiles - Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) providing grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months has been approved, Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, said.

With a strong emphasis on developing the Startup Ecosystem in Technical Textiles, the guidelines focus on supporting individuals and companies to translate prototypes to technologies & products, including commercialisation, he told reporters here on the important developments in the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).

"We are going to support up to Rs 50 lakh in the form of grant-in-aid without any royalties or equity. Only a minimum of 10 per cent contribu-



project, Saxena said a minimum investment of 10 per cent of the funding from the incubatee in two equal instalments is mandated. The start-up guidelines (GREAT) are aimed at providing the much-needed impetus for the development of the technical textiles startup ecosystem in India, especially in niche sub-segments such as bio-degradable and sustainable textiles, high-performance and specialty fibres, and smart textiles, among others.

As per the guidelines, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will have to be signed between the selected startups and the incubator. The textiles ministry has also given a nod to 26 institutes for upgrading their laboratory infrastructure and training of trainers in the application areas of technical textiles.

Applications from 26 institutes for the development and introduction of technical textile courses/ papers in the key departments/specialisations as well as introducing new degree programme in technical textiles have also been approved.

Gold climbs ₹250; silver jumps ₹600



New Delhi: Gold prices climbed Rs 250 to Rs 59,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a rally in precious metal prices internationally, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 59,550 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also jumped Rs 600 to Rs 77,100 per kg.

Gold advanced on Tuesday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 59,800/10 grams, up by Rs 250, following positive cues from overseas markets, Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst - commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the global markets, both gold and silver were quoting higher at USD 1,924 per ounce and USD 24.25 per ounce, respectively. PTI

Rupee drops by 8 paise due to rebound in crude oil, greenback

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 8 paise to settle at 82.71 (US currency) against the rupee (US currency) on Tuesday due to a rebound in crude oil prices and greenback in the global markets.

Foreign fund outflows from the equity markets also weighed on the rupee sentiment, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened higher at 82.58 amid overnight losses in the US dollar against major global rivals. Volatile equity markets and recovery in



crude oil prices during the day hit the rupee sentiment, dragging the unit to a day's low of 82.73. The rupee settled lower by 8 paise at 82.71 against the US dollar. On Monday, the rupee edged up by 1 paise to settle at 82.63. Meanwhile, the

dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent higher at 104.07. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.60 per cent to USD 84.93 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex closed higher by 79.22 points at 65,075.82 while the broader Nifty advanced by 36.60 points to close at 19,342.65.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in capital markets on Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,393.25 crore, according to exchange data.

Farmers to be 'urja daata' as ethanol demand to grow: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Increased demand for ethanol for blending with petrol and diesel will change the agriculture economy of India making farmers "urja daata", Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday while launching the world's first BS 6 (stage II) electrified flex fuel-based vehicle, which can run on ethanol blends of beyond 20 per cent.

Compared to the higher contribution of the manufacturing and services sectors, the agriculture and allied industry's contribution to India's GDP is only 12 per cent while 65 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture, the minister for road



transport and highways said. The ethanol industry is a boon for farmers. The demand for ethanol will grow in the country. It will change the agriculture economy of India. "Our farmers will not only just be ann daata (food giver) but urja daata (energy provider)," he said. Gadkari exuded confidence that with the demand for ethanol, the share of agriculture

to the GDP will also grow. "I am very happy that the day the economy of ethanol will touch Rs 2 lakh crore that day agricultural growth rate which is 12 per cent will grow to 20 per cent," he said. Successful tests for alternative fuels have been conducted in generator sets, vehicles, aircraft etc, the minister noted.

Gadkari also informed that neighbouring Bangladesh has requested India to supply petrol blended with ethanol. "Today's development is a boon for farmers. I thank the management of Toyota Kirloskar for developing the technology which will help reduce pollution in the country and create job opportunities in the agri-

culture sector. I request to make more models on flex engines. I want motorcycles, e-rickshaws, auto rickshaws, cars to be 100 per cent ethanol," Gadkari said.

Developed by Toyota Kirloskar, the prototype of the electrified flex fuel vehicle has been built-on the Innova Hycross model and designed to be compatible with India's higher emission norms.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said that India, in 2014, was blending ethanol only to the extent of 1.53 per cent. It has increased by over 8 times to reach the blending of around 11.5 per cent (March 2023). This has

not only helped make big savings in the import bill but also contributed to lowering carbon emissions. "We have advanced the target for E20 blending to 2025 from the original plan of 2030 and I am very happy to note that with the strong efforts made by all the stakeholders, we will achieve this.

"Currently, E20 fuel is being dispensed at more than 3,300 fuel stations across the country and shall be available pan India by April 2025. With E20 implementation by April 2025, expected import bill savings may be around Rs. 35,000 crore annually, oil import displacement will be 63 million barrels of gasoline (in EY 2024-25)," he said.

Sebi to ease fundraising for NGOs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a step to ease the fundraising by not-for-profit organisations, capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday proposed flexibility in the regulatory framework for social stock exchanges.

Under the proposal, the regulator has suggested reducing the threshold of the minimum issue size as well as application size for not-for-profit organisations (NPOs). Additionally, it has suggested abolishing the requirement of no pending notice or ongoing scrutiny by Income Tax against NPOs for registration on social stock exchanges (SSEs) and



substituting the term social auditor with social impact assessor. Further, NPOs should be permitted to provide past social impact but not strictly as per the format specified by Sebi in their fundraising document, according to a consultation paper. The proposals are aimed at facilitating fundraising by NPOs. A not-for-profit organ-

isation (NPO) is required to be registered with the SSE to raise funds. At present, 31 NPOs have been registered in this segment with the two exchanges. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till September 19 on the proposal.

In its consultation paper, the regulator has suggested reducing the threshold of the minimum issue size for NPOs, issuing Zero Coupon Zero Principle (ZCZP) instruments, to Rs 50 lakh from the existing Rs 1 crore.

Also, it has proposed to lower the minimum application size in the public issue of ZCZP to Rs 10,000 from the current level of Rs 2 lakh. Further, it has been recommended to allow certain entities to be registered as NPOs with SSE. Those entities are universities or educational institutions existing solely for educational purposes and not-for-profit and which are financed by the government and body or trust set up by the government for regulating any activity for the benefit of the general public.

The idea of a social stock exchange was first mooted in the Union Budget 2019-20 to enable entities involved in social activities such as charitable trusts and non-profit organisations to access the capital market for funds.

SEBI puts in place norms to boost cyber security framework for exchanges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday came out with guidelines to strengthen the existing cyber security and cyber resilience framework for stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

The new guidelines will come into force with immediate effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. "Considering the interconnectedness and interdependency of the MIIs to carry out their functions, the cyber risk of any given MII is no longer limited to the MII's owned or controlled systems, networks, and assets," Sebi said.

Accordingly, the regulator came out with guidelines to strengthen the existing framework for MIIs — stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and repositories. Under the guidelines, MIIs will have to maintain offline, encrypted backups of data and regularly test these backups at least every

quarter to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability. Further, they should explore the possibility of retaining spare hardware in an isolated environment to rebuild systems in the event starting their operations from both the Primary Data Centre (PDC) and Disaster Recovery Site (DRS) is not feasible.

Also, they should undertake regular business continuity drills to check the readiness of the organization and the effectiveness of existing security controls at the ground level to deal with ransomware attacks.

MIIs should conduct regular vulnerability scanning to identify and address vulnerabilities, especially those on internet-facing devices, to limit the attack surface.

Noting that MIIs are systematically important institutions as they provide infrastructure necessary for smooth and uninterrupted functioning of securities market, Sebi said, they should employ multi-

India, New Zealand planning to introduce UPI payment app

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand are discussing the possibility of introducing the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the island country with a view to promoting ease of doing business, trade and tourism between the countries, the commerce ministry said on Tuesday.

The two countries are also looking at ways to allow the import of wooden logs from New Zealand. These issues were discussed during a bilateral meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor on Monday here.

"Ministers welcomed early discussions between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payments NZ regarding the UPI system and agreed that both sides should continue deliberations on this issue.

They agreed that introduction of UPI in New Zealand would promote ease of doing business between both the countries and promote trade and tourism as well," the ministry said. In 2022, the National Payments



Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation offering UPI services, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with France's fast and secure online payment system, called Lyra. In 2023, UPI and Singapore's PayNow signed an agreement, allowing users in either country to make cross-border transactions.

The UAE, Bhutan and Nepal have already adopted the UPI payment system. The NPCI international is in talks to extend the UPI services in the US, European countries, and West Asia. On mangoes, the ministry said India recently started exporting mangoes to New Zealand.

Further, it said that the two sides discussed possible innovative technical collaboration in the field of agriculture and horticulture, including

Kiwi fruit; pharmaceutical; processing, storage and transportation. "Ministers acknowledged the desirability of improving air connectivity between New Zealand and India, and welcomed the finalisation of the MoU to further liberalise the bilateral Air Services Agreement between the two countries," it added.

India's exports to the island country rose to USD 548 million in 2022-23 from USD 487.6 million in 2021-22. Imports too have increased to USD 478 million in 2022-23 from USD 375 million in 2021-22.

Indian students are the second largest number of international students for New Zealand. India primarily imports logs and forestry products, wood pulp, wool and edible fruit and nuts.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यायवाचक मंडल-19,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संचालित को सुना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स विक्रमिणी एग्रो इन्डस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड, ग्राम-बेलदुकर, तहसील व जिला-महासमुंद्र (छ.ग.) स्थित कुल क्षेत्रफल-9.0 हेक्टेयर में ग्रेन बेस्ड डिस्टिलरी क्षमता-210 किलोलीटर प्रतिदिन (इथेनॉल/वेबिटाफाईड स्पिरिट/एक्स्ट्रा न्यूट्रल एकोहल/इन्डस्ट्रियल एकोहल/डिनेचर्ड स्पिरिट/स्वैशली डिनेचर्ड स्पिरिट एण्ड माल्ड स्पिरिट), को-जनरेशन पॉवर प्लांट - 6.25 मेगावॉट, डी.डी.जी.एस. क्षमता-88 टन प्रतिदिन एवं कार्बन डाई आक्साईड क्षमता-154 टन प्रतिदिन के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 29/09/2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थल मॉरिंग से आठोली मार्ग, अंकित स्टोन के पास, ग्राम-बेलदुकर, तहसील व जिला-महासमुंद्र (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल/सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मार्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केंद्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 44 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरैक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर महासमुंद्र, जिला- महासमुंद्र, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत-महासमुंद्र, जिला-महासमुंद्र, मुख्य महानिबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, जिला-महासमुंद्र, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जनपद पंचायत महासमुंद्र, जिला- महासमुंद्र, कार्यालय, सरपंच/सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत बेलदुकर, तहसील- महासमुंद्र, जिला- महासमुंद्र, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यवसायिक परिसर, कबीर नगर, रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

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

Road, renewables Capex likely to rise by 35% till FY25: Crisis

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The total capital outlay for roads and renewables in 2023-24 and 2024-25 is likely to jump by 35 per cent to Rs 13 lakh crore compared to that in the last two fiscal years, according to a report.

Conducive policies, rising investor interest and strong execution speed are expected to drive the capital outlay in the sectors, the report by Crisil Ratings said on Tuesday.

The pace of road construction and capacity addition in renewables is seen

growing by 25 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively, in the current and next fiscal, and the capex growth is expected to sustain over the medium term, the report said.

Crisil Ratings Managing Director Gurpreet Chhatwal said the pace of execution of renewable energy projects is set to increase 33 per cent to 20 GW per annum over the current and next fiscal as compared to 15 GW per annum in the past two fiscal years, supported by a healthy executable pipeline of 50 GW of projects as of March 2023.

Coal transition in India won't lead to job losses: ISA DG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India won't experience any job losses in coal-dependent regions as it transitions towards renewable energy, provided the country designs its systems correctly, says Ajay Mathur, Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

In an interview with PTI, Mathur also said energy security remains a driving force, especially in view of the Russia-Ukraine war impacting traditional energy sources. While India doesn't intend to fully eliminate coal, the sole dependable energy source in the nation, there is a target to

diminish coal's contribution from the existing 50 per cent in the energy mix to around 30 per cent and have 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Addressing concerns about loss of jobs as India moves away from coal, Mathur, who has also been a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, said the renewable sector holds promise for employment generation, particularly at the user level. "We need far more trained electricians who can maintain the solar systems you and I set up in our own houses," the energy sector expert said, stressing the need for

skilled professionals in the industry. "It is quite possible that if we design systems right, the last coal plants close on the day the last coal miner retires, so there'll be no job issues on that side," he said.

According to a study released in November 2021, more than 13 million people employed in coal mining, transport, power, sponge iron, steel, and bricks sectors will be impacted due to the impending coal transition. The transition will have the highest impact on the people in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana, the study by think tank National Foundation for

India said. On the other hand, India can create 3.4 million new clean energy jobs providing employment to over a million people (one worker can perform more than one job) as it moves towards the goal of 500 GW of green energy capacity by 2030, according to a report released last year.

These employment opportunities will predominantly arise within the wind and on-grid solar energy sectors, the report by independent think tanks Council for Energy, Environment and Water and the US-based environmental advocacy group Natural Resources Defense Council said.

Djokovic cruises on US Open return

AP ■ NEW YORK
Novak Djokovic thrashed Frenchman Alexandre Muller 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 on his long-awaited US Open return on Monday, guaranteeing he will take back the world number one ranking from Carlos Alcaraz.

The 36-year-old Serbian star, who missed last year's tournament over his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19, is chasing a 24th Grand Slam title and plays Spain's Bernabe Zapata Miralles in round two.

Djokovic, a three-time US Open champion, reeled off the opening eight games of the match before Muller belatedly got on the board, earning sympathetic applause from a crowd including former US President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle.

The second seed showed little mercy to his overmatched rival, breaking serve eight times and clinching victory in an hour and 35 minutes.

"I started tremendously well out of the blocks," said Djokovic, whose match didn't begin until after 11pm following a ceremony honouring Billie Jean King and the 50th anniversary of equal prize money for men and women at the US Open.

"I knew it was going to be a late night for me, late start of the match. Nevertheless, I mean, I was excited to go out on the court," said Djokovic.

"I didn't care if I started after midnight because I was looking forward to this moment for few years, to be out on the biggest stadium in our sport, the loudest stadium in our sport, playing night session."

"Everyone knows in tennis that night sessions at Arthur Ashe definitely are the most exciting, fun, loud, energetic sessions you can have out there on the tennis world," he added.

Djokovic's previous match in New York was the 2021 final he lost to Daniil Medvedev, a defeat which stopped him from completing a calendar Grand Slam.

He improved his first round record at the US Open to 17-0 against Muller, who was making his main draw debut at the tournament.

"I think the performance explains how I felt tonight, particularly in the first two sets. It was kind of lights-out tennis really, almost flawless, perfect first set," said Djokovic.



"I've probably had the answer for every shot he had in his book. Overall I'm very, very pleased with the way I feel, with the way I'm playing."

"Hopefully I can maintain that level. It's just the beginning of the tournament, but I already like the level of tennis."

'PRETTY SPECIAL WIN'
Former champion Dominic Thiem secured his first Grand Slam win in almost three years on Monday after beating 25th seed Alexander Bublik in the first round of the US Open.

The Austrian defeated Bublik 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to snap a seven-match losing streak at majors, which included a run of six consecutive first round exits following his run to the last 16 of the 2021 Australian Open.

"It was a very good match basically from the first moment on. It's a pretty special victory, because it's the first since two-and-a-half years at Grand Slams," said Thiem.

The 29-year-old's career has nosedived since his crowning moment in 2020, when Thiem came from two sets behind to beat Alexander Zverev in that year's pandemic-affected US Open final held behind closed doors.

Once the world number three, Thiem's ranking plummeted to 352 in June 2022 after a wrist injury sidelined him for nine months and prevented him from defending his US Open title.

He is now back inside the top 100, earlier this month reaching the final in Kitzbuehel -- his first championship match since the season-ending ATP

Finals in 2020.
"It was a very good road for me," Thiem said of his journey over the past three years.

"Especially personally I was learning a lot, so I don't want to miss anything in this road, but obviously tennis-wise or sports-wise was not easy all the time."

"So that's why I'm even happier that I got the win today. First win on Grand Slam since a while. I had some good previous weeks as well with the first finals after the injury."

"So it's feeling good, and I'm really looking forward to the next one."

4TH SEED RUNE OUT
Danish fourth seed Holger Rune crashed out of the US Open on Monday, losing in four sets to Spanish journeyman Roberto Carballes Baena.

Rune, beaten in the quarter-finals of Wimbledon by Carlos Alcaraz, succumbed 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in 2hr 42min.

Carballes Baena, a clay-court specialist ranked 63rd in the world who has never been further than the third round at a Grand Slam tournament, will face either Russia's Aslan Karatsev or the Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka in the second round.

The defeat was the latest in a series of disappointing early exits for Rune, the 20-year-old regarded as one of the brightest young talents in men's tennis.

Since his quarter-final loss to Alcaraz at Wimbledon, Rune has suffered first round losses at the Canadian Open, the Cincinnati Open and now the US Open.



Swiatek eases into 2nd round

AP ■ NEW YORK
World number one Iga Swiatek launched her US Open title defence on Monday with a ruthless 6-0, 6-1 win over Sweden's Rebecca Peterson in the first round.

Swiatek, whose grip on top spot is under threat from Aryna Sabalenka in New York, needed just 58 minutes to dispose of the 86th-ranked Peterson.

The Pole broke her opponent five times and hit 20 winners to just two for Peterson, beaten in round one at the US Open for the fourth year running.

"I wanted to start the tournament with everything I was focusing on. I was happy to play a great game, with all the pressure and expectations I was happy on the court," said Swiatek.

"I feel like everything that is going on around us it is taking away our attention and what we want to achieve with our games and careers."

"I want to remind myself that I want to develop as a player. The numbers and stats don't really matter to me. I'm just trying to focus on my performance."

Swiatek, bidding for her fifth Grand Slam title, goes on to face Daria Saville of Australia in round two. She is now 18-1 in first-round matches at majors.

No woman has retained the US Open title since Serena Williams won the tournament three times in a row from 2012 to 2014.

Wozniacki wins on Grand Slam comeback

AP ■ NEW YORK
Caroline Wozniacki won her opening match in her first Grand Slam appearance in over three years on Monday, beating Russian qualifier Tatiana Prozorova 6-3, 6-2 at the US Open.

The former world number one from Denmark returned to tennis earlier this month, having retired after the 2020 Australian Open to start a family, and giving birth to two



children.

Wozniacki broke three times in the first set against her 227th-ranked opponent who was making her Grand Slam main draw debut and playing just her third tour-level event.

Prozorova required treatment for a leg injury between sets before Wozniacki, the US Open runner-up in 2009 and 2014, wrapped up victory and set up a meeting with another former Grand Slam champion, Petra Kvitova.

"It feels amazing to be back," said the 33-year-old Wozniacki, who was handed a wild card entry for the tournament.

"Obviously I was very nervous to be out here having not been out here since 2019."

"It's amazing to get another chance. To get a win under my belt, it feels so special," she added.

"I love playing out here. It's just so electric, there's such a buzz coming out here in New York to play."



Gauff slams US Open officiating after stormy win

AP ■ NEW YORK
American teenager Coco Gauff slammed US Open officiating after battling to a stormy first round victory over German veteran Laura Siegemund on Monday.

The 19-year-old American sixth seed -- tipped by many as one of the favourites for the this year's title -- was forced to dig deep before winning 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in 2hr 50min on the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

But an ill-tempered clash was marked by angry confrontations by both players with chair umpire Marijana Veljovic.

Gauff remonstrated with Veljovic at length during the third set, accusing the Serbian official of failing to properly enforce time violation rules against Siegemund.

Siegemund -- who was warned twice for slow play, eventually costing her a game in the final set -- also confronted Veljovic during a tetchy encounter.

Gauff later said she had snapped in frustration at Veljovic's perceived failure to crack down on Siegemund's pace of play.

called because one ref is letting them go over, the other is more strict on the time.

"I think tennis needs to be more strict on the rules for everybody regardless of every situation."

Gauff's coach Brad Gilbert could be heard repeatedly telling the teenager to raise the time-keeping issue with the umpire throughout the match.

Gauff said she eventually approached the umpire after she "reached a point where I was just really frustrated."

"I try my best not to let my emotions to take over myself," she said. "When it happens over and over, I'm not going to complain if it's once or twice. It was at least seven times that I counted."

Siegemund, 35, meanwhile slammed the partisan home crowd on Arthur Ashe that had cheered her every error relentlessly throughout.

"I am very very disappointed of the way the people treated me today," she told reporters.

"I'm a fighter. I never did anything against the audience, I stayed calm, not even a gesture against the audience. They had no respect for me, no respect for the way I played, no respect for the player that I am, they had no respect for good tennis."

Atletico crush Vallecano in 7-goal rout

AP ■ MADRID
Atletico Madrid dismantled city rivals Rayo Vallecano 7-0 in Monday night with a ruthless display and their largest ever away win in La Liga.

Antoine Griezmann opened the scoring early on, before his strike partner Memphis Depay netted the second from close range from Saul Niguez's cross.

Atletico lost the Dutch forward to injury in the first half, but Nahuel Molina slid home the third to kill the game before half-time.

Substitute Alvaro Morata netted in the 73rd minute and then again after Angel Correa grabbed the fifth, with Marcos Llorente finishing the rout late on. "We had a great game from the start, with a lot of intensity," Antoine Griezmann told Movistar.

"They're three important points and I'm very happy with the team's work today. Atletico's emphatic victory took them second in the table, two points behind leaders Real Madrid.



Spanish football leaders ask Rubiales to resign

AP ■ MADRID
Leading officials within the Spanish Football Federation asked suspended president Luis Rubiales to resign on Monday because of his behaviour at the Women's World Cup, including kissing a player on the lips after Spain won the championship match.

The heads of the regional bodies that make up the federation (RFEF) made the request in a collective statement. "After the latest developments and the unacceptable behaviour that has caused great damage to the image of Spanish soccer, the presidents request that Luis Rubiales resign immediately as president of the RFEF," the statement said.

Earlier Monday, the federation asked UEFA to suspend it from international competitions because of government interference related to Rubiales. However, in their statement, the heads of the regional bodies urged interim federation president Pedro Rocha to withdraw that request immediately.

The federation's request for a suspension was widely seen as an attempt to silence some of Rubiales' critics, including government ministers who have asked for his removal.

Such a suspension would ban Spanish teams from competitions like the Champions League and could sway public opinion in favour of letting him keep his job.

Soccer's governing bodies have longstanding rules barring national governments from interfering with the running of domestic soccer federations.

However, UEFA will not comply with the Spanish federation's request for a sanction, a person familiar with the issue told The Associated Press on Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision-making process was confidential.

Rubiales has faced a torrent of criticism from around the globe over his behavior at the Women's World Cup final, including his kiss of Spain player Jenni Hermoso without her consent during the on-field trophy ceremony.

Mancini eyes Asian Cup with Saudi



AP ■ RIYADH
Green Falcons beyond the next World Cup.

Roberto Mancini said he hoped to lead Saudi Arabia to Asian Cup victory within months as he signed a multi-million dollar deal on Monday, just a fortnight after quitting as Italy coach.

The former Inter Milan and Manchester City boss held up a green shirt that read "Mancini 2027" after inking a contract to stay with the

in January-February in Qatar. "Our target is to try to win the Asian Cup after 27 years," he said.

"We have four months. We have four friendly matches. We have two games for the World Cup (qualifiers) and after we have 20 days to prepare for the Asian Cup."

"We know that there are many top teams like Japan, like Australia, like (South) Korea. But I'm sure that we'll go there and we'll try to win."

Mancini, 58, is the latest high-profile acquisition for the world's top oil exporter which has snapped up some of football's biggest players in a spree costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Saudis lie 54th in the world rankings, way below some of their Asian Football Confederation peers. The Saudi women's team, which played its first games only last year, is 172nd out of 186 teams.

The Green Falcons, who upset eventual winners Argentina in the group stage at last year's World Cup, have been without a coach since March, when Hervé Renard left to take charge of France's women's team.

Prannoy achieves career high world ranking of No. 6

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

On a high after his maiden World Championship bronze medal, Indian shuttler H S Prannoy soared to career-high world ranking of No 6 in the latest BWF rankings published on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Kerala shuttler, who eliminated world Number 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen en route to his maiden World Championships bronze, rose three spots with 72437 points in his kitty.

He is also the only Indian shuttler, who has maintained a top-10 rank since December last year.

In this period, he has won the Super-500 Malaysia Masters and recently finished runner-up at the Australian Open.

Among other Indians in the men's singles, Lakshya Sen's ranking dropped by one place, making him the world number 12, while Kidambi Srikanth maintained his position at 20th despite a making a first-round exit at the



World Championships.

In women's singles, former world champion PV Sindhu, who also made an opening-round exit at the Worlds, moved one spot to secure 14th rank.

In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty maintained their world number two ranking, although they lost in the quarter-finals of the World Championships going down to Kim Astrup-Anders Rasmussen.

KL Rahul out of 1st two Asia Cup games



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, was on Tuesday ruled out of the first two matches of the upcoming Asia Cup due to a "niggle" not only delaying his much-anticipated return to the Indian team but also raising doubts about his availability for the ODI World Cup, starting October 5.

India take on Pakistan in their tournament opener on September 2 followed by Nepal on September 4, the two games that

Rahul will be missing as he will join the team during the Super Four phase of the tournament.

The niggle is unrelated to the thigh injury that kept him out of action for months and also required a surgery. He was named in the squad for the tournament, starting Wednesday and is India's first-choice wicketkeeper.

"KL has had a good week with us. He is playing well. He is progressing really well but he will be unavailable for the first part for the Kandy leg of the trip. He will be

unavailable for the first two games," India head coach Rahul Dravid said at the departure presser.

The coach added that Rahul will be staying back at the NCA (National Cricket Academy) and a call on his participation in the tournament will be taken on September 4.

"The NCA will be looking after him for the next few days while we are travelling. We will reassess on the 4th (September) and take it from there. But signs are looking good," Dravid added.

It must be noted that by September 5, BCCI will have to submit the list of 15 players for the World Cup and have a chance to alter names till September 27.

In Rahul's absence, Ishan Kishan is likely to don the wicketkeeper's gloves as the other option -- Sanju Samson is only a travelling reserve and technically not a part of 17-member squad.

However, where Kishan is slotted in the batting order would be interesting to see. "It's just two less games from our perspective. KL is batting well. Slightly more cautious approach leading into the World Cup. He will have a few match simulations over the course of the next few days in the middle. "We are hoping it will be only two games that he misses and he will be back for the later stages. We also have an Australia series," Dravid added.

PANT VISITS TRAINING CAMP

Stationed at the National Cricket Academy here for his recovery and rehabilitation work, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant made a visit to India's training camp ahead of the Asia Cup.

Pant, who is on a long comeback trail with no set timeline of return, is making strong recovery from the injuries suffered in a horrific car accident last December.

In a video shared by the Indian cricket board on social media, Pant can be seen grinning ear to ear as he enters the field and meets his teammates Kuldeep Yadav and Shardul Thakur, before heading for a chat with the head coach Rahul Dravid.

Recently, the explosive batter was seen batting in a recreational event here during the Independence Day.

The little shimmy down the pitch might have come as a confidence booster for the batter as well because the crash had affected his knee the most.

The BCCI also shared another video from the team's training camp here, with the team scheduled to depart for Sri Lanka.

Playing high-risk game is my individual choice: Rohit



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma traded caution with aggression to add a different dimension to his batting and the Indian skipper is happy with the results even if it means not getting those daddy hundreds.

At the end of the 2019 World Cup, Rohit had scored 27 hundreds but in the last four years he could add only three more centuries to his tally. The captain largely believes that this is because of the high-risk game he has adopted.

"I wanted to take more risks, which is why my numbers are slightly different now," Rohit said.

"My (ODI) strike-rate (during this period) has increased but the average has dipped a bit. This is exactly what our batting coach (Vikram Rathour) was telling me, 'You have scored big runs because of

the way you batted all these years and in the last few years, it (big runs) has not happened because you are taking risk," the skipper added.

Rohit is the only player to have scored three double hundreds -- 209 (vs Australia, 2013), 264 (vs Sri Lanka, 2014) and 208* (vs Sri Lanka, 2017).

His last 150-plus knock came in 2019 against the West Indies in Vizag.

Rohit said that he had to compromise somewhere down the line.

"My career strike-rate is around 90 (89.97) but in past couple of years, if you look at my scores and take the strike-rate into consideration, it has been around 105-110. So somewhere you had to compromise. It is not possible to have a 55 average and a 110 strike-rate."

This high-risk game is also a process of his self-discovery, said Rohit.

"It was purely my choice. My usual batting is still my patent, but I wanted to try something else. I am very happy with the result."

In fact, he had communicated his change of approach to the team management.

"Everyone wants to bat long and score those 150s and 170s. I still want to do that, but it is always nice to do something that you have not done. It only adds up in your list of batting abilities. Unless you do it, you won't know it."

"I know if I play high risk shots, I will get out few times but I didn't bother. This was communicated by me to the management that this is how I want to play."



Dhoni groomed bowlers and left complete package with Kohli: Ishant

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma feels former skipper MS Dhoni groomed the Indian bowlers and handed over a "complete" bowling lineup to his successor Virat Kohli.

The two-time World Cup-winning skipper led the Indian white-ball teams from 2007 to 2017 and the Test side from 2008 to 2014 before handing over the reins to Kohli.

It was under Dhoni's leadership that the likes of pacers Shami, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah made their debuts.

"When Virat was captain, bowling was complete. When we were playing under Mahi bhai, we were in a transition phase. At that time, Shami and Umesh were new, and only I was there. Everyone else would rotate. Bhui was also new. There is no match for Mahi bhai as a communicator."

"But, what he did was groom the bowlers and leave them with Virat. Shami and Umesh, over time, became different bowlers, and then, Jasprit came in. So, he got a complete package," Ishant said.

He added that that skipper Kohli used to identify everyone's

traits.

"The best thing he did was identify everyone's traits, that he used to talk about one thing with one person and then let them be."

He also revealed how Kohli had set defined roles for every pacer in the group and would give different advice to all, allowing them to flourish, especially in red-ball cricket.

"First thing, he was aggressive. If you're bowling with the new ball, you can concede 25 runs in five overs as long as you take two wickets. The important thing was that he gave everyone defined roles," he divulged.

"He used to tell me, 'You have played enough matches. It's now time for you to step up. Don't bowl thinking you have to bowl in a particular area. Now, you have to find ways of getting wickets.'"

"He went to Shami and said, 'I know you can take wickets, but now I need you to bowl consistently. That you can bowl three overs as maidens.'"

"He went to Bumrah and said, 'This is your debut. You do what you do, but consistency is most important in Test cricket'. After 2021, I realized he wanted all of us to think out of the box," concluded Ishant.

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India had locked their number four and number five slot for the ODI World Cup almost 18 months ago but injuries to three batters in quick succession threw a spanner in their works, coach Rahul Dravid said on Tuesday.

Dravid said that injuries to the likes of Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant forced the team management to try out other players in the middle-order in recent times, and it was not experimenting just for the sake of it.

"The No 4 and 5 spots are discussed a lot and gives the impression that we didn't have clarity that who is going to be there. I could have told you 18-19 months ago who the three candidates for the two spots were."

India was clear about No. 4 & 5 batters 18 months ago: Dravid

"It was always between Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant. There was no doubt," Dravid said at India's pre-departure presser ahead of the Asia Cup.

"It's unfortunate that all three had injuries in the space of two months. What are the odds of that happening. All three guys pushing for those two spots, had serious injuries, had to go under the knife."

"So, you have to react to that, put other people in those positions and see who can do



it. Just in case come a World Cup they are not fit. In that situation we tried a few people."

The former Indian captain added, "This word (experimentation) keeps getting thrown around without being thought through. It's not that we are experimenting for the sake of experimenting, sometimes there are specific reasons for it."

While Pant is still out of action after suffering multiple injuries in a horrific car accident on the Dehradun-Delhi highway in December last year,

Iyer and Rahul hurt their back and thigh in March and May respectively.

Both Iyer and Rahul have recovered and are part of India's Asia Cup squad.

Iyer's back injury flared up after the fourth Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in March. But the batter is set to bolster the Indian middle-order at the Asia Cup and World Cup.

"He has looked good. It's now about us giving him game time. Hopefully, we can give

him that at the Asia Cup and build him up for the World Cup. He has ticked all the boxes in this camp, batted a lot and fielded," Dravid said.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna made a comeback after long injury layoffs and the coach is delighted to have more back bowling options at his disposal.

"It's great to have them back and see them bowling well. Jasprit is someone we have missed a lot in the past two years he hasn't played much. We will ease him into it slowly."

"Ireland was a good opportunity to ease him in. Now we have a whole month to build that up before the World Cup. The duo's return gives us more options in the pace bowling department."

Mandhana to skip WBBL for second year in a row

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India women's team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana will skip the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) for the second year in a row as she has not put forward her name for the inaugural player draft, scheduled for September 3.

Almost all the top India players, including captain Harmanpreet Kaur, young Harleen Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma figure in the list of over 122 overseas players who have put their names forward for the draft.

A total of 18 Indian players are in the list of which Harmanpreet (Melbourne Renegades) and Jemimah (Melbourne Stars) are eligible for retention.

Mandhana, who had opted out of WBBL last year as well, reportedly wants to concentrate



on the upcoming domestic season and also manage her workload with a busy international year ahead.

A report in ESPNcricinfo said Mandhana might opt to play for Maharashtra in the

domestic season which will run from October 19 to January 26 next year, and overlap with the WBBL.

The WBBL will commence on October 19 and run until December 2.

Mandhana's first assignment for the country will be the Hangzhou Asian Games, scheduled to commence on September 23.

With 35 players in the draft pool, England are leading the list of overseas players in the draft pool, followed by South Africa, which has 20, including their charismatic opener Laura Wolvaardt, Lizelle Lee and Shabnim Ismail.

India players in the WBBL draft:

Yastika Bhatia, Harmanpreet Kaur (Melbourne Renegades), Harleen Deol, Hurlley Gala, Richa Ghosh, Mannat Kashyap, Amanjot Kaur, Veda Krishnamurthy, Shikha Pandey, Shreyanka Patil, Sneha Rana, Jemimah Rodrigues (Melbourne Stars), Meghana Sabbineni, Deepti Sharma, Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav.

Williamson given two weeks to prove fitness for WC

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

New Zealand white-ball skipper Kane Williamson has been given two weeks to prove his fitness for the ODI World Cup in India, starting October 5.

The star batter hasn't played any cricket since March when he ruptured the ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in his right knee while fielding for Gujarat Titans in the IPL. He underwent surgery in April.

However, his progress in recent weeks has given the Black Caps hope that the talismanic batter will make a comeback in the marquee event.

"We've got about two weeks from now until we name that (World Cup) side," head coach Gary Stead said.

"We're going to give him the full two weeks to prove where he's at and for us it's still a little bit of crystal ball-gazing, where he will be at."

All teams need to submit



their 15-member squads to the ICC by September 5 while changes can be made till September 27.

"We're going to give him every chance to use that full amount of time. He's in full rehab mode, he's back batting in the nets again, which is great to see."

"He's progressing really well, but there's a lot of work for him still to do to make sure he gets where we need him to be."

Indian men's 4x400m relay quartet confident of Asian Games Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amoj Jacob, one of the runners in the men's 4x400m relay quartet that came close to shattering the USA's aura of invincibility at the World Athletics Championships recently, said on Tuesday he was confident India would win the Asian Games gold, and would also aim for an Olympic podium finish if it qualifies.

The 4x400m relay team smashed the Asian record in a stunning race, clocking 2 minute 59.05 seconds in the heat to qualify for its maiden final round of the Worlds in Budapest last week.

The quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh finished second behind USA to make it to the final of the event before it finished fifth among six teams in the showdown.

Jacob, the second runner in the quartet, said that after shattering the Asian record of 2:59.51, "barring unforeseen circumstances, we will win the Hangzhou Asian Games gold, and will also aim for a podium finish at the Olympic next year (if we qualify)".

Amoj added that the experience at the World Championships was a "huge



morale booster ahead of the Asian Games as we have finished fifth in the Worlds."

"We will have less pressure in Hangzhou (Asian Games), and our effort will be to further improve the Asian record we set at the Worlds," said Jacob on the sidelines of a function to celebrate the National Sports Day at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The National Sports Day is celebrated on August 29, the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand.

Asked what was going through his mind during the heat just before he took the baton from Anas, the runner said, "The focus is on the

baton... That it should not fall, come what may, and my mind was occupied only by that thought. The job of the second runner is to get the team in a good position, so I just took the baton and ran as fast as I could."

A controversy erupted after American Justin Robinson appeared to jostle with Rajesh on the back straight of the anchor leg. Many believe that had the incident not happened, India could have even beaten the USA in the heat.

"You do lose momentum (following such an incident). It's very difficult to catch up, no matter how hard you try," said

Amoj, adding, "had it (the jostle) not happened, who knows we would have won the heat."

Anas, a member of the gold-winning 4x400m mixed relay team at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, said, the fact that the players had been training together at Thiruvananthapuram since November last year had played a key role in the quartet's performance at the Worlds.

"We had been running poorly this last one year, clocking somewhere around 3 minutes, seven seconds. We had three athletes injured... Amoj, Rajesh and me also injured. But before the Worlds, all three of

us were injury-free, which gave us the confidence to give it our best shot. It (Worlds) was an experience in itself," said Anas.

"I feel if we can handle the pressure in the Worlds, we are good to take that kind of pressure in the Olympics (if the team qualifies). We are eagerly awaiting the World Relays next year (in Nassau, May 4-5). If we do well there, we have a good chance of qualifying for the Olympics," he said.

"I hope we four run at the Asian Games also, but the final decision is in the hands of the coach. The coach has expressed confidence in us, but let's see," added Anas.