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TODAY
12 SPORT

3RD EXTENSION OF ED DIRECTOR ILLEGAL: SC

Apex court allows Mishra to continue in his position till July 31, 2023

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback for the Centre, the Supreme Court on Tuesday declared the Government's order extending the tenure of Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra as "illegal."

However, the court allowed Mishra to continue in his position "till July 31, 2023," in view of the FATF review.

The court also upheld the amendments made to the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2021 as well as to the Fundamental (Amendment) Rules, 2021 by which the government can give a maximum of five-year tenure to CBI and ED chiefs.

The bench of Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol said that the scope of judicial review in a legislative

TIMELINE

- The Centre had appointed Mishra as the ED director in November 2018 for a two-year term.
- In November 2020, the Centre retrospectively modified Mishra's appointment letter and extended his term by one year.
- In November 2021, the Centre again extended Mishra's term by one year.
- The petitioners in the case challenged the Centre's decision to extend Mishra's tenure, arguing that it was illegal and arbitrary.
- The Supreme Court agreed with the petitioners and struck down the Centre's order extending Mishra's tenure.
- However, the court allowed Mishra to continue in his position till July 31, 2023, in view of the FATF review.



action is very limited and it can be interfered with only on three grounds — as to whether "legislature was competent enough to legislate on the subject," whether it affects any fundamental right, and manifest arbitrariness.

The FATF is a global body that leads action to tackle money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing. "The impugned orders dated November 17, 2021 and November 17, 2022 granting extensions to the tenure of the respondent No.2 — Sanjay Kumar Mishra for a period of one year each are held to be illegal," the bench said, while partially allowing the writ petitions challenging the extension given to the officer.

Continued on Page 2

Who is ED director not important: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Who is the ED director is not important because whoever assumes this role will take note of the rampant corruption of a cozy club of entitled dynasts who have an anti-development mindset, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

He said this hours after the Supreme Court held as illegal the third extension granted to the ED chief Sanjay Kumar



Mishra and curtailed his extended tenure to July 31.

The Home Minister said those rejoicing over the Supreme Court decision on the ED case are delusional for various rea-

sons: the amendments to the CVC Act, which were duly passed by Parliament, have been upheld.

He said the powers of the ED to strike at those who are corrupt and on the wrong side of the law remain the same as the ED is an institution which rises beyond any one individual and is focused on achieving its core objective — i.e., to investigate offences of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.

SC to hear pleas challenging Article 370 abrogation from August 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 from August 2. The five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, has fixed July 27 as the deadline for filing written submissions and convenience compilations by different parties.

The bench said the hearing will be held on a day-to-day basis except on Mondays and Fridays.

It also appointed two lawyers, one each from the petitioner's and the government side, to prepare convenience compilations and file them before July 27.

The bench said the Centre's affidavit filed on Monday with regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 notification will have no bearing on the constitutional issue to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench.

Two petitioners, IAS officer Shah Faesal and Shehla Rashid Shora, have filed applications for withdrawal of their names from the list of petitioners. The bench has allowed them to do so. The counsel appearing for different groups have accepted the suggestion put forth by the bench to title the present case as 'In Re: Article 370 of the Constitution'.

Continued on Page 2

TMC heads for landslide win in Bengal rural poll



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress is once again heading for a landslide victory in the Saturday's violence-hit panchayat elections that left about 44 people dead — 20 in only the election day.

Multi-layered scams and prosecution of top ruling party politicians failed to dent the TMC mass base. The party clinched 18,590 panchayat seats in the three-tier polls, latest reports said. Nearest rival the BJP was far behind with 4,479 seats while the CPI(M) and its ally Congress bagged 1426 and 1071 seats respectively. Others including Left-backed and other Independent and Indian Secular Party candidates accounted for 1,538 seats.

Insofar as Garm Panchayats are concerned the TMC pocketed 2,127 leaving 189 for the BJP and 78 and 76 respectively for the

Left and the Congress.

While the Opposition BJP was nearly decimated in its stronghold in North Bengal and Jangalmahal areas, the Left and the Congress tended to show signs of revival compared to what their performance in the 2021 Assembly elections — reports last coming in from the State Election Commission suggested. In the 2018 panchayat elections the Left had won only one gram panchayat in the entire State.

A total of 5.67 crore people living in the State's rural areas were eligible to decide the fate of 2.06 lakh candidates in 73,887 seats of the panchayat system.

The blood-stained elections witnessed about 81 percent polling with the Opposition parties accusing the TMC for unleashing a reign of terror during the election day.

"What the world saw was the direct and visible violence on the election day ... what they

BJP claims 45 killed in polls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday slammed the Trinamool Congress Government over the "State-sponsored" violence during the West Bengal panchayat polls, terming Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "ruthless" and claiming at least 45 people have died in the clashes.

Violence rocked the July 8 rural polls, leaving 15 dead while ballot boxes were vandalised, ballot papers burnt and bombs thrown at rivals in several places.

Repolling was held on Monday in 696 booths across 19 districts where voting was declared void amid allegations of ballot box tampering and violence.

could not see was invisible and silent terror that prevailed in the villages for the past one month that prevented the voters from coming out to vote with the effect that in large parts of the interior areas the TMC goes rigged polls silently with the assistance of the police while the terrorised villagers simply kept indoors," said CPI(M)'s new rising leader Meenakshi Mukherjee.

Continued on Page 2

28% GST to be levied on online gaming firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The all-powerful Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Tuesday decided to impose a 28 per cent tax on the turnover of online gaming companies, horse racing and casinos, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The panel, headed by the Union Finance Minister and comprising of representatives of all States and UTs, decided on tax rate based on recommendation of a group of Ministers that looked at taxing casinos, horse racing and online gaming.

The issue before the GoM (group of Ministers) was whether to impose a 28 per cent GST on the face value of bets, or gross gaming revenue, or just on platform fees.

Sitharaman said the tax will be levied on the entire value. The tax on online gaming companies would be imposed without making any differentiation based on whether the games required skill or were based on chance.

22K moved to safer places in Delhi as Yamuna River swells

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The water level in the Yamuna touched 206.69 meters in Delhi, slightly above the danger mark of 205.33 meters prompting authorities to evacuate thousands of people from the river's floodplains and shift them to makeshift camps located at higher grounds across six of Capital's 11 districts and a closure of the Old Railway Bridge for road and rail traffic.

As per the latest forecast by Central Water Commission, the water level at Old Railway Bridge (ORB) is expected to be at 207.00 Meters on 12.07.2023 at 03:00 AM and thereafter, it was likely to further increase.

According to officials, nearly, 22,000 people have been evacuated and shifted to camps so far by the Delhi government; in many places people have themselves erected tents on the higher grounds and shifted to them to avoid rising waters.

Delhi Development Minister Gopal Rai said the Government has set up approximately 2,700 centres/tents from Palla to south Delhi. Presently, around 27,000 indi-



viduals have registered to reside in these shelters. Around 45 boats (17 pertaining to Boat Club & 28 pertaining to I&FC Department) have been put on duty for 'Munadi' / awareness, evacuation & rescue work.

The river crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday evening, much earlier than anticipated. Rising levels of water in the Yamuna is measured at three levels — warning level- 204.50 meters, danger level- 205.33 meters, and evacuation level- 206 meters. All the gates at Okhla Barrage have been kept open to release excess water so as to ensure that water level in River Yamuna does not remain at high level for long.

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Amarnath Yatra resumes from Jammu after 3 days suspension

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Amarnath Yatra resumed from the Jammu base camp on Tuesday afternoon after remaining suspended for three days in view of the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for repairs in the Ramban section.

A fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to move towards Kashmir for their journey.

6 members of family die as school bus moving wrong way hits SUV

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Six members of a family were killed in a horrific road accident on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway on Tuesday. The family was on their way to a temple in Rajasthan when their SUV collided head-on with a bus that was driving the wrong way. The bus driver has been arrested and charged with negligence.

The accident happened at around 5:30 am. The family was traveling in an SUV when they were hit by a bus that was driving in the wrong lane. The impact of the collision was so severe that the SUV was completely totaled. Six people in the SUV were killed, including two children. Two other people in the SUV were injured, but they are expected to survive.

The bus driver, who has not been identified, was arrested at the scene of the accident. He has been charged with negligence and causing death by negligence.

The police are investigating the accident, but they believe that the bus driver may have been distracted by his phone when he veered into the wrong lane.



Police personnel and others near the wreckage of a car after a head-on collision with a bus on Ghaziabad-Meerut Expressway, in Ghaziabad, on Tuesday (PTI)

The family who was killed in the accident was on their way to the Khatu Shyam Temple in Rajasthan. The temple is a popular pilgrimage site for Hindus, and the family was planning to celebrate the birthday of their youngest child at the temple.

The accident has left the family's relatives and friends devastated. Sanjay Yadav, a cousin of one of the victims, said that the family was "very close-knit" and that the deaths have "left a big void in our lives."

Additional Deputy Police Commissioner Ramanand Kushwaha said that the bus had "on school duty" written on it, but it was deployed for ferrying staff of a private company in Noida.

It had previously been used to transport students from a Noida school. Kushwaha added that the bus driver had filled up with CNG at a station in Ghazipur, Delhi, before driving the bus the wrong way on the expressway.

Kushwaha said once the bus entered the wrong lane, it

could not have been stopped by the traffic police, who were deployed at various points on the expressway.

He said the NHAH could have alerted the police if they had seen the bus driving the wrong way on their monitoring control room, but they did not.

"We have traffic police on duty at various points on the expressway. If the NHAH had alerted us from their monitoring control room, we could have taken action immediately to stop the bus. But there was no such alert," he said.

Transport enforcement department (Noida) officials said the bus possibly took the wrong lane due to diversions related to Kanwar Yatra, the annual pilgrimage of Shiva devotees to fetch the holy waters of the Ganga.

"Many bigger vehicles have strayed on different routes due to Kanwar Yatra diversions. The police have initiated action and we will also take suitable action. We conduct regular drives to trace the erring vehicles and launch another drive against such vehicles," said additional regional transport officer (Noida) Deepak Shah.

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Court orders man to pay maintenance for ex-wife's 3 dogs

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Holding that pets are pets and also part and parcel of a decent lifestyle and they fulfill emotional deficit in broken relationships, a Mumbai court has ordered a man to pay an interim maintenance of ₹ 50,000 for his ex-wife and three Rottweilers dependent on her.

Rejecting the arguments by the husband that his ex-wife wanted maintenance even for her three pet dogs, Bandra Court Metropolitan Magistrate Komalising Rajput observed, "Pets are also part and parcel of a decent lifestyle and are necessary for human beings to lead healthy life as they fulfill the emotional deficit that occurred on account of broken relation-



ships".

A victim of domestic violence, a 55-year-old woman had sought maintenance of ₹ 70,000 per month under Section 12 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

However, her ex-husband challenged the woman's plea on

grounds that she wanted maintenance even for her 3 pet dogs.

In his recent interim order, the Metropolitan Magistrate allowed her plea partly and asked the husband to pay ₹ 50,000 per month as maintenance till the disposal of the main plea filed by the woman. After taking into account

the lack of evidence to support the husband's claims of having suffered losses in his business, the Magistrate passed an interim order that the maintenance granted to the estranged wife should be in tune with her lifestyle and other requirements.

"The parties belonged to a good financial background, the maintenance must be granted and that too with a lifestyle and requirements suitable to her. There is no concrete material to show that the respondent (husband) had suffered losses in business and that he was unable to provide maintenance. Even if he had suffered such losses, the same would not be enough to disown liability," the Magistrate said in his order. The couple got married in

1986 and lived in a south Indian city. They have two married daughters residing abroad. They have two married daughters residing abroad. The couple separated in 2021, after which the woman came to Mumbai.

In her plea, the woman told the court her husband had assured her of providing maintenance and other basic necessities. However, the wife alleged that her husband had not kept his promise, that he indulged in domestic violence, that she had no sources of income, that she was suffering from ill-health and that she had three Rottweiler dogs dependent on her.

The woman requested the court for ₹70,000 per month as maintenance.

Adani-Hindenburg row: SC asks SEBI about status of investigation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) about the status of its ongoing investigation into the allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani group and said the probe has to be concluded expeditiously by the extended time it has granted till August 14.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the SEBI, told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that the apex court had given time till August 14 for the investigation and the work is going on



with possible "legitimate speed".

Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra, that the SEBI had on Monday filed their "constructive response" on the suggestions made by the top court-appointed expert committee in its report filed in the court. "We received the report of

the expert committee. So far as the references made on SEBI are concerned, there are some guidance or some suggestions given. We have filed our response yesterday. It is a very constructive response...Since it was filed a little late, it is not before your lordships," he said.

The bench asked, "What is the status of the investigation by SEBI?" Mehta said the time for completing the probe was extended by the apex court and the work is going on.

"Your investigation has to be concluded because we had extended time till August 14," the bench said during the hearing.

BJP snooping on our party HQ: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that the BJP-led central government was "snooping" on its party headquarters here and called it a "serious matter". The BJP also hit back at the AAP saying it seems that Bhardwaj is now-a-days writing new scripts by reading story books like Manohar Kahani to mislead people.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson and Delhi Cabinet minister Saurabh Bharadwaj questioned the reasons behind the move. "A few days ago, there were officials who were snooping on the chief minister's residence. Now we have found that some people were snooping on our party office. We are showing their footage to everyone to help identify these. Which secret agency are they from," he said. Bharadwaj accused the



BJP-led Centre of being involved in this. He showed footage of seven men moving around the party office at Rouse Avenue, DDA Marg, on Tuesday.

"It is a serious matter that the office of a national party was being spied upon. The BJP should answer what they are scared of? Why they are scared of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal?" he asked.

Criticising the AAP, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that

Bhardwaj's allegation of snooping on his party's office by the central government is not only laughable but it once again reminds of the feedback unit set up by the Kejriwal government itself to spy on leaders of other parties. Kapoor said that Bharadwaj, who is a minister and it does not suit him to make such fabricated stories. "What is the purpose of showing this video later? It seems clear that this is a twisted video made by their own people," he questioned.

ED sharing info with GST network amounts to tax terrorism: Opp

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to the Centre's decision to allow Enforcement Directorate (ED) to share information with Goods and Services Tax (GST) network, several Opposition ruled States, including Delhi and Punjab Finance Ministers, claimed it amounts to tax terrorism and scaring small businesses.

This issue was flagged in the 50th GST Council meeting here on Tuesday.

The finance ministry, through a notification, brought in an amendment to the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, as per which GSTN, which handles the technology backbone of Goods and Services Tax, has been included in the list of entities with which ED will share information.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged that with the GST being linked with the Enforcement Directorate (ED), even those traders paying the tax can be



arrested by the federal agency. Kejriwal hoped that people would oppose this development at the GST Council meeting on Tuesday.

The government has amended the provisions of the money-laundering law to allow the ED to share information with the GST network. The move would help in the recovery of the GST evaded through money laundering.

"A large proportion of traders do not pay GST -- some out of compulsion, some intentionally. A few days ago, the Centre also brought the GST within the purview of the ED. It means that now, if a businessman does not pay the GST, the ED will arrest him directly and bail will not be granted," Kejriwal alleged in a tweet in

Hindi.

The national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also opined that even the small traders will be affected by this, while asserting that this development is "extremely dangerous" for the country's economy.

Aam-Aadmi Party ruled Delhi and Punjab voiced concerns over the notification and demanded a discussion. "A lot of finance ministers raised the issue... Delhi, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Rajasthan have voiced their concern and said that it should be discussed in GST Council," Delhi finance minister Atishi told reporters here.

Punjab finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema said several states have demanded a discussion. "The notification would give power to ED to catch any businessman if he/she does not pay GST. With such decision, tax terrorism will increase in the country and it is dangerous for small businesses and common man."

US citizens perform Amarnath darshan

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Inspired by Swami Vivekananda, two American citizens from California, wearing saffron robes, recently joined thousands of devotees of Lord Shiva before offering special prayers inside the cave shrine of Shri Amarnath ji.

So far over 1.30 lakh pilgrims have performed darshan inside the cave shrine. The yatra which remained suspended for three days due to inclement weather conditions was resumed from Jammu on Tuesday.

Sharing their divine experience of having darshan of ice stalagmite, the US citizens said, "It is impossible to describe how we really feel after having darshan. With folded hands, one of the pilgrims said, "It's incredible gratitude and very happy."

In a brief video, uploaded by the Department of Information and Public Relations, the J&k government, the US citizens, whose identities were not revealed, can be heard saying, "We have dreamt for many years to come on this Amarnath yatra. Back home,



we were watching videos of online Aarti in one of the Ashrams in California. Swami Vivekananda also came to Amarnath. He had a very important experience. He had a vision of Lord Shiva. For 40 years I thought I knew this story. But it seemed impossible to come all these years. All of a sudden and with Bhole Baba's grace everything came together and now we are here, another pilgrim said. We can't explain how we are feeling, it's too much. The emotion and the feeling are too much."

Terrorist neutralised along LoC in Rajouri



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Foiling a major infiltration bid from across the line of control in the Nowshera sector of the Rajouri district, the alert troops of the Indian army late Monday night neutralised one heavily armed terrorist while two others received bullet injuries during the operation.

Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Col Suneel Bartwal in Jammu said, "Alert troops of the Indian Army on the night of July 10 foiled a major infiltration bid along the LoC in an operation." The Defence Spokesman said, "at midnight the Indian Army deployed along the LoC in Nowshera observed suspicious movement of a group of terrorists moving from across the LoC towards the Indian territory. The heavy and accurate fire was brought down on the terrorists. One terrorist was seen falling to the side, while two others who were injured, were seen taking cover into the jungle. The area of operation being broken ground, having thick jungle and foliage, with inclement weather, the terrorists hid themselves in the jungle. Additional troops were moved in, and the area was cordoned off," the statement added.

US Ambassador meets Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Tuesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah during which they discussed ways to advance cooperation between the two countries in counterterrorism, drug trafficking and security domains.

Garcetti, the 26th United States Ambassador to India, arrived in India in April and presented his credential to the President on May 11.

"Union Home Minister @AmitShah met @USAmbIndia, Eric Garcetti today. Had a productive conversation about advancing cooperation between both nations in counter-terrorism, drug trafficking and security domains. Reiterated commitment to building upon the positive outcomes of PM @narendramodi Ji's recent visit



to the USA," Shah's office tweeted.

The US envoy met the home minister at the latter's office in the North Block here. PM Modi was in the USA on a State visit last month when he met President Joe Biden who hosted him for a State dinner. Modi had also addressed a joint session of the US Congress during the visit and several landmark agreements were signed.

SC to hear pleas challenging...

From Page 1
On August 5, 2019, the Centre decided to strip the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir of its special status and bifurcate it into two union territories.

Several petitions challenging the Centre's action of abrogating the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories — Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh — were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019. By abrogating Article 370, the Central Government had revoked the special status of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Centre has argued that the abrogation of Article 370 has brought unprecedented development, progress, security and stability to the region.

Adani-Hindenburg...

From Page 1
"On May 17, the apex court had granted SEBI time till August 14 to complete its probe into the allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani group, and asked the market regulator to place on record an updated status report of the probe.

During the hearing on Tuesday, Mehta said since the expert committee had made certain recommendations in its report, the SEBI has given its response related to its functioning. "That has nothing to do with the allegations. We would like your lordships to have a look at it," the solicitor general said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, told the bench they have filed a very detailed response to the expert committee's report a few days ago in which they have pointed out that conclusions of the expert committee are at "total variance" with the facts the panel found.

"And the facts found in the expert committee report clearly show that there is not merely gross regulatory failure on the part of SEBI but there is no chance of SEBI proceeding anywhere with this investigation," Bhushan said.

The court noted Mehta has informed the bench that SEBI has filed a response to the report which was submitted by the expert committee in relation to functioning of SEBI.

"Before the court can proceed further, it would be appropriate that the response is circulated together with the paper which has not been done since it was filed yesterday," the bench observed, adding the same be circulated and placed on record.

An advocate, representing

another petitioner, said the apex court's earlier order was specific that all agencies have to cooperate with the expert committee.

He claimed the committee report says that agencies are not cooperating. "You get it from your own imagination?" the bench observed, adding, "Our order was that all agencies will cooperate with the committee. We don't think the committee has a grievance that agencies have not cooperated."

Bhushan argued the committee has said that SEBI's investigation can't go anywhere because of the situation that they have created by amending the rules.

"They have amended the rules to remove the definition of opaque structures, they have amended the rules for related part transactions, they have amended the rules for beneficial owners etc. In order to prevent this kind of fraud from being exposed," he claimed.

Mehta said the SEBI's response also contains the details about it.

"Mr Solicitor General, apropos this submission, you may also go into the background which led to the amendment of the rules," the bench said.

The bench said Bhushan is arguing that SEBI could be prevented from going into the layers of transactions because of the amendments which have been made, for instance to the definition of beneficial owners.

The bench adjourned the hearing on the clutch of pleas on the Adani-Hindenburg row and asked SEBI to circulate its response in which the capital markets regulator has tendered its views on the recommendations made by the expert committee.

BJP claims 45 killed in...

From Page 1
She said, "The Left and the Congress did well wherever the people resisted ... and wherever voters resisted there was violence ... where they failed to do so there was silent rigging and the TMC swept the polls."

Geeta Hansda, a CPI(M) candidate, crossed over to the TMC moments after winning the elections at the counting centre claiming she had always been a Trinamool member. However, inside sources said she was forced to change sides after her son was abducted by unknown miscreants.

The votes also tended to show a visible decline in the TMC's minority base as the party seems to have suffered quite a lot in the minority dominated areas sources said.

"The people have suffered under the TMC during this election ... they were not allowed to vote ... even on the counting day they were terrorized ... they will give a befitting reply in the parliamentary elections just eight months away — as they did in 2019 ... Mamata and her goons should remain prepared for that," he said.

Incidentally the TMC was routed in parts of Nandigram otherwise considered a stronghold of BJP leader Suvedu Adhikari. Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said, "Mamata has given Bengal only violence ... the product of which is so many deaths ... the people will take revenge ... they are just waiting for that one chance to vote."

Meanwhile, violence continued on Tuesday too with members of ruling and Opposition parties clashing with each other in a number of areas at Dinhatia in North Bengal, Murshidabad, Ashok Nagar etc leading the security forces to fire tear gas shells.

6 members of family die as...

From Page 1
He cited their records and said the fitness, insurance, and other documents of the bus were valid. "There are instances when such buses ferry school children and even staff of factories and companies simultaneously."

NHAI officials said the bus was driven at a speed of 90-100 km per hour and the SUV was also in the same speed range.

Kushwaha said a first information report was being registered and the bus driver, who has been arrested, has also been fined ₹2,000 for entering the wrong lane. Kushwaha said the bus driver was entirely at fault. "Two men, two women, and two children died in the accident. The school bus has a Noida registration number," he said.

He added that the two injured people aged eight and 36 were undergoing treatment for severe injuries and that eight were in the SUV. Sanjay Yadav, a family member of those killed in the accident, said his two cousins with their families were in the SUV.

"One of my cousins, his wife, and their two sons died in the accident. His entire family was killed. The daughter and wife of another cousin, who survived along with his son, were also killed. The two are under treatment."

Yadav said the eight left Meerut around 4am for Khatu Shyam Temple in Rajasthan's Sikar. "They were to have breakfast at the house of a relative in Gurugram. Some of their family members from Gurugram were also to accompany them to the Khatu Shyam Temple."

22K moved to safer places in Delhi as Yamuna...

From Page 1
"Rail traffic over old Yamuna bridge temporarily suspended since 6 am today (July 11)," Northern Railways informed on Tuesday. Later in a tweet, the Delhi Traffic Police said, "Iron bridge pusta road Gandhi Nagar is closed for public/traffic till further orders due to dangerous level of water in Yamuna river. Commuters are advised to plan their journey accordingly"

Addressing a Press conference, Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said thousands of people living in the floodplain of the swollen Yamuna river have been shifted to makeshift accommodations in safer places and provided with food and water. He said the evacuation process was underway.

"As the Yamuna levels rise, people living close to the riverbanks have to be evacuated. There is no threat of water getting into residential areas close to the river," he said. Bharadwaj said most of the

tents to shelter the evacuated people have been pitched in the East district (1,700), besides 280 in North East Delhi district, 170 in Shahdara, 150 in Central and 384 in South East district among others. Shelters have also been readied in the North district where food water and other facilities were made available, he said.

An official from East Delhi district said the evacuation process began on Monday night after floodwaters entered some areas. "Only those living in the affected areas have been shifted to camps on higher grounds," he said.

According to the CWC, the flow rate at the Hathnikund barrage increased to 3,44,035 cusecs at 10 am and further to 3,59,760 cusecs at 11 am. Normally, the flow rate at the barrage is 352 cusecs, but heavy rainfall in the catchment area increases the discharge. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 litres per second. The water from the barrage takes around

two to three days to reach Delhi.

The Yamuna river system's catchment covers parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

The low-lying areas near the river in Delhi are considered prone to flooding and are inhabited by around 41,000 people. The Delhi government has set up 16 control rooms to monitor the flood-prone areas and the water level of the Yamuna. More than 50 motor boats have been deployed for rescue-and-relief operations, and diving and medical teams have been readied with all the necessary materials and equipment. Northwest India has seen incessant rainfall over the last three days, with many areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan recording "heavy to extremely heavy" precipitation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

That the Original Site Possession Slip, in respect of LIG Flat No. 17, Block J, on Fourth Floor, Phase-II, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi in the name of Mr. Ratan Singh Jatav son of Sri Ram, have been lost and not traceable, in this connection Mr. Ratan Singh Jatav lodged Ncr wide LR No. 646813/2023, on dated 11/07/2023, with Crime Branch, Delhi. If anyone find please return to above said address.
Contact #9953036262

PUBLIC NOTICE

We M/s. Sultan International holding a Registration Certificate No. B-0174/DEL/PER/1000+5/8873/2012 dated 12/11/2012 under the Emigration Act, 1983 for export of manpower am / are intending to close our overseas manpower recruitment business with effect from 04-04-2020.

In the event if there is any claim against company or Proprietor/Managing Partner/Managing Director, the same may be preferred within 30 days of publication of this Notice. Copies of the complaint may also be sent to Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chanakya Park, New Delhi-110021.

FOR PROPRIETOR
Mr. Shuaibullah Proprietor
1/1B, 3rd Floor, Heltram House,
Bharat Nagar, NFC, New Delhi-65
Place: New Delhi Date: 7/7/2023

M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (2nd CALL)

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

S. No.	System E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract, EMD & Form Cost	Period of Completion (in Months)	Date of Purchase Start Date & Submission Of Bids	Date of Opening of Tenders Envelop A, B and C
1.	2023 MPHID_290541	BALANCE DEVELOPMENT WORK AT SAPHIRE PARK CITY KATARA HILLS BHOPAL.	Rs. 238.04 lakhs & Rs. 238040/- & 17700.00 i/c GST	6 Months i/c Rainy Season.	12.07.2023 to 24.07.2023	Envelop A, B 25.07.2023

1. Interested Bidders can view the detailed NIT & BOQ on the website www.mphousing.in and www.mptenders.gov.in.

2. Amendments to NIT, if any would be published on website only, and not in news paper.

3. EMD as per portal i.e. use only online payments for EMD/Registration fees and processing fees. No offline mode of payment/Document should be accepted.

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3rd extension of ED director...

From Page 1
The 1984-batch IRS officer was originally scheduled to remain in office until November 18, 2023, according to the government's notification. However, the court ruled that the orders granting Mishra extensions on November 17, 2021 and November 17, 2022 were not valid in law. Nevertheless, the bench is inclined to consider the Union of India's concern about the FATF review.

"We are further inclined to take into consideration that the process of appointing the Director of Enforcement is likely to take some time. In that view of the matter, we find that in order to ensure the transition to be smooth in the larger public interest, it will be appropriate to permit respondent No.2 to continue to be in office till July 31, 2023," the top court said. The bench said the scope

of judicial review in a legislative action is very limited and it can be interfered with only on three grounds--as to whether legislature was competent enough to legislate on the subject, whether it affects any fundamental right, and manifest arbitrariness.

"We have found that the legislature is competent to legislate on the subject, and secondly there is no violation of any fundamental rights, and thirdly there is no manifest arbitrariness," it said. The bench, in its 103-page verdict, said the challenge to Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2021 as well as to the Fundamental (Amendment) Rules, 2021 is rejected and the writ petitions are dismissed to that extent. It referred to the 2021 verdict of the top court by

which the Centre's power to extend Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure as the ED Director was upheld but pointed out the court had clarified that extension of service of officers after the age of superannuation should be done only in rare and exceptional cases.

The bench said in the 2021 verdict, this court had not struck down any law, but issued a mandamus (judicial writ issued as a command) which was binding on the parties before it. "It could, thus, clearly be seen that this Court has held that the effect of the judgments of this court can be nullified by a legislative act removing the basis of the judgment. It has further been held that such law can be retrospective. It has, however, been held that retrospective amendment should be reasonable and not arbitrary and must not be violative of the fundamental

rights guaranteed under the Constitution," the bench said. It said the court has held that the defect pointed out should have been cured such that the basis of the judgment pointing out the defect is removed.

"This court has, however, clearly held that nullification of mandamus by an enactment would be impermissible legislative exercise. This Court has further held that transgression of constitutional limitations and intrusion into the judicial power by the legislature is violative of the principle of separation of powers, the rule of law and of Article 14 of the Constitution of India," the bench said, adding that the basis of the 2021 verdict was not taken away.

It said the apex court has specifically issued a mandamus that no further extension should be granted to Mishra in its 2021 verdict.



Children play in a flood waters near the Yamuna river on Tuesday



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Old iron bridge closed as Yamuna River swells

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The old iron bridge over Yamuna has been temporarily closed for traffic movement as the river exceeded the evacuation mark in Delhi, police said on Tuesday.

In a tweet, the Delhi Traffic Police said, "Iron bridge pusta road Gandhi Nagar is closed for public/traffic till further orders due to dangerous level of water in Yamuna river. Commuters are advised to plan their journey accordingly." The Yamuna in Delhi has exceeded the evacuation mark of 206 metres, prompting the relocation of people residing in flood-prone areas to safer locations.

The river crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday evening, much earlier than anticipated. It is expected that the water level in the river will rise to



206.65 metres by Tuesday afternoon, before gradually falling.

The Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as the 'Loha Pul', has been the Railways' warhorse for a century and a half and despite being temporarily closed almost every year during monsoon when the level of the river rises.

The new bridge — being built parallel to the old one and

across the river by Northern Railway — is likely to be commissioned next year, after two decades of construction.

The new bridge was planned to ease the burden on the Loha Pul, but due to many roadblocks, the project kept getting delayed.

Sanctioned in 1997-98, work on the bridge started in 2003 and was expected to be

completed within four to five years.

A portion of a road caved-in near Sher Shah road here on Tuesday morning, leading to traffic congestion at India Gate C-Hexagon, the traffic police said.

Delhi has been witnessing rainfall for the last three consecutive days causing waterlogging and traffic congestion in several parts.

Taking to Twitter, the Delhi Traffic Police alerted commuters about the road cave in and advised them to plan their journey accordingly.

"Traffic is affected on C-Hexagon India gate due to road cave-in near Shershah road cut. Commuters are advised to plan their journey accordingly," the traffic police said in its tweet. The affected

portion of the road has been barricaded to prevent any mishap, police said.

10 street dogs rescued from house in RK Puram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has rescued 8 to 10 street dogs which were confined in a house in Southwest Delhi's R K Puram area. According to police, on Monday information regarding "cruelty with the dogs" in a house at Sector- 6, R K Puram was received following which a police team rushed to the spot.

Upon reaching the spot, the Station House Officer of R K Puram police station along with his team met the caller identified as Rahul, a resident of the locality.

"He said that a man Khush Gode, Delhi who is residing in the locality with his family is mentally ill and used to feed the street dogs. He had confined some street dogs," said police. During initial probe, it was revealed that Gode is undergoing treatment from IHBAS Hospital, Shahdara.

"He kept 8 to 10 dogs in his house so that they can't bite anyone. On Monday, argument happened between Gode and his neighbour Rahul on barking of the dogs. MCD control room was informed in this regard. The dogs were also released from his house," said a senior police official.

A few days ago, the Delhi Police had rescued 14 street dogs from a house in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area after getting a warrant from a local court.

The dogs were confined in the house without electricity, proper nutrition or care and were in a miserable condition.

According to police, the woman, a resident of Greater Kailash-1, had been keeping 15-16 street dogs inside her flat without proper nutrition, care and protection for the last 2-3 years.

"Their waste, pees and faeces were littering outside her flat and entire staircase. The common hygiene of the surrounding area of flat was very pathetic. Foul smell was present all over the surrounding area of her flat," said an official.

War of words between LG, AAP over waterlogging

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Multitude of rain-related woes triggered a political slugfest on Tuesday with Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena saying the city faced the "annual ritual" of waterlogging as drains were not properly cleaned, prompting a sharp reaction from the AAP government.

Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj hit back at the LG, saying he is blaming the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government even though he had earlier claimed that the drains were desilted and the Yamuna was cleaned.

LG Saxena inspected the Yamuna river near Yamuna Bazar, Pragati Maidan tunnel, Minto Bridge and the Zakhira underpass that were flooded and closed for traffic due to the heavy rains. Visuals of submerged stretches made their way to social media. Commuters faced unprecedented difficulties as stretches of roads remained under water on Monday.

After LG visits, AAP minister Gopal Rai visited Rajghat bus depot and Raaj Kumar Anand visited Shastri Park Metro Station to review the relief measure preparedness



after Yamuna crossed the danger mark.

Taking stock of the rising water level of the river at the Yamuna Bazar area, Saxena said preparations should have been made beforehand to deal with the unprecedented rain.

"The people of Delhi are hassled due to waterlogging that has become an annual ritual. Proper cleaning of drains and water harvesting are not being done. These have not been done for years, which is why waterlogging happens every time. "Desilting of the Yamuna and the Najafgarh drain should be regularly done to increase their water-holding capacity. Since it was not done, Delhi was waterlogged," Saxena told reporters. He also said Delhi's population has risen by 50 lakh since 2014, but planning was not done accordingly for

sewer lines and drainage, which has caused waterlogging. "It is unfortunate and I will try to ensure that attention is paid to it so that people are relieved of these difficulties faced by them every year," the LG said.

After his visit, Saxena has chaired a meeting with senior officials of stakeholder agencies - PWD, NDMC, MCD, DJB, I&FC & Railways - to review the situation and devise workable solutions to overcome severe waterlogging.

Saxena also held another meeting with Chairman of ITPO and the Chief Secretary to review the flooding of Pragati Maidan Tunnel and issued necessary instructions to rectify the engineering faults that led to waterlogging, on priority basis. The LG will also be visiting the Pragati Maidan Tunnel site on Wednesday.

Relocated people asks Govt to help them tide over crisis

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of people who lived in the Yamuna floodplain area in Delhi had to scamper to safety in the dark of the night as the water rose above the danger mark in the Yamuna River, threatening their lives and lifelong earnings.

People were forced to evacuate themselves to higher places nearby in the early hours of Tuesday after the river breached the danger mark here a day earlier. The Yamuna floodplains provide a precarious bedding for hundreds of shanties across its wide swath where some of the poorest people of the city, mostly migrants, find shelter.

Mostly composed of small-time farmers or shopkeepers and odd-job workers, the displaced people appealed to the city Government to help them tide over the crisis. Kiran, in her mid-30s, whose family had a small farm in the floodplain, said, all of it got destroyed in the flooding, and her family members had to rush out to safety in the early hours of Tuesday.

"All our vegetables have been destroyed in the flooding. We have lost our means of livelihood as our agricultural produce is the only source of income for our family. Our huts also got destroyed. My mother-in-law fell down in the rush and got hurt," she said. The Yamuna in Delhi has exceeded the evacuation mark of 206 metres,



Flood affected people of Yamuna Khadar after they were relocated to makeshift tents along a roadside, near Mayur Vihar in East Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

prompting the relocation of people residing in flood-prone areas to safer locations and the closure of the Old Railway Bridge for road and rail traffic, officials said on Tuesday. The river crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi Monday evening, much earlier than anticipated.

Santosh Lal, who runs a nursery in the area, said he has been living in the area for the last 23 years. "Every 2-3 years, such flooding takes place. The last time it happened was three years ago, and the government did send help," he said.

"This year, so far the government has not helped," he alleged. The affected families have moved from the floodplains near Akshardham to the Mayur Vihar area, specifically Mayur Place, Pusta Road, and Khel

BJP sets up 8 relief camps

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP has set up eight relief camps for people living on the Yamuna flood plains, who on Tuesday moved to safer places due to the rising level of water in the river due to two-day record rain in the city.

The party has set up a camp each in Yamuna Bazar, Sabhapur, Ghonda Third Pushta, Gandhi Nagar Loha Pul, Mayur Vihar Extension, and Yamuna Khadar, said a Delhi BJP statement. The remaining two camps have been set up near Akshardham Commonwealth Village and opposite Mayur Vihar-1 Metro Station. BJP believes in humanity and in the same spirit has started relief and food camps at eight places for people displaced by flood water," said Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva. Sachdeva also visited these centres and joined the party workers in the distribution of food to the affected people.

North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari visited several people affected by rain, including Pakistani Hindu refugees living near Signature Bridge, and assured them of help. He also met people in Gandhi Mandu and Usmanpur villages.

Goan, a member of a local NGO said. Prashant, a Civil Defence volunteer, said, "The government of Delhi has been working from 10 am to set up tents and facilities for food and beverages for the affected people." "The Civil Defence aims to help more people," he said.

Naneh, who has been living in the area for the last five years said, around midnight, he and his family left their home and moved to the pavements on Pusta Road in Mayur Vihar. He said they have no earnings left and "urgently need help from government for food and water."

house so that they can't bite anyone. On Monday, argument happened between Gode and his neighbour Rahul on barking of the dogs. MCD control room was informed in this regard. The dogs were also released from his house," said a senior police official.

A few days ago, the Delhi Police had rescued 14 street dogs from a house in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area after getting a warrant from a local court.

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"Their waste, pees and faeces were littering outside her flat and entire staircase. The common hygiene of the surrounding area of flat was very pathetic. Foul smell was present all over the surrounding area of her flat," said an official.

Rithala-Narela corridor may be extended to Kundli

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday said the proposed Rithala-Narela corridor of the network may possibly be extended up to Kundli in Haryana to provide additional connectivity to the neighbouring state.

"If approved, this will be Delhi Metro's fourth expansion into Haryana after Yellow Line (Gurugram), Violet Line (Faridabad) and Green Line (Bahadurgarh), the Delhi Metro said in a statement. This corridor is being planned as an extension of the presently oper-



ational Shaheed Sthal-Rithala corridor of the Red Line. In fact, this may be Delhi Metro's first-ever corridor to connect Haryana and Uttar Pradesh via Delhi. Initially, smaller stations with platform lengths accommodating four coach trains are proposed to meet the

initial traffic demand with a provision of future expansion to accommodate eight coach trains, officials said.

If approved, the entire corridor shall be 27.319 km, comprising 22 stations. While 26.339 km span will be elevated, about 0.89 km will be at grade. Of the 22 stations, 21 will be elevated and one will be at grade, the DMRC said.

The proposed stations on this corridor are Rithala, Rohini Sector 25, Rohini Sector 26, Rohini Sector 31, Rohini Sector 32, Rohini Sector 36, Barwala, Rohini Sector 35, Rohini Sector 34, Bawana Industrial Area - 1 Sector 3,4,

Bawana Industrial Area - 1 Sector 1,2, Bawana JJ Colony, Sanoth, New Sanoth, Depot Station, Bhorgarh village, Anaj Mandi Narela, Narela DDA Sports Complex, Narela, Narela Sector 5, Kundli and Nathupur.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched its housing schemes with more than 3,500 flats located in Narela.

This enhanced connectivity to these areas will immensely help the residents of these new residential colonies. In the past also, DMRC's expansion to Dwarka had boosted the connectivity to the sub-city, the statement said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order asking Delhi's Lieutenant Governor to head a high-level committee constituted to deal with issues concerning rejuvenation of Yamuna river.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Misra agreed to hear the Delhi government's plea against the January 19 order of the NGT and issued notice to the petitioner on whose application the tribunal had passed the order.

"Issue notice... There shall be a stay of the operation of the direction issued on January 9, 2023 by the National Green



Tribunal to the extent that the Lieutenant Governor has been directed to be a member of the committee and to chair it," the apex court said, adding it is not staying the rest of the order. The NGT had constituted the high-level committee of authorities concerned in Delhi where pollution of Yamuna is higher (about 75 per cent) compared to other river basin states, and said, "We request the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi,

who is chairman of DDA and administrator of Delhi under Article 239 of the Constitution, to head the committee." Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi government, referred to two paragraphs of the NGT order.

Noting that substantial work remains unexecuted for the rejuvenation of Yamuna, the NGT had formed the committee and requested the Delhi LG to head the committee. Contending that the LG is only a "figurehead" except for three subjects — police, public order and land — the Delhi government's plea before the top court has sought directions to set aside the NGT's order. Referring to the recent judgement of the top court on the administrative services row

between the Centre and the Delhi government, the plea stated the effect of the NGT's orders cannot be to confer executive powers on an authority that cannot, under the constitutional scheme, be conferred on it and is instead vested with the elected government.

"It is submitted that the issues concerning the present appeal are within the domain of the legislative powers conferred upon the Legislative Assembly and do not fall within any exception as laid down in the Constitution.

"In light of the above-settled position of law, affirmed most recently by this Court in Civil Appeal 2357 of 2017, the order of NGT is legally not tenable," the petition said.

'India moved 415 mn out of poverty in 15 yrs'

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing India's poverty alleviation efforts, the United Nations on Tuesday said the country moved out of 415 million people out of poverty in 15 years from 2005-2006 to 2019-2021.

The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

It said 25 countries, including India, successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years, showing that rapid progress is attainable. These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.

In April, India surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, according to UN data. "Notably, India

UN hails India's poverty alleviation programme



saw a remarkable reduction in poverty, with 415 million people exiting poverty within a span of just 15 years (2005/6-19/21)," the report said. The report demonstrates that poverty reduction is achievable. However, the lack of comprehensive data during

the period of the COVID-19 pandemic poses challenges in assessing immediate prospects, it said. In India, 415 million poor people moved out of poverty from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021, with incidence falling from 55.1 per cent in 2005/2006 to 16.4 per cent in

2019/2021. In 2005/2006, about 645 million people were in multidimensional poverty in India, with this number declining to about 370 million in 2015/2016 and 230 million in 2019/2021. The report noted that deprivation in all indicators declined in India, and "the

poorest states and groups, including children and people in disadvantaged caste groups, had the fastest absolute progress." According to the report, people who are multi-dimensionally poor and deprived under the nutrition indicator in India declined from 44.3 per cent in 2005/2006 to 11.8 per cent in 2019/2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Those who are poor and deprived of cooking fuel fell from 52.9 per cent to 13.9 per cent, and those deprived of sanitation fell from 50.4 per cent in 2005/2006 to 11.3 per cent in 2019/2021, according to the report.

In the drinking water indicator, the percentage of people who are multi-dimensionally poor and deprived fell from 16.4 to 2.7 during the period, electricity (from 29 per cent to 2.1 per cent) and housing from 44.9 per cent to 13.6 per cent. The report said countries with different incidences of poverty also halved their global

MPI value. While 17 countries that did so had an incidence under 25 per cent in the first period, India and Congo had a starting incidence above 50 per cent.

India was among the 19 countries that halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value during one period - for India it was 2005/2006-2015/2016. According to the 2023 release, 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people (just over 18 per cent) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries. Sub-Saharan Africa (534 million) and South Asia (389 million) are home to approximately five out of every six poor people.

Nearly two-thirds of all poor people (730 million people) live in middle-income countries, making action in these countries vital for reducing global poverty. Although low-income countries constitute only 10 per cent of the population included in the MPI, these are where 35 per cent of all poor people reside.

NIA conducts searches at five locations in J&K

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted raids at five locations in the three districts of Anantnag, Shopian, and Pulwama in the Kashmir valley. The agency seized several digital devices containing massive incriminating data.

The locations searched were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and over ground workers (OGWs) linked to the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of several banned Kashmiri terrorist outfits. Premises of sympathisers and cadres of these organisations were also raided.

All these cadres and workers are being investigated for activities relating to terror, violence, and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir. NIA suspects their involvement in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs/magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances, and arms/ammunitions. The Jammu and Kashmir terror conspiracy case was registered suo moto by the NIA on June 21, 2022. It

relates to a physical and online conspiracy by the banned terror organisations to launch a series of violent terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with sticky bombs, IEDs, and small arms among others.

The Pakistan-backed outfits are also engaged in radicalizing local youth and mobilizing over-ground workers, to disturb peace and communal harmony in the Valley. As per NIA investigations, Pak-based operatives behind the conspiracy were using various social media platforms to spread terror among the people. They were also using drones to deliver arms/ammunition, explosives, narcotics to their agents and cadres in the Kashmir valley.

The newly floated terror outfits under investigation include The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu and Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF, and others. PNS

Islam occupies unique position of pride among religious groups in India: Doval

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval said here on Tuesday Islam occupies a unique and significant position of pride amongst the religious groups in India. He also said India is a melting pot of cultures and religions that have co-existed in harmony for centuries.

Asserting that terrorism is not linked to any religion, he said it is no coincidence that despite there being around 200 million Muslims, the involvement of Indian citizens in global terrorism has been "incredibly low".

He made these remarks at an event at the India Islamic Cultural Centre where Muslim World League Secretary General Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Abdulkarim



Al-Issa, who is on an India visit, also addressed the gathering. Doval said Al-Issa is an authentic global voice of moderate Islam and a profound scholar with a deep understanding of Islam. Al-Issa praised India's unity and the Muslim com-

munity within the country for their sense of national pride. "They are proud that they are Indian nationals and they are proud of their constitution," he said. He also acknowledged India's contribution to humanity. "We have heard a lot about

Indian wisdom... We know that we have a common objective of co-existing peacefully together... We know that the Indian components with all its diversity is a great model for coexistence not only in mere words but also on the ground and we appreciate all the efforts taken in this regard," Al-Issa noted.

Hailing "excellent" relations between India and Saudi Arabia, Doval the ties were rooted in shared cultural heritage, common values and economic ties. "Our leaders share a common vision for the future and have been closely interacting with each other," he said. In his remarks, Doval said India as the world's largest democracy and the mother of democracies is a land of incredible diversity. "In your (Al-Issa) talk you elaborately mentioned diversity as a fundamental trait of our existence.

Cong to launch LS elections campaign from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday decided to replicate the success of the 3,500-kilometer Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra padyatra led by party leader Rahul Gandhi in all the poll-bound States in the near future.

The party also decided to launch its Lok Sabha poll campaign from Wednesday onwards and assigned the responsibility of each parliamentary constituency to its senior leaders, who will take out a padyatra and may be later a bus yatra in November or December.

The decision was taken at a meeting of top party leaders chaired by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. The meeting was con-



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Rahul Gandhi arrives for a meeting with leaders of Maharashtra Congress, at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

vened to review the current political as well as party's situation in Maharashtra in the wake of the split in the NCP.

The meeting also reviewed the preparedness of the elec-

success in Maharashtra and had given the party a lot of confidence. He urged the leaders to make deep roots all over Maharashtra and make the party big and strong. AICC general secretary, K C Venugopal said that the Congress is completely focused on the 2024 elections and will work with its allies to begin with MVA in Maharashtra to defeat the BJP.

"The BJP has hurt the self-respect of Maharashtra by using its 'washing machine'. The Congress party will give a befitting reply to this political fraud. The people of Maharashtra will give a strong political response to the continuous attacks on the mandate by the BJP," he said.

Congress has now emerged as the largest opposition party in Maharashtra.

Law Commission gets 46 L responses on UCC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the deadline to send views on the Uniform Civil Code ends in two days, the Union Law Commission has so far received nearly 46 lakh responses, officials said on Tuesday.

The Commission is also likely to call certain organisations and people for a personal hearing in the coming days. Some of these invitation letters have already been sent, they said.

On June 14, the Law Commission initiated a fresh consultation process on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) by seeking views from stakeholders, including public and recognised religious organisations, on the politically sensitive issue.

Earlier, the 21st Law Commission, the term of which ended in August 2018, examined the issue and solicited the views of all stakeholders on two occasions. Subsequently, a consultation paper on "Reforms of Family Law" was issued in August 2018. "Since more than three years have lapsed from the date of issuance of the said consultation paper, bearing in mind the relevance and importance of the subject and also the various court orders on the subject, the 22nd Law Commission of India considered it expedient to deliberate afresh over the subject," the panel had said in a "public notice".

Appearing before a Parliamentary committee earlier this month, representatives of the law panel had

defended the fresh consultation exercise, noting that the preceding commission had brought out its suggestions in 2018 and its term had also come to an end. That is why, they have begun a fresh initiative which is essentially "informational".

In its consultation paper issued on August 31, 2018, the previous Law Commission headed by Justice BS Chauhan (ret'd) said while the diversity of Indian culture can and should be celebrated, specific groups or weaker sections of the society must not be "disprivileged" in the process. It said the Commission dealt with laws that are discriminatory rather than providing a uniform civil code "which is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage".

HAL office in Malaysia inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Recognising defence exports as a key pillar of sustainable growth of the Indian defence industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday inaugurated the Regional Office of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Kuala Lumpur.

This Regional Office will facilitate close defence industrial collaboration between India and Malaysia. It will also serve as a hub for the HAL's engagement with the wider South-East Asian region and act as a window for other Indian Defense PSUs, the defence ministry said in New Delhi.

Incidentally, Malaysia has evinced interest in procuring Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) indigenously designed and manufactured by the HAL. Meanwhile,



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates a regional office of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday. PTI

Rajnath also interacted with the Indian diaspora in Malaysia which is home to the second largest members of the Persons of Indian Origin and has a significant presence of the NRI community. During the event, he appreciated the rich legacy of Indian classical art tradition in Malaysia as witnessed in the presentations of Odissi dance as

well as the Carnatic and Hindustani music performances by renowned Malaysian artists. In a separate event, Rajnath interacted with the members of the diverse and vibrant Indian community in Malaysia, including the leaders and members of various Indian community organisations in the country.

Khattar briefs PM on LS poll preparations in Hry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst talk of a major political shake-up in Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and "briefed" him on the Lok Sabha preparations by the BJP in the State.

Khattar said he had sought appointment with the Prime Minister for sometime but it could not take place because of the latter's constant official engagements.

The Chief Minister said he has invited the Prime Minister for laying foundation stones of Aravali and AIIMS projects in the state and briefed him on the party's preparations for the Lok Sabha polls, next year. The Chief Minister said his government was doing "fine

and will return to power again and that the Congress should not "day dream" about winning the assembly poll. The talk of a political change in the state in the run-up to the assembly polls, next year, has been doing the rounds for some time. Last year too, BJP MP from Rohtak Arvind Sharma said that the next chief minister in the state should be from the Brahmin community.

The Haryana chief minister had then announced a slew of sops in an attempt to appease the Brahmin community and also declared a gazetted holiday on Parshuram Jayanti. Khattar, a former RSS pracharak and a second-time MLA from Karnal, was picked as the state chief minister by BJP, when it came to power for the first time in Haryana on its own strength in 2014.

RSS to hold annual meet on July 13-15

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will hold its annual meeting of Prant Pracharakas (state-in-charges) in Ooty, Tamil Nadu, from July 13 to 15.

The meeting will be attended by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, and all five joint general secretaries.

The meeting will discuss the progress made so far in the Sangh's Centenary Action Plan for expanding the organization. The RSS is aiming to have one lakh Shakhas (local units) by 2025, when it completes 100 years since its foundation in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

The meeting will also discuss shakha-level activities related to social transformation and contemporary issues. "The meeting will deliberate upon the progress made so far in the

Sangh Centenary Action Plan for expanding the organization," said RSS media-head Sunil Ambekar. "It will also discuss shakha-level activities related to social transformation, activities for the next four to five months, as well as contemporary issues," he added.

The meeting will be attended by all Prant Pracharakas from across the country, as well as sah prant pracharakas, kshetra pracharakas, and sah kshetra pracharakas. Representatives from all seven of the RSS's Karya Vibhags (departments) will also attend. The meeting is an opportunity for the RSS to review its progress and to plan for the future.

It is also a chance for the organization's leaders to meet and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the RSS in the 21st century.

Institutions of higher edu platforms for promoting equality, justice: Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the institutions of higher education are among the most effective platforms for promoting our constitutional ideals of justice, equality, fraternity, individual dignity and respect for women.

"Institutions of higher education are among the most effective platforms for promoting our constitutional ideals of justice, equality, fraternity, individual dignity and respect for women," Murmu made the comments on concluding day of the two-day Visitor's Conference in the national Capital.

The conference deliberated on the theme "Education for Sustainable Development: Building a better world". Five different groups brainstormed



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the concluding session of Visitor's Conference, at Rastrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

on sub-themes such as Contributions to the realization of NEP-2020; Internationalization efforts and G-20; Research contributions and recognitions; Diversity, equality, inclusivity and wellness; Plans and action items for Amrit Kaal. The outcome of

deliberations was presented before the President. The President said discussion on the subject "Internationalization Efforts and G 20" is very relevant in establishing India as a Knowledge Superpower. She stated that India is making efforts to find collective solutions to the current global challenges together with the G 20 countries with the mantra of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

"Significance of the policy is proved only in putting it into practice. Outcomes and results prove that the policy has been effectively implemented. For example, through the 'Digital India' initiative, a target has been set to digitally empower the Indian society and bring changes in the country's economy. "The results of this initiative have been very impressive. Due to the effective imple-

mentation and public participation revolutionary change has been made possible in a very short time," Murmu said. She expressed confidence that similar transformative and inclusive results would be achieved in the field of higher education as well.

The President said that innovation and cutting edge Research and Development are among prime movers of economic and social development of a nation. "Leading universities and technology institutions in the world have focussed on innovation.

They provide an ecosystem that supports Research and Development which can be applied in industrial and commercial spheres. She said that Higher Education Institutions in our country have the potential of becoming powerhouses of research and innovations.

India, Maldives discuss ways to boost stability in Indian Ocean

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Maldives on Tuesday reviewed the whole spectrum of their bilateral ties and discussed ways to enhance stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region during talks here between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Abdulla Shahid. India agreed to work on the preservation of the Utheemu Palace, the wooden house of Sultan Mohammad Thakurfaanu, the 16th century hero in the Maldives' history.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between the two nations after talks between the two leaders. "Encouraged to learn of the steady progress in our development partnership. It is directly contributing to the economic growth and social welfare of our neighbour," Jaishankar said on Twitter after the meeting with Shahid at the Hyderabad House here.

Shahid said the two sides exchanged nine MoUs under Phase-II of the High Impact Community Development Scheme.

"The MoU signed on Utheemu Palace Roof Preservation and Development of Palace Surroundings Project will promote Maldivian culture. This signifies the cultural cooperation between both countries," the visiting Foreign Minister said on Twitter. He said the MoUs were also signed to upgrade hospitals, digitise schools, set up computer labs and a volleyball court, install streetlights and fish processing units in the archipelago nation. Jaishankar said he shared with Shahid perspectives on the stability and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region and how collaboration between the two nations advanced those goals.

BJP campaign gains momentum

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

While the Opposition parties are still waiting for a strong joint alliance formula finalisation, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continued its campaign under door-to-door Maha Jansampark Abhiyan (grand mass public relations campaign) as the party is not in mood to weaken the spirit of BJP workers which it gained a momentum after the recent public meetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Now the senior BJP leader, ministers and others are also joining the same and in this direction, a day ago Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' along with party workers, made intensive contact with every house in booth numbers 24 and 25 (Srinagar Colony and Siddhagiri Bagh). The minister gave stickers and leaflets to the residents in which the achievements of the central government during the last nine years were being highlighted. Dayalu also asked the people to support the PM by giving missed calls on the mobile number 9090902024 issued by the party. City vice-president Atma Visheshwar, corporator Sindhu Sonkar, mandal chief Abhishek



UP Minister Dayashankar Mishra Dayalu contacting people under BJP's campaign in Varanasi on Monday.

Verma, Gaurav Rathi, Ravi Saraf, Arun Pandey, Satnam Singh, Saurabh Rai etc were also present during the campaign.

Meanwhile, under the same drive, a meeting of senior district and city unit office-bearers was held at BJP's regional office in Rohania. Addressing the meeting, regional BJP chief Dilip Singh Patel stressed the need for 100 per cent fulfillment of the goal of Ghar Ghar Sampark Abhiyan. He said that on the completion of nine years of ser-

vice, good governance and poor welfare programmes of the central government under the leadership of Modi, the BJP's Maha Jansampark Abhiyan, which was scheduled to run from May 30 to June 30, has been extended till July 15.

Patel said that responsibilities and accountability of all the Shakti Kendras have been fixed for 100 per cent success of the drive. He said that by preparing an action plan, the achievements of the central government should be taken to

the doorstep of every household through intensive public relations.

Regional general secretary Ashok Chaurasia conducted the function, while district president Hansraj Vishwakarma, city chief Vidya Sagar Rai, Naveen Kapoor, Jagdish Tripathi, Sanjay Sonkar, Suresh Singh, Ashok Patel, Rahul Singh, Atma Visheshwar, Abhishek Mishra, Alok Srivastava, Ashok Kumar, Surendra Patel, Arvind Patel, Navratan Rathi etc were also present.

Exercise to pick up new BJP mahanagar chief starts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahanagar president Ganesh Kesarwani being elected as the mayor of the city in the recently held municipal polls, there seems to be a hot race among cadre to succeed him.

As many as 27 aspirants have staked their claims before the state party leadership to become new party Mahanagar president. The party leadership will appoint two observers to

interact with aspirants and submit their report.

BJP spokesman Rajesh Kesarwani told mediapersons that after party Mahanagar president Ganesh Kesarwani being elected as mayor, state party leadership have started an exercise to pick up a new Mahanagar president.

He said contenders like Natwarlal Bharti, Sanjay Srivastava, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Ashish Gupta, Rajnikant Srivastava, Gyaneshwar Shukla, Shyam Chandra Hela, Rajendra

Mishra, Varun Kesarwani, Rakesh Jain, Ramesh Pasi, Vivek Agrawal, Raju Pathak, Pawan Srivastava, Padum Jaiswal, Sanjay Gupta, Ashutosh Pandey, Pramod Jaiswal, Kamesh Gautam, Devendra Mishra, Mirtunjay Tiwari, Vikram Singh Bhadauria, Raghvendra Singh, Anil Bhatt, Girijesh Mishra, Jaivardhan Tripathi and Pran Vijay Singh have staked their claims. Majority of contenders who submitted their detailed resume before the state party

leadership claimed that they have been associated with party since three decades and held many important posts from ward president to state working committee member.

State party leadership is keen to appoint a new Mahanagar party president on or before July 30 after acknowledging that a series of campaigns, including voters' outreach programmes are underway in Mahanagar, trans-Ganga and trans-Yamuna pockets of the district.

Digvijaya raises questions on UCC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Digvijaya Singh raised questions over Modi-led union government regarding Uniform Civil Code (UCC). He said the BJP-led union government has no idea as to what is actually Uniform Civil Code. He also said people do not have an idea about UCC. He, however, said, "We will look into the issue when union government brings proposal or suggestions on UCC."

Senior Congress leader, however, said that BJP-led union government has failed on all fronts and people are fed up with inflation and unemployment. He also claimed that it's a fight over ideology and this country will run on Gandhi and Nehru's ideology, not Sangh. In view of forthcoming parliamentary elections, Singh said, "We have been reviewing and keeping an eye on developments."

Singh arrived at Bamrauli airport from Bhopal. Later, he left for Mirzapur by a car. Senior Congress leader termed

Manipur and West Bengal violence unfortunate and also asked as to why PM Modi is silent on Manipur violence.

NEW RECORD: Favorable conditions are continuously being created in the Allahabad High Court regarding Hindi language. The trend of giving judgement in Hindi is continuously increasing. High Court Justice Dr Gautam Chaudhary has set a new record by giving more than 10,000 judgements in Hindi language. He has done this in his four-year tenure only. Dr Chaudhary was appointed as a

judge in the Allahabad High Court on December 12, 2019. Eight days after the appointment, on December 20, 2019, when he sat in a single bench he gave his first decision in Hindi. After this, this sequence continued. He has so far given more than 10,000 judgements in Hindi in all bail petitions, revision applications and other matters. Because of him, the practice of giving judgements in Hindi increased in the High Court. Till the year 2022 on an average 20 cases were decided in Hindi every day in the Allahabad High Court.

Rare total lower jaw joint replacement done

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A rare total lower jaw joint replacement was performed successfully at a hospital in this holy city, bringing smiles on the face of a 15-year old girl from Patna (Bihar) using high end computer aided technology. "It was the first such replacement in this region comprising Purvanchal (eastern UP), Bihar and Jharkhand where the maximum cases of cleft and palate deformities at the time of birth of children are found," said the leading plastic surgeon and Director of GS Memorial Hospital Dr Subodh Kumar Singh while addressing a press conference here on Tuesday.

The centre led by Dr Singh has the credit of doing the maximum surgeries of cleft and palate deformities in the entire world under the international 'Smile Train' project and in 2008, a documentary 'Smile Pinki' shot here received the world acclaim bagging Oscar Award. "We started such surgeries under 'Smile Train' project in 2004 and by 2008, we had brought smiles on the faces of about 4,000 children and now we are close to touching the 50,000 mark soon," said Dr Singh proudly.

According to him, as soon as the project goes on, we've found many post complications and in this direction, the project included programmes of speech therapy and nutrition later on and now after performing a total lower jaw joint replacement, we would do the



Plastic surgeon Dr Subodh Kumar Singh and his team performing a rare total lower jaw replacement in Varanasi on Tuesday.

documentation of the same before the 'Smile Train' so such surgeries can also be included.

"When the young girl, who was under my surgical care since birth as she was born with a rare facial cleft and other deformities and was operated at her age of nine, reported to the centre with a complaint of asymmetrical face, we started study all the aspects in order to perform using 3D computed tomography, computer assisted graphic planning and 3D printing, that was translated into operation with surgical precision," he said, adding that it resulted in the transformation of the facial structure and deformity correction.

"Such patients usually have deficient growth on one side of the face which needs correction once the patient achieves skeletal maturity around 15 years of age. If the

deformity is severe then the surgery needs to be done much earlier. To correct the deformity the entire facial skeleton needs surgery along with the teeth realignment," he said and added that because of the facial deformity the patient suffers from low confidence.

Cranio-maxillofacial surgeon Dr Ishan Singh, the lead surgeon who performed the surgery along with his surgical team, said that the entire facial skeleton was worked upon to address and correct the deficient side of the face. "3D CT scan and computer aided designing was used to create a titanium joint which was then used to replace one side of the lower jaw. The entire upper and lower jaw were advanced forward and differentially rotated during the surgery to gain a symmetrical face," he said, adding that though he regularly performs

such orthognathic surgeries (facial skeleton corrective surgery) but this was a particularly challenging case as the joint replacement was combined with jaw corrective surgery to gain symmetry and function.

The college will run courses of BA Geography, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, History, Hindi literature, English literature, BSc Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany and BCom Economics,

SGDC given affiliation by PRSU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Shiv Ganga Degree College (SGDC), located at Ramnagar Ghansiyari village of the Mauaima block here, has been given affiliation by the Prof Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University (PRSU), Prayagraj.

Named after the eminent climatologist and former head of the department of Geography, Allahabad University, Prof Shiv Sagar Ojha, the college, located in the rural belt of the district, will come as a boon for meritorious students living in the rural belt of Mauaima, Soraon and Pratapgarh.

The college will run courses of BA Geography, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, History, Hindi literature, English literature, BSc Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany and BCom Economics,



Business Studies and Accountancy from the current session 2023-24, informed wife of late Prof Ojha, Sita Ojha.

The college was the dream of Prof Ojha but after his demise in July last year due to corona, his wife laid the foundation stone in February this year and the college was inaugurated early this month, on the occasion of Guru Purnima.

"The college has allotted 35 per cent of seat to aspiring student from Uttarakhand and 15 per cent seat to students coming from Nepal along with 10 per cent seats to

displaced Kashmiri Pandits to give regional representation and opportunity to youths of commingling with each other," said Sita Ojha.

Scholars and academicians from Tibet and Baluchistan will also be provided an opportunity to share their experiences and vision with students of the college, added Ojha, who is also the president of a NGO named Samaj Evam Paryavaran Vikas Sansthan.

FIRE: A sudden fire broke out in the house of Mohammad Ali in Purva of

Manna, Dandi area under Naini Kotwali shortly after midnight on Monday caused by gas cylinder leakage. The fire brigade team reached the spot and doused the fire.

Farah Naz of Manna Purva under Naini Kotwali of Yamunapur, boiled milk on the gas cylinder after cooking and went back sleep in the room. When the fire broke out Mohammad Ali, who was present threw the gas cylinder into another room in a hurry. The residents of the village informed the fire brigade and outpost incharge.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Shal Tower, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sandeep Shanker Choudhry/ Rupali Choudhry/ LBPNP00001825998	Flat No. 0301, 3rd Floor, Block-A2, Unworld Gardens-II, Sector-47, Gurgaon Haryana/ July 07, 2023	July 06, 2021 Rs. 39,64,228/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : July 12, 2023
Place : Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ramesh Gupta/ Neeru Gupta/ LBDEL00001636232/ LBDEL00001842438	Property No.97, Block No. H, Pocket- 3, Sector-18, Rohini Delhi/ July 07, 2023	February 24, 2023 Rs. 5,93,38,907/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Abhimanyu Choudhary/ Sonu Choudhary/ LBGH000005706417	Flat No.1805, 18th Floor, Sun-2, MIGSUN ULTIMO, Plot No. Gh-03, Sector- Omicron-3, Greater Noida/ July 07, 2023	February 24, 2023 Rs. 51,42,444/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Sujeet Kumar Jha/ Savita Devi/ LBNOD00001883296	Flat No.445, Block- F, Sec- Delta- 1, Greater Noida/ July 07, 2023	November 30, 2022 Rs. 7,45,314/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Raj Kumar Bhagat/ Amit Nandan/ LBDEL00002408767	Flat No.0005, Tower-B11, Eco Village-1, Plot No.8, Sector -1, Greater Noida/ July 07, 2023	February 24, 2023 Rs. 8,09,520/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Rashmita Kumari/ Anoop Kumar Jha/ LBDEL00004041544/ LBDEL00004149831	Flat No-A 803, 11th Floor, Samridhi Grand Avenue, Tower-A Plot No. Gh-09, Techzone-4, Greater Noida/ July 07, 2023	January 25, 2023 Rs. 1,077,304/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Raukshana Begum/ Naushad Ali/ LBFDB00003112033	Plot No.1442 P, Situated In Sec-7E, Urban Estate, Distt Faridabad/ July 07, 2023	December 19, 2022 Rs. 4,165,801/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Shiv Kumar/ Usha/ Sanjeev Sood/ LBFDB00001071758	1166, Hlg. Ground Floor, Housing Board Colony, Sector-23, Faridabad/ July 07, 2023	July 06, 2021 Rs. 10,65,443/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Suman Kumari/ Mukesh Kumar/ LBFDB00003590308	Flat No-507, Type-D, 5th Floor, Tower 5, "Happy Homes Grand", Village Bhatola, Sector-85, Faridabad/ July 07, 2023	February 27, 2023 Rs. 13,73,329/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Tavinder Singh Bedi/ Amita Bedi/ LBDEL00000715677	Plot No.759, Urban Estate, Sector- 15/ A, Faridabad/ July 07, 2023	February 24, 2023 Rs. 10,77,084/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : July 12, 2023
Place : Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

LOSS OF ID CARD

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that the below ID cards has been issued by Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. having ID card no. MUM15131 and Name of executive is Jasmeet Singh Bakshi has been found missing and/or lost on 30th June 2023 at 11:27 AM. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. 7th Floor, Plot 7, Sector - 125, Noida-201313 Thereafter, all the customers of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card No.

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and Kotak Mahindra Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Date: 12th July 2023
Place: Delhi

Sd/-
For Kotak Mahindra bank

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम मिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग

जोन क्रमांक - 05

E-Mail:- zonefivebhilai@gmail.com

कं/लोक/वि/जोन क्र. 5/2023/708/201 मिलाई, दिनांक 06/07/2023

11 ई-निविदा आरम्भना सूचना 11

अयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम मिलाई द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत स्वयं श्रेणी में पंचोक्त ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	सिस्टम टैरिफ एवं जारी दिनांक	अनुमानित राशि रु. (लाख में)	निविदा उपजमा करने की अंतिम तिथि
1.	वार्ड क्र. 57 (पुराना) सेक्टर-06 सिविक सेक्टर में एल.डी. लाइट एवं लॉट मार्केट लाइट लगाने का कार्य - परिधान कर जोन क्र-05 अंतर्गत सिविक सेक्टर में लाईट लॉट मार्केट लाइट पाक का सौंदर्यीकरण कार्य।	140440 03.07.2023	149.99	24.07.2023

निविदा हेतु राशय पत्र एवं चरदरे राशि की एक.डी.आर. पोस्ट अथवा रिजर्वर्ड डक से स्वीकार किये जाणगे। निविदा हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज तथा कार्य हेतु ई जाने वाली दरें ऑनलाइन (Online) दी जावे। अयुक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की समाप्ति एवं, चरदरे राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम मिलाई की वेबसाईट www.bhilainagarnigam.com रजलनालर की वेबसाईट www.uad.cg.gov.in एवं बीएस की वेबसाईट के वेबसाईट eproc.cgstate.gov.in से भी उपजलाते की जा करती है।

जोन अयुक्त
जोन क्र. 05 सेक्टर-06
नगर पालिक निगम, मिलाई

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. ASMA KHAN, CS (COMM) 1469/22	Vehicle No.- DL12CS0131, Make and Model- TATA TIAGO, Manu Year- 2019
ICICI BANK LIMITED VS. AMIT SETHI, Ex. (COMM) No.49/2022	Vehicle No.- DL12CA4787, Make and Model- MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LTD XUV-500, Manu Year- 2012 Reserve Price: Rs.1,00,000 and EMD amount: Rs.10,000

Auction Date: July 27, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No.166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)

Note: EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/ themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, SHAL TOWERS, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi - 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

VDA to demolish encroachments alongside Varuna & Assi rivers

VARANASI (PNS): The Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) will demolish the illegal possessions and encroachments alongside the rivers Varuna and Assi. The hotels being run illegally near the river Assi will be sealed. The VDA will launch a drive against the dairies being run in the city illegally. Chairing the 129th meeting of the VDA on Tuesday, the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma directed the authority officers to take action of demolishing the illegal possessions and encroachments alongside the rivers Varuna and Assi and sealing the hotels developed near the river Assi by checking their maps. He also directed the authority to develop a green purchase corridor along the rivets. The DC directed the officers to speed up the development works keeping the G-20 meeting in view. The meeting of G-20 related to the Youth and Cultural Ministry is proposed in IIT-BHU and Rudraksh Convention Centre from August 17 to 24.

The DC directed the authority to launch a drive against dairies being run in the city illegally and shift them in cattle colonies developed in Cholapur and Chitampur to avoid the unnecessary choking of sewage. He directed to speed up the works regarding the logistic park and bus station being developed under the transport city scheme and construct a charging station for the electric buses.

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opening colour scheme on facade on the buildings on the both sides of roads of the city, giving the survey works to develop HFL line on both sides of Ganga to Gioteck Technical Associate, transferring Rannagar Housing Scheme to DUDA, Chandauli and transferring the Lalpur Housing Scheme to Varanasi Municipal Corporation.

The proposals regarding to lay down rainwater drainage pipe from Natinadiat Mandir to Ring Road, open dekar account in the interest of VDA, constructing underground parking proposed in the premises of the FC office and linking it to the underground parking constructed in Circuit House, etc were put in the meeting.

The members of the Board of VDA Ambarish Singh Bholra, Sadhana Vedanti and Pradeep Agrahari raised the matters relating to the development of the city and VDA VC Abhishek Goel apprised the works done in this direction. The Secretary of VDA Sunil Verma delivered a vote of thanks at last.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Turning point

Turkey's support for Sweden's NATO membership can have consequences for the world order

NATO is slowly but surely circumventing its threat perceptions (read Russia and China) by increasing its members and enhancing the scope of its interventions. Its membership has gone up from 12 founding members to 31 in 73 years and, by all indications, Sweden could be its 32nd member state. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, several former Warsaw Pact countries became NATO members. In recent years, geopolitical dynamics have undergone significant shifts, redefining global alliances and reshaping the world order. Against this backdrop, Turkey's unexpected and pivotal move to endorse Sweden's bid for NATO membership has sent global shockwaves. Turkey's backing of Sweden's NATO aspirations marks a momentous departure from its traditionally cautious stance on expanding the alliance. Historically, Turkey has prioritised its regional interests and maintained a more guarded approach towards NATO enlargement. However, by lending its support to Sweden, a non-aligned country with a historically neutral foreign policy, Turkey is challenging the existing dynamics and opening up new possibilities for strategic partnerships.



Indeed it would be a great strategic and morale booster for NATO. The inclusion of Sweden would undoubtedly bolster regional stability in the Baltic Sea and Northern Europe. This move would serve as a deterrent to potential aggression and contribute to collective defence efforts in the region. By extending its protective umbrella to Sweden, NATO would gain access to Swedish military capabilities and intelligence, reinforcing its ability to address emerging threats. One of the most significant consequences of Turkey's support for Sweden's NATO membership lies in countering Russia's expanding influence. Russia's assertive foreign policy has raised concerns among NATO member states. Sweden's accession to NATO would present a symbolic setback for Russia, curtailing its ability to exert influence in Northern Europe and checking its regional ambitions. Sweden's NATO membership could potentially reinvigorate the alliance, injecting fresh momentum into its collective defence efforts. By expanding NATO's reach, the organisation gains greater military capabilities and access to critical strategic areas. Turkey's unexpected support to Sweden signifies a shift in alliances and challenges the status quo of geopolitical power balances. It introduces a new narrative where non-traditional partnerships and realignments become more conceivable. The move may prompt Middle East countries to reassess their geopolitical alignments. This development could inspire nations with aspirations for NATO membership, such as Qatar or the United Arab Emirates, to intensify their efforts towards integration. This indeed could trigger new bloc politics where the world is again realigning into two power blocs, one led by the US and the West and the other by Russia and China.

One of the most significant consequences of Turkey's support for Sweden's NATO membership lies in countering Russia's expanding influence. Russia's assertive foreign policy has raised concerns among NATO member states. Sweden's accession to NATO would present a symbolic setback for Russia, curtailing its ability to exert influence in Northern Europe and checking its regional ambitions. Sweden's NATO membership could potentially reinvigorate the alliance, injecting fresh momentum into its collective defence efforts. By expanding NATO's reach, the organisation gains greater military capabilities and access to critical strategic areas. Turkey's unexpected support to Sweden signifies a shift in alliances and challenges the status quo of geopolitical power balances. It introduces a new narrative where non-traditional partnerships and realignments become more conceivable. The move may prompt Middle East countries to reassess their geopolitical alignments. This development could inspire nations with aspirations for NATO membership, such as Qatar or the United Arab Emirates, to intensify their efforts towards integration. This indeed could trigger new bloc politics where the world is again realigning into two power blocs, one led by the US and the West and the other by Russia and China.

PICTALK



Pilgrims on the way to Amarnath shrine take rest at the base camp in Baltal

India must salvage the Gorkha Brigade



ASHOK K MEHTA

Agniveer is pushing away Nepal's Gorkhas. They are joining armies around the world; if we don't wake up they might well be joining the Chinese army

Recently, I met a retired three-star General from the Gorkha Regiment. He told me that when he visited different formations the Divisional and Corps Commanders told him that the best battalions in his formation are from the Gorkhas. Whether it is battle, counter insurgency, professional competitions or any other mission, Gorkhas stand out. When Nepal agreed that India inherit the British legacy of recruiting Gorkhas at Partition in 1947, it was the first time that Gorkhas were to be officered by Indians. Prime Minister Nehru, speaking to the Constituent Assembly, thanked Nepal for it.

The British coveted their 51 Gorkha battalions at the height of World War II so ferociously that only Brits were allowed to command them. Only Indian medical officers were attached to some of the Gorkha battalions. When they were being downsized after the transfer of power from Hong Kong to China in 1997, a country-wide 'Save The Gorkha' movement started across Britain. Many pubs and restaurants are named after Gorkhas as well as iconic places in Nepal.

No such movement has started in India over the possible phase-out of the Gorkha Brigade, the Army's single-biggest regiment of 43 battalions larger than the entire British Infantry, as its roots are in politics, not in high diplomacy and strategy. This is happening when the big gun in the armed forces, Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Anil Chauhan belongs to the 11 Gorkha Regiment. A similar contingency was nipped in the bud in 1973 by then Army Chief Gen Gopal Bewoor also from 11 Gorkhas who thought the idea of sufficient recruitable material in India was unstrategic. The Gorkha Brigade is a strategic force permitted to be recruited by Nepal that characterizes the special relations between two sovereign countries.

The run-down of the Gorkha Brigade began with three years of no recruitment of Nepal Domiciled Gorkhas (NDG) and retirement of 4000 Gorkhas creating a deficiency of approximately 8000 to 9000 personnel. This



is to be made good by recruiting Indian Domiciled Gorkhas (IDG), Kumaonis, Garhwalis and tribals of the northeast without a single NDG. Despite reducing their recruitment standards, IDG just about manage to fill their quota of 40 per cent intake. Kumaonis and Garhwalis have their single-class regiments and will be unable to provide suitable material for long. Assuming Nepal will be unwilling to permit recruitment under Agniveer norms, by 2030 only half or less of Gorkha battalions will be 'Gorkhali'. By 2025, some of the seven Gorkha regiments will have to shed one battalion from their five or six battalions. At some stage, around 2035, or even earlier, the government may order winding down the Gorkha Brigade creating a slack of 30,000 soldiers.

India did not consider it necessary or wise to consult Nepal on Agniveer. Instead, it delivered a fait accompli with a neighbour it claims it has the closest relationship in the neighbourhood. Nepal was the second country after Bhutan Mr Modi visited when he became Prime Minister in 2014. Not just that, he captured the heart and soul of Nepalis with his oratory in their Parliament when he extolled the courage and bravery of Gorkha soldiers who had shed

WHEN THEY WERE BEING DOWNSIZED AFTER THE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM HONG KONG TO CHINA IN 1997, A COUNTRY-WIDE 'SAVE THE GORKHA' MOVEMENT STARTED ACROSS BRITAIN

their blood defending the territorial integrity of India. Ambassadors in Kathmandu since 1959 whom I met were enamoured with Gorkhas but some doubted their loyalty to India. One Ambassador never visited Gorkha hubs in Nepal like Pokhara and Dharan to meet the ex-servicemen. But since the last decade and more after the end of the Maoist insurgency, Ambassadors without exception had expressed no doubt about Gorkha's loyalty and even admitted that they were a pro-India constituency in Nepal. During the Maoist insurgency, Maoists sought, through inducement and coercion, Indian ex-servicemen and instructors to train their cadres. Only one ex-serviceman from 1.25 lakh ESM joined them. Kathmandu deserved to be consulted over a sensitive strategic bilateral issue such as recruitment, especially when the rules of engagement were significantly altered for the first time in 77 years even though the tripartite agreement (1947) does not mention consultation. Still, it does seek 'equal treatment with the parent army'. There are several 'mechanisms' to initiate discussion on defence and security most notably the Bilateral Group on Security Cooperation India and Nepal established during the Maoist

insurgency. Kathmandu was between elections when Agniveer was announced and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, was heading the government. There was a short discussion on Agniveer in Nepal Parliament where it was criticised by former Defence Minister Bhim Rawal.

Due to the unstable nature of the present government led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, and neither side taking up Agniveer formally during his visit in May, it is on the backburner. Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud told BBC Nepali in Kathmandu recently that Nepal will seek a national consensus on Agniveer which is virtually putting it in cold storage. In other words, Agniveer is unacceptable to Nepal in its present form. Slamming Agniveer, Nepal's hardy Gorkhas are now joining the Russian Army while continuing with the British Army, Singapore Police Brunei Army and French Foreign Legion. At this rate, the Chinese dream of recruiting Gorkhas may bear fruit.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE WAR WITHIN NCP

Sir — Refer to "NCP: Round one goes to Ajit Pawar" (July 11). The opposition solidarity against the NDA had just arrived on the platform ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. A decision was also made for the second meeting. Before that NDA made inroads into Sharad Pawar's party. This schism is a major setback for the opposition's cohesiveness. The rift in the NCP in Maharashtra and the extension of the NDA clan by rebels joining the government show political insecurity as well as the leaders' power-hungry temperament. The sudden departure of MLAs to join other governments demonstrates that family and party have no relevance in power. But one thing is certain: the anti-defection statute has failed to rein in Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram's politics.

In the last few years, along with political cynicism in Maharashtra, there have been many controversies regarding the role of the governor. Even the Supreme Court had to make a strong comment. But one thing is certain: the violation of democratic purity is going on at every step. However, the face of political ugliness has been exposed in front of everyone for the sake of power.

Politicians seeking power have discovered fresh loopholes in the law's provisions. Rather, the scope of defection has grown. This shift also indicates that the dominant party at the centre is capable of destroying any party through power and other means. To create the government in the state, the BJP and Shiv Sena jointly contest elections; after the elections, Shiv Sena breaks ties with the BJP and forms a government with the Congress, NCP, and others; and finally, Shiv Sena rebels and rebel Shiv Sainiks join the government alongside the BJP. It is how politicians solicit public votes against a specific political party, and then, for the sake of power, they become sidekicks of the same opposing political party. Without a doubt, this is a sham election.

On the other hand, the fate of family-based politics has come to the fore somewhere in the NCP rift caused by an uncle-

Countdown for Chandrayaan-3



The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is all set to launch the lunar exploration mission at 2.35 PM on Friday, July 14. The spacecraft will be launched from the

Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. ISRO is taking new leaps with every launch. Compared to Chandrayaan-2 in Chandrayaan-3 LDV has been installed in the lander and more fuel has been added. Multiple contingency systems have been added and structural rigidity has been improved. Land and lander safely and softly on the surface of the moon as well. I am sure, this time it will be smooth and India will achieve that milestone. All those who laughed at ISRO and Indian space programs and made cartoons about it will have to be sulking.

Jahangeer Shaikh | Mumbai

nephew's desires. This development, however, is a major setback not only for the Nationalist Congress Party but also for the Mahavikas Aghadi.

The debate in the following days will also be about who will be the true party chief. Who holds the true NCP? Sharad Pawar, the Master of Politics, will endeavour to leave a political legacy in the coming days by knocking on the doors of the court and the Election Commission.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

February 2022 Russian invasion, both of them were included. But there is not much discussion on Ukraine within NATO. Some members believe that since Ukraine is in a state of war, it cannot be included in the organization. While West Germany was granted membership in May 1955, its relations with East Germany were strained at the time. That's why NATO countries should not make the mistake of considering their duty fulfilled only by giving weapons. To give Ukraine full security cover, it should be included in the list of full-time NATO member countries as soon as possible.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

UCC WILL SPELL DOOM

Sir — The implementation of a uniform civil code will be detrimental to the unity and integrity of India. The government should consult all the stakeholders, including political representatives, religious leaders as well as tribal groups before introducing the law. That would be true of the democratic spirit and liberal ethos enshrined in the Constitution.

Ashraf Nawaz | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Rejig agri practices to fight climate change

Climate resilience in agriculture needs to build scale through on-ground interventions and global collaborations



ATUL GARG

The impacts of climate change on agriculture are a global concern. India is also witnessing severe spells of climate change. According to a Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down to Earth (DTE) report, in 2022, extreme weather events adversely impacted 1.96 million hectares (ha) of the crop area. The report goes on to mention that the country witnessed extreme weather events on 241 out of 273 days. As per the Climate Transparency Report 2022, during 2016-2021, severe weather developments such as cyclones, floods, flash floods, and landslides caused damage to crops in more than 36 million hectares and the destruction has led to a \$3.75 billion loss for farmers in India.

Higher temperatures adversely affect crop yields. Different crops have specific temperature requirements for optimal growth, and when temperatures exceed these thresholds, it can lead to reduced yields. Heat stress can also impact crop flowering, fruit set, and overall productivity. Climate change causes shifts in rainfall patterns,



leading to more frequent and intense droughts or floods. Both scenarios can have detrimental effects on agriculture. Hence, climate resilience has emerged as the key in climate risk management which involves building and strengthening the capability of agricultural ecosystems in anticipating, adapting, and recovering from climate change impacts and extreme weather events such as heat stress, floods, dominance of pests, severe storms, etc. In other words, building climate resilience involves anticipating potential climate change impacts and preparing for them in advance. This includes conducting vulnerability assessments, monitoring climate data, and using climate forecasting tools to understand future climate

scenarios. However, there are two ways to look at the roadmap to build climate resilience in the agriculture sector.

The first one is on-ground interventions. By being proactive, farmers and stakeholders in the agricultural sector can take appropriate measures to reduce risks, such as adjusting planting schedules, diversifying crops, or implementing water supply and management strategies.

Farmers can alter agricultural practices to enhance soil fertility and opt for efficient water use, crop diversification, and crop insurance to build adaptability. Soil health in particular defines farmers' capability to produce crops. To restore soil quality impacted by climate change or adverse weather events, farmers can opt for intercropping and crop rotation and efficient application of fertilizers for preventing soil erosion and degradation. Development of climate-resilient crop varieties, promoting drought-resilient crop production such as millets, roll out of National Action Plan on Climate Change,

State Action Plans on Climate Change, etc. are all moving in the right direction.

It's worth noting that Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, recently said that addressing climate change needs global collaboration and collective action. And that brings us to the second aspect of climate resilience interventions through collaborations beyond borders. Sub-Saharan Africa is known to be the region that is susceptible to climate change. And, how countries like Mozambique, Ghana, etc. managed to build broad-based adaptability and resilience mechanisms and strengthen agricultural productivity would be a great learning experience for us. The common agricultural policy of the EU and the Build Back Better Plan of the US are some prominent examples of broader global collaborations. Even minor changes in weather patterns can significantly impact farmers' livelihoods and the nation's overall economic health.

(The writer is MD, GRM Overseas)



FIRST COLUMN

HIGH LIVING DOESN'T EQUAL HAPPINESS

Happiness is more a mental state than fulfilment of desires



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

In many countries, modern life has improved people's standard of living, but people nevertheless seem generally not happier with their lives. This can be regarded as a surprise with the level of prosperity at a historic high. There is no doubt in it that every human being has the right to live and, therefore, the right to find the wherewithal to feed, clothe and house himself as well as his dependents. Besides these three, one has to fulfil some other needs as well, the aim being to avoid pain and to have a reasonably comfortable life. But the trouble starts when one adopts that economic philosophy which states that multiplication and fulfilment of wants leads to a higher standard of living and greater happiness, and one then sets to accumulate whatever and as much as one can be fair as well as foul means. This economic philosophy is erroneous and self-defeating and is the cause of many social, economic, political and moral maladies of our times.

To begin, happiness is hard to define as different people may have very different concepts of happiness, but directly correlating the standard of living with happiness is likely oversimplifying their relationship. While good life conditions certainly contribute to happiness, people in poor countries frequently express surprisingly high levels of happiness in opinion polls. For some people fulfilling work and social relationships probably add more to happiness than being able to afford luxury goods.



We should also understand one thing that happiness is not the same as pleasure. Happiness depends more on the mental state of a person than on the fulfilment of desires and the gratification of the senses. A fabulously rich man may have all sorts of comforts and yet may remain worried. By no stretch of the imagination can such a man be called a happy man. On the other hand, a person not living in luxury, or even in comfort may be found to be happy as well as content.

So, there may be a man whose hands are full but whose soul is empty. Also, it would be wrong to measure one's standard of living on the scale of luxury goods. It would also be wrong to dissociate this term from the intellectual, moral and cultural aspects of a person. There may, for instance, be a person with a high moral character who leads a life of voluntary non-possession or minimum possessions. He may be an intellectual of a high order, content in mind and refined in the cultural sense. Hence, it would be wrong to say that his standard of living is not high.

We should remember that just as food sustains the body so does the mind find sustenance in happiness. So, the saying goes: there is no food as good as happiness. And, to be happy, you have to be content. Just as, for bodily well-being, man seeks food, so should he maintain the state of contentment to ensure the happiness of the mind. As Alfred Nobel has rightly said that 'Contentment is the only real wealth', we should therefore not run after securing another kind of wealth to lose the wealth of contentment because contentment is as good a means of happiness as wealth is considered to be. Hence it can safely be concluded that, beyond a limit, the multiplication of wants and their satisfaction does not promote happiness and certainly not in that proportion.

(Writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist)

Riots in France and lessons for Europe

The rising tide of illegal immigration and human smuggling across the borders is posing serious logistical and security challenges to the nations there



SUDHIR HINDWAN



The recent incidents of riots, unrest and skirmishes between police and lawbreakers have once again brought forward the hidden pangs of the paradoxes in advanced countries. Such incidents after an intermission are clear indications that post-modern societies are likely to face more such issues. The unabated violence that started with the tragic death of Nahel, a teenager of North African descent in the suburb of Paris has thrown open myriad challenges to Paris leadership resulting in the widespread protests and deployment of more than forty-four thousand police personnel. Despite serious concerns about the delicate situation, there is also a need for immediate security response to those inciting violence leading to further provocation. On the other hand, the present crisis has raised the concern about the pattern of legality followed by police while using weapons in advanced industrial

Police in most countries are attuned to handling day-to-law order maintenance and information-gathering exercises. Whereas, the Police as an extremely vital source of security for the community should also take into account the desires and aspirations of the common masses. In this regard, steps should be taken to instil a strong sense of welfare into the techniques and content of policing particularly in handling delicate issues.

The continuing unrest after this incident has already affected many cities in France. This quagmire has highlighted a few crucial issues: First: the penchant for having a greater share in economic development often gets confused with the issue of identity crisis which provides a medium to organize themselves against the state. This is not an isolated incident, a few years ago the deaths of two boys running away from police custody in the suburbs of France led to a severe crisis



A FEW YEARS AGO, THE DEATH OF TWO BOYS FLEEING THE COPS IN THE SUBURBS OF FRANCE LED TO A SEVERE CRISIS WHEN RIOTERS DAMAGED PUBLIC PROPERTY AND IT LED TO THE IMPOSITION OF EMERGENCY

(Author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award is a professor and an expert on strategic affairs)

when rioters and violent protesters created havoc causing the loss of huge public property and leading to the imposition of emergency. Many incidents of violence are taking place in other parts of Europe too. Not long ago, there was an incident of multiple gun attacks in Vienna which was the outcome of the misinterpretation of the question of identity. There are numerous examples where an isolated incident of conflict or violence gets misinterpreted in toxic and highly confused deliberately constructive narratives.

One such issue led to the beheading of a history teacher in France and the stabbing of three innocents in Nice a few years ago. These attacks are also reminders of an array of socio-political and global issues which Europe has to come to terms with. Secondly, any incident of violence is to be understood in totality leaving no room for getting flared up by either an individual or a group. The rising tide of illegal immigration and human smuggling across the borders in Europe has posed serious logistical and security challenges to France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Britain.

Undoubtedly the leaders of Europe are in a Catch-22 situation on the issue of refugees and illegal migrants. It is high time countries developed a balanced approach to comprehend the vulnerability of the issue. While police should have a better understanding of the day-to-day law and order situations. Recent developments and changing circumstances have made the job of policing highly taxable. Any incident of excessive use of force is to

be avoided because at times certain interested non-state actors are waiting to encash and give it an entirely different colour. Police personnel has to face and deal with tedious situations which require the quick presence of mind to handle delicate law and order problems at times getting provoked, and losing control in a spare moment can lead to severe complications. This kind of situation requires a strategy based on checks and balances. The recurrence of riots and unrest is symptomatic of a society's body politic, torn asunder by varied threats and tensions. Very often, the social conditions that generate conflict and violence have external coordinates as well.

On the other hand, some policy analysts are of the view that rapid development in the post-1991 world and its requirements led to the influx of a lot of migrants even in highly industrialised countries. Such inter-relations between socio-economic conditions in different parts of the developing and even developed societies are becoming more and more obvious and causing major disenchantment among a few.

Thus, as societies globalised and the curtains of opacity are raised through increased inter-societal interaction at the international level, some people in underdeveloped countries are holding the powerful ones responsible for their inferior socio-economic positions as enunciated by AG Frank in his Development of Underdevelopment approach. There is another angle attached to this which views the system of

even the most advanced societies: developed (Centre -Rich) and the underdeveloped (Periphery-Poor) within the same prosperous (country as a whole) system.

There has always been a smooth international network of collaboration among the various interested syndicates creating opportunities out of miseries. The question of illegal migration and related crime particularly in the areas still awaiting their status upliftment generates breeding grounds for problems by giving it a flavour of ethnicity. Rapid changes in most societies led to amorphous economic growth on the one hand but gradually, led to a rise in high ambitions and greater expectations among those who were on the margin of power or worst among those who are on receiving ends.

The recent developments across the globe have proved the philosophical aphorism enunciated by the most celebrated Political Analyst of the 1990s Professor Samuel P. Huntington quite true. Even some highly developed and prominent societies are increasingly facing challenges in myriad forms regarding their security concern. Hence, there is a need to carefully examine the incidents and prepare a detailed sophisticated communication network, better management of local contacts and sensitisation of personnel to issues relating to human rights, civil liberties, etc. Above all, there is a need of developing the capability to anticipate security needs. This can be done by conducting specialised courses for monitoring security situations with a humane approach.

Bihar child brides forgo young years to brave hardships

The issue of child marriage necessitates an integrated approach that recognises its interdependence with diverse sociocultural constructs and discriminatory practices

One in three of the world's child brides live in India,' reports UNICEF. Although the country has made significant progress in reducing the percentage of child brides, it still ranks fifth among the eight South Asian countries in terms of child marriage prevalence. The report states that girls from certain backgrounds, such as those from poor households, limited education and rural areas, are more vulnerable and at a higher risk of getting married before the age of 18. This report reflects the lives of many girls like Rajni (name changed) who have been forced into early marriages and are living lives filled with resentment.

Rajni, from Husepur village in Sahebganj block of



SIMRAN KUMARI

Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, belongs to the Mallah community, which is traditionally a community of fishermen. As a member of the Extremely Backward Caste (EBC), this community has historically faced barriers to growth, resulting in poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness among its people. Rajni's father, Hiralal Sahni (name changed), arranged for her marriage at the tender age of 14. Consequently, she became a mother at the age of 15 and a widow just one month after her child was born.

"Although I had a desire to pursue my studies, my family members forced me into marriage against my will. Instead of going to school, I was married off to an older man at a young age," lament-



ed Rajni, who is one of seven daughters and two sons born to Hiralal Sahni.

Rajni's husband was addicted to alcohol, which resulted in damage to both his kidneys. Living as a widow in her in-laws' house became difficult as others started perceiving her as a bad omen. "My in-laws had no problem keeping her in their house since I

had a son. While I was trying to come to terms with my husband's death, my own family started pressuring me for another marriage. Although I initially refused, but eventually had to bow down to my father's threats. I got married for the second time, but my second husband refused to adopt my son and started pressuring me to keep him in

my parents' home," Rajni shared.

It had reached such an extent that her second husband started assaulting her every day and even attempted to harm the child. After this incident, she left her second husband and permanently returned to her maternal home. After some time, she agreed to move in with her first husband's family, who proposed to adopt her. Currently, she resides there as a young widow and earns a living by working as a farm labourer.

The belief in discriminatory practices rooted in stereotyped gender roles sustains social evils like child marriage. Raju Sahni, a 50-year-old resident of the village, confirms his support for child marriages, stating that girls should be

married at the age of 12 to 13. He argues that girls have no purpose other than to do housework. He believes educated girls tend to become too outspoken, so it is better to confine them home. While many villagers share this perspective, village secretary Naval Rai does not take effective steps to stop these social evils.

According to a report, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) stated that two-fifths of women were married before reaching the legal marriage age of 18, approximately 40 percent. Despite several laws and schemes, this percentage reflects the amount of work that still needs to be done to curb child marriage. The elevation of the minimum age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 since Independence, and

the subsequent proposal of the Child Marriage Prevention Bill 2021 by Lok Sabha to raise it further to 21 across all religions, does not guarantee an immediate end to the prevailing practice. The persistence of child marriage is intricately linked to deep-rooted societal beliefs, necessitating comprehensive efforts to alter entrenched social norms.

The issue of child marriage necessitates an integrated approach that recognises its interdependence with diverse sociocultural constructs and discriminatory practices. Effective solutions can only be achieved through formulating comprehensive schemes and policies that holistically address the complex web of interconnected factors contributing to child marriages.

6 killed in helicopter crash near Mt Everest

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A private commercial helicopter carrying Mexican tourists crashed on Tuesday near Mount Everest in eastern Nepal, killing all six people on board, including five members of a family, in the latest aviation accident in the Himalayan nation.

The Manang Air helicopter 9N-AMV took off from Surke Airport in Solukhumbu district at 10:04 am for Kathmandu and suddenly lost contact at an altitude above 12,000 feet at 10:13 am, said Gyanendra Bhul, Manager at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA).

The helicopter crashed in the Lamjura area of Likhupike Rural Municipality in the remote mountainous Solukhumbu district.

TIA spokesperson Tkeknath Sitaula said all six bodies were found at the crash site during a search operation.

They were returning to Kathmandu from Surke after enjoying a mountain flight. The flight was conducted from Lukla, the gateway to Mount Everest, Sitaula said.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), all five tourists were Mexican nationals and the pilot was Nepalese Captain Chet Bahadur Gurung.

The Mexican victims have been identified as Sifuentes G. Fernando (95) and Rincon Ismael (98), both males, along with three females - Sifuentes Gonzalez Abrie (72), Gonzalez Olacio Luz (65) and Sifuentes G. Maria Jese (52).

Gurung, who managed to survive an earlier accident, had flown helicopters for nearly 7,000 hours in the Nepali skies, local media reports said.

Local people and the police who reached the crash site reported all six persons including the pilot dead, officials said. Two helicopters of Altitude Air mobilised for the rescue operations could not land at the crash site due to



adverse weather conditions, the CAAN said, adding that the helicopters have now landed at Bhakanje of the same district, which is the nearest place to the crash site.

Efforts are being made to transport the dead bodies by ground transportation to the helicopter landing area and further to Kathmandu, it said.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' paid tributes to the victims of the crash, saying the incident has shocked the country.

All six people aboard the chopper have died in the accident, The Kathmandu Post newspaper quoted operation and safety manager of Manang Air Raju Neupane as saying.

District police chief Dipak Shrestha said that the accident is believed to have been caused due to bad weather.

Earlier, a senior official at TIA said locals informed him that the helicopter crashed with a loud explosion and they saw fire at the crash site. "The locals discovered the crashed helicopter at Chihandanda," said rural municipality deputy chair Nwng Lhakpa.

The last location of the chopper was tracked at 10:12 am in the Lamjura Pass area, said Neupane. Nepal's tourist and mountaineering season ended in May. The flights carrying tourists to the mountains are less common this

time of year as visibility is poor and weather conditions fickle.

Founded in 1997, Manang Air is a helicopter airline based in Kathmandu. It has been operating helicopters in commercial air transportation within the Nepalese territory under the Regulation of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.

The company provides chartered services and is focused on personalised services such as adventure flights, helicopter excursions or expedition work.

Nepal has had a fraught record of aviation accidents, partly due to its sudden weather changes and airstrips located in hard-to-access rocky terrains. In May, a helicopter belonging to private Nepalese helicopter service provider - Simrik Air - crashed in eastern Nepal, killing one person and leaving four others, including the pilot, injured.

In January, Nepal's Yeti Airlines twin-engine ATR 72 aircraft carrying 72 people, including five Indians, crashed in Pokhara, killing all on board.

In May 2022, all 22 people on board, including four members of an Indian family, were killed when a Tara Air plane crashed in Nepal's mountainous Mustang district.

Israelis block highways in nationwide protests

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli protesters blocked highways leading to Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv on Tuesday, at the start of a day of countrywide demonstrations against the government's planned judicial overhaul that has divided the nation.

The demonstrations came the morning after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's parliamentary coalition gave initial approval for a bill to limit the Supreme Court's oversight powers, pressing forward with the contentious proposed changes to the judiciary despite widespread opposition.

The legislation is one of several bills proposed by Netanyahu's ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox allies. The plan has provoked months of sustained protests by opponents who say it is pushing the country toward authoritarian rule. Anti-overhaul activists



Demonstrators block a highway leading to Jerusalem, during a protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government to overhaul the judicial system on Tuesday. Agencies

have called for nationwide mass demonstrations throughout the day, including protests at Israel's main international

airport that could disrupt travel. Police cleared protesters who blocked a main artery leading to Jerusalem with a

water cannon and officers arrested several others who had obstructed a highway next to the central city of Modiin.

Demonstrators blocked a main highway in Haifa with a large banner reading "together we will be victorious," snarling traffic along the beachfront. Netanyahu's allies have proposed a series of changes to the Israeli legal system aimed at weakening what they say are the excessive powers of unelected judges.

The proposed changes include giving Netanyahu's allies control over the appointment of judges and giving parliament power to overturn court decisions.

Netanyahu put the overhaul plan on hold in March after weeks of mass protests. But last month, he decided to revive the plan after talks with the political opposition aimed at finding a compromise collapsed. The Netanyahu govern-

ment, which took office in December, is the most hard-line ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox in Israel's 75-year history.

His allies proposed the sweeping changes to the judiciary after the country held its fifth elections in under four years, all of them seen as a referendum on Netanyahu's fitness to serve as prime minister while on trial for corruption. Critics of the plan say it will upset the country's fragile system of checks and balances and concentrate power in the hands of Netanyahu and his allies. They also say Netanyahu has a conflict of interest because he is on trial for charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes, all of which he has denied.

A wide swath of Israeli society, including reserve military officers, business leaders, LGBTQ+ and other minority groups have joined the protests.

Rights group urges probe into Darfur atrocities

AP ■ CAIRO

A prominent rights group on Tuesday called for the International Criminal Court to investigate atrocities in Sudan's volatile Darfur region, including what it says were "summary executions" of 28 non-Arab tribesmen by a Sudanese paramilitary force and allied Arab militias in May.

Human Rights Watch said the paramilitary force would not immediately comment on the group's findings. HRW urged the ICC to investigate the attack on Misterei and others elsewhere in Darfur as part of its investigation into the region's genocidal war in the early 2000s.

The Darfur conflict began when African tribes that had long complained of discrimination rebelled against the Khartoum government, which responded with a military campaign that the ICC later said amounted to genocide. State-backed Arab militias known as the Janjaweed were accused of widespread killings, rapes and other atrocities. The Janjaweed later evolved into the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

The fighting between the paramilitary and Sudan's army erupted in mid-April, at first

centered in the capital, Khartoum. Later, the clashes spread across Sudan, including in Darfur, which saw some of the fiercest battles.

According to Human Rights Watch, the paramilitary and allied Arab militias on motorcycles, pick-up trucks and horses surrounded Misterei and clashed with Massalit fighters. The assailants, armed with assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and vehicle-mounted machine guns, killed men in their homes, on the streets or in hiding. HRW said they also looted property, stole livestock and valuables before burning the town to the ground. Thousands of residents, including women and children, fled as assailants fired on them, killing many more, the group said.

It quoted an unidentified 76-year-old man as saying the attackers fired on the fleeing people. "I saw three people running, being shot at, and falling to the ground near a grocery store," he said. The group said the attackers also went after

those who were hiding in schools and a local mosque.

The rights groups said it documented the killing of at least 40 civilians. Local officials said 97 people were killed in the May 28 attack. At least 59 were buried in mass graves, HRW said.

Along with Misterei, six other West Darfur towns and villages were also burned down over a period of several weeks, according to satellite imagery and fire detection data analyses. Geneina, the local capital in West Darfur, also suffered widespread and apparently deliberate fire damage, HRW said.

Also Tuesday, the UN food agency said residents were still fleeing the violence in Darfur and crossing into Chad, including more than 20,000 refugees who crossed into the Chadian border town of Adre in the last week alone. That brought the number of people who fled the fighting to Chad to more than 230,000 refugees and 38,000 returnees since since mid-April, the World Food Programme said.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang is unable to attend this series of foreign ministers' meetings due to health reasons," Wang said at a daily briefing Tuesday.

Wang Yi, a former foreign minister and the current head of the ruling Communist Party's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, will represent China at the meetings Thursday and Friday, Wang Wenbin said.

Wang Yi drew controversy last week with comments saying Westerners are incapable of distinguishing among Chinese, Koreans and Japanese, and suggesting the three countries with vastly different societies and politics form an alliance based on racial and cultural similarities. Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Teuku Faizasyah confirmed Wang Yi would be attending the ASEAN meeting in Qin's stead. Wang will attend the China-ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, the ASEAN-China-Japan-South Korea foreign ministers' meeting, the East Asia Summit foreign ministers' meeting and the ASEAN Regional Forum foreign ministers' meeting.

China has sought to engage the 10 members of ASEAN, mainly through trade, as part of a campaign to dilute US influence in the region and challenge the American-led liberal world order. However, China's influence has been limited by its aggressive assertion of its claim to virtually all of the South China Sea. ASEAN members Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines exercise overlapping claims and have largely welcomed the United States military presence in the region.

Senior diplomat to take foreign minister's place at ASEAN: China

Beijing (AP): Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang is unable to attend this series of foreign ministers' meetings due to health reasons," Wang said at a daily briefing Tuesday.

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Pak receives \$2 bn from Saudi: Dar

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has received deposits of USD 2 billion from Saudi Arabia, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday, ahead of a key meeting of the IMF to endorse a loan for the cash-strapped country.

Last month, the Pakistan government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached a long-awaited staff-level agreement to inject a USD 3 billion Standby Arrangement (SBA) into the ailing economy after months-long negotiations that pushed the country to the brink of default.

The Executive Board of the IMF is set to meet on July 12 to review the SBA for Pakistan.

"State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received (a) deposit of USD 2 billion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This inflow has increased the forex reserves held by SBP and will accordingly be reflected in the



forex reserves for the week ending 14 July 2023," Dar said in a statement on Twitter.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also extended deep gratitude to the "leadership and brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" for the deposit and thanked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for ensuring this financial support to Pakistan.

"This deposit will strengthen Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves. It reflects the growing confidence of our brotherly

countries and the international community in Pakistan's economic turnaround. We remain committed to making all necessary efforts to improve Pakistan's economy," the premier said.

He also appreciated Dar and Army chief General Asim Munir for the "valuable efforts they have made" for the economy's betterment.

Riyadh had already pledged the money but waited for the IMF deal to be announced before depositing it.

Similarly, the UAE had promised support which helped Pakistan to convince the IMF that it had enough backing to fulfil its conditions to improve the balance of payments.

According to data released by the SBP on Monday, the cash-strapped country lost over USD 4 billion in remittances sent by expatriates to illegal channels in the current fiscal year, much higher than the amount the government struggled to secure from the IMF as a bailout.

On Friday, the country's foreign exchange reserves showed improvement for the second consecutive week, when they reached USD 4.4 billion. The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

EC issues NBW against Imran Khan for contempt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top election body on Tuesday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Imran Khan in a case of contempt. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) also issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former Information and Broadcasting Minister Fawad Chaudhry for the same offence.

The ECP had initiated contempt proceedings last year against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Khan and former party leaders Chaudhry and Asad Umar for allegedly using "intemperate" language against the electoral watchdog and its head, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

The arrest warrant order against Khan and Chaudhry was passed by a four-member ECP bench headed by member Nisar Durrani after the two PTI



leaders failed to appear before it on Tuesday despite several warnings.

However, Umar was spared after his counsel told the ECP that his client had another case to attend and a medical appointment, requesting an exemption from appearance.

The election commission accepted the request and directed the lawyer to submit a formal plea in this regard but it issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Khan and Chaudhry and adjourned the

hearing till July 25.

The ECP had asked the PTI leaders to appear in person or through their counsels to explain their position but instead, they challenged the ECP notices and contempt proceedings in higher courts.

After lengthy proceedings, the Supreme Court in January allowed the ECP to continue proceedings against Khan, Chaudhry and Umar. Subsequently, the ECP decided to frame charges against them.

Khan, 70, has been facing scores of cases in various courts after he was removed from power in April last year. Chaudhry, once a diehard supporter of Khan, quit PTI over the May 9 violence carried out by the party supporters.

Violent protests sparked across the country on May 9 after PTI chief Khan was arrested from the premises of the Islamabad High Court.

Solomon Islands sign pact with China to boost cooperation

AP ■ BEIJING

The Solomon Islands has signed an agreement to boost cooperation with China on "law enforcement and security matters," in a move likely to raise concerns among the South Pacific island's traditional partners including Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

The agreement, details of which were not immediately released, was contained in a joint statement made public Tuesday following a meeting Monday in Beijing between Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

As part of efforts to build a "comprehensive strategic partnership" the sides agreed to: "Enhance cooperation on law enforcement and security matters. The Chinese side will continue to provide support and help to Solomon Islands as needed in strengthening Solomon Islands' police law

enforcement capacity." Located 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Australia, Solomon Islands has been China's biggest success in a campaign to expand its presence in the South Pacific. Sogavare's government switched official recognition in 2019 to Beijing from Taiwan, the self-governed island democracy China claims as part of its territory.

The Solomon Islands signed a secretive security agreement with Beijing in 2022 that might have allowed Chinese military forces in the South Pacific. However, Sogavare rejected suggestions his government might give Beijing a military foothold in the region. The nearby island nation of Kiribati also switched official relations to Beijing in 2019. China has already provided the Solomons with police training and donated replica guns and riot-control equipment such as water cannon

vehicles. A country of 700,000 people made up of six major islands and some 900 smaller ones, the Solomons has seen periods of ethnic tension, during which Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific island nations have committed forces to help restore order.

In the wake of Sogavare's warming relationship with Beijing, the US has committed to reopen an American Embassy in the capital Honiara and it and its allies have increased their engagement with the region as a whole.

Biden convened a summit of Pacific Island leaders in September to unveil a strategy that included cooperation in climate change, maritime security and preventing overfishing. His administration has also promised USD 810 million in new aid for Pacific Island nations over the next decade, including USD 130 million to address the effects of climate change.

'2 children die as families flee Taliban demolition'

Islamabad (AP): Two children

died as scores of Afghan families fled a Taliban demolition this week of their shantytown homes in Kabul, an international aid group said on Tuesday. The Norwegian Refugee Council said the demolition of the ramshackle settlement in the Pul-e-Shina area outside of Kabul this week left 280 families, or around 1,700 people, homeless. The group said it received reports of two children — one aged 4 and another aged 15 — dying as families evacuated their homes.

The group did not know the immediate cause of death. A spokesman for the Kabul municipality, Niamatullah Barakzai, said there were no deaths or injuries during the clearance operation. More than 6 million people are internally displaced in Afghanistan, mostly due to decades of war. But worsening living conditions since the Taliban takeover in August 2021 — as US and NATO forces were withdrawing from the country after 20 years of war — and

increased economic hardship are also forcing people to move.

The economic collapse has driven large swaths of the population into poverty as the flow of foreign aid has slowed down, forcing people to seek work, shelter, and aid elsewhere. The council urged the authorities to halt further evictions and to uphold their obligations under international law, which guarantees their rights against forced eviction. "Internally displaced people who are living in these settlements are already on the brink of survival this raises serious concerns that evictions will exacerbate the already extreme humanitarian needs," said Neil Turner, the Norwegian Refugee Council's country director.

Barakzai, the Kabul official, denied homes were demolished in Pul-e-Shina. "We cleared the land that was illegally taken by people," he said. "No one was harmed. The death of children is a lie. We have all the evidence and we will not allow anyone to illegally take an area."

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TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal invites online Bids from Agencies for supply & execution of below mentioned works as per Tender Specification under RDSS Scheme:-

Tender Specification Number	Particular of Material for Procurement	Lot & Name of Circle	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee (incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Date of Pre Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/952	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 11KV line for Bifurcation & Interconnection, Additional 11 KV Bay at 33/11 KV Substation, Augmentation of Conductor of 11 KV Lines, Additional Distribution Transformer Substations with associate New 11 KV Lines, LT Line on AB Cable, Conversion of bare LT line with AB Cable, Augmentation of LT AB Cable, 11 KV Line Crossing	VI-B (Lot-XI) (A) in Bhind Division & Lahar Division of Bhind Circle	7063.43	23600.00	14.07.2023 03.00 PM	31.07.2023 03.00 PM
MD/MK/04/953	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture Feeder, other associated work and Supporting works such as DPs, TPs, Crossing etc. Package-VI-B (Lot-XI) (A) in Bhind Division & Lahar Division of Bhind Circle and (Lot-XI) (B) in Gohad Division & Mehgaoon Division of Bhind Circle) - Gwalior Region of MPMKVCL, Bhopal under Revamped Reforms-based and Results-linked Distribution Sector Scheme- (RDSS)	VI-B (Lot-XI) (B) in Gohad Division & Mehgaoon Division of Bhind Circle	3234.01	17700.00		

Other details and full tender document would be available on our Company website <https://portal.mppcv.in> & MP Govt. website <https://mptenders.gov.in> very shortly.
M.P. Madhyam/110772/2023 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

NATO summit reaches pact on admitting Sweden

AP ■ VILNIUS

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday hailed an agreement for Sweden to join NATO as more work remained to determine a path forward for Ukraine's future with the alliance. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy criticised as "absurd" the absence of a timetable for his country's entry.

Biden described the summit as a "historic moment" and said the United States agreed with a proposal, yet to be released publicly, to outline a path for Ukraine's eventual membership.

However, Zelenskyy, who was on his way to Vilnius to join the summit, expressed disappointment with how the negotiations were playing out.

"We value our allies," he wrote on Twitter but added that "Ukraine also deserves respect".

"It's unprecedented and absurd when time frame is not set neither for the invitation nor for Ukraine's membership," Zelenskyy said. He finished with, "Uncertainty is



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, shakes hands with Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, right, as NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg looks on prior to a meeting ahead of a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, Monday.

weakness. And I will openly discuss this at the summit."

A public flash of anger from the Ukrainian leader, who has been hailed by the

West as a hero for his leadership during the Russian invasion, could renew tensions in Vilnius just as they had begun to subside.

On Monday evening, the night before the summit opened, Turkey withdrew its objections to Sweden joining the alliance, a step toward the

unity that Western leaders have been eager to demonstrate in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The deal was reached after days of intensive meetings, and it's poised to expand the alliance's strength in Northern Europe. "Rumors of the death of NATO's unity were greatly exaggerated," Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, told reporters triumphantly on Tuesday. According to a joint statement issued when the deal was announced, Erdogan will ask Turkey's parliament to approve Sweden joining NATO. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, another holdout, is expected to take a similar step.

The outcome is a victory for Biden as well, who has touted NATO's expansion as an example of how Russia's invasion of Ukraine has backfired on Moscow. Finland has already become the 31st member of the alliance, and Sweden is on deck to become the 32nd. Both Nordic countries were historically nonaligned until the war increased fears of

Russian aggression.

Because of the deal on Sweden's membership, "this summit is already historic before it has started," Stoltenberg said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that NATO's expansion is "one of the reasons that led to the current situation."

"It looks like the Europeans don't understand their mistake," Peskov said. He warned against putting Ukraine on a fast track for NATO membership. "Potentially it's very dangerous for the European security, it carries very big risks," Peskov said.

Biden began Tuesday by meeting with Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, where he emphasized his commitment to transatlantic cooperation. "Nothing happens here that doesn't affect us," he told Nausėda. The White House said Nausėda presented Biden with the Order of Vytautas the Great, the highest award a Lithuanian president can bestow. Biden is the first US president to receive it.

Zelensky: NATO's absurd plans for Ukraine fall short

AP ■ VILNIUS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday blasted as "absurd" the absence of a timetable for his country's membership in NATO, injecting harsh criticism into a gathering of the alliance's leaders that was intended to showcase solidarity in the face of Russian aggression.

The broadside from Zelenskyy could renew tensions at the summit shortly after it saw a burst of goodwill after Turkey agreed to advance Sweden's bid to join NATO. Allies hope to resolve the seething negotiations and leave Vilnius with a clear path forward for the alliance and its support for Ukraine.

Officials have drafted a proposal, which has not been publicly released, on Ukraine's potential membership. US President Joe Biden expressed support during a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, but Zelenskyy wrote on Twitter that he was not satisfied.

"We value our allies," he said but added that "Ukraine also deserves respect."

"It's unprecedented and absurd when time frame is not set neither for the invitation nor for Ukraine's membership," Zelenskyy said. He finished with, "Uncertainty is weakness. And I will openly discuss this at the summit." Zelenskyy is expected to meet with Biden and other NATO leaders on Wednesday.

There have been sharp divisions within the alliance over Ukraine's desire to join NATO, which was promised back in 2008 even though few steps were taken toward that goal. Stoltenberg wrote in Foreign Affairs on Monday that the alliance would "upgrade our political ties" by forming a NATO-Ukraine Council, which would be "a platform for decisions and crisis consultation." In addition, he said Tuesday that NATO would forgo requiring "membership action plan" for Ukraine, removing another



hurdle. But that did not seem to alleviate Zelenskyy's concerns. In addition, the Baltic states — including Lithuania, which is hosting the summit — have pushed for a strong show of support and a clear pathway toward membership for Ukraine.

However, the United States and Germany were urging caution. Biden said last week that Ukraine wasn't ready to join. Members of NATO, he told CNN, need to "meet all the qualifications, from democratization to a whole range of other issues," a nod toward longstanding concerns about governance and corruption in Kyiv. In addition, some fear that bringing Ukraine into NATO would serve more as a provocation to Russia than as a deterrence against aggression.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, said allies were debating the "precise nature" of Ukraine's pathway to membership. However, he promised that the summit would demonstrate how Russian President Vladimir Putin's hopes for fractures within NATO will be unfulfilled. "He has been disappointed at every turn," Sullivan said. "Vilnius will very much disappoint him." The dispute over Ukraine stands in contrast to a hard-fought agreement to advance Sweden's membership. The deal was reached after days of intensive meetings, and it's poised to expand the alliance's strength in Northern Europe.

Trump lawyers agree to delay pretrial conference in classified documents case

AP ■ MIAMI

Lawyers for former President Donald Trump say they agreed with federal prosecutors to delay to next week a pretrial hearing to discuss how classified information is handled in court as he faces federal charges that he illegally hoarded classified documents at his Florida estate.

The hearing to discuss the Classified Information Procedures Act had previously been set for Friday. But an attorney for Trump's valet Walt Nauta, who was charged alongside the former president, said he has another bench trial this week in Washington preventing him from appearing Friday in South Florida.

The attorneys said in their filing that they can appear at the pretrial conference to go over the 1980 law on July 18, adding they had also checked with US attorneys on moving the date.



The judge in the case, US District Judge Aileen Cannon, still needs to agree to the new date. Trump and Nauta were charged in a 38-count indictment with conspiring to hide classified documents at Mar-a-Lago from federal investigators. Both men have pleaded not guilty. Trump has denied any wrongdoing and has slammed the prosecution as an effort to hurt his bid to reclaim the White House in 2024.

EU faces cliffhanger vote on bill fighting climate change

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Protesters and legislators converged on the European Union parliament on Tuesday as the bloc prepared a cliffhanger vote on protecting its threatened nature and shielding it from disruptive environmental change, in a test of the EU's global climate credentials.

Spurred on by climate activist Greta Thunberg, a few hundred demonstrators demanded that the EU push through a bill to beef up the restoration of nature in the 27-nation bloc that was damaged during decades of industrial expansion.

A counter-demonstration of farmers demanded a slower approach that would lessen the impact on their income. Inside the legislature in Strasbourg, France, parliamentarians put in last-minute efforts to sway Wednesday's vote, which could play a key

part of the EU's biodiversity protection plans off the table. The legislature's environment committee last month was deadlocked at 44-44 on it.

The bill is a key part of the EU's vaunted European Green Deal that seeks to establish the world's most ambitious climate and biodiversity targets and make the bloc the global point of reference on all climate issues. The plans proposed by the EU's executive commission set binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species, with the aim by 2030 to cover at least 20 per cent of the region's land and sea areas.

"This is really a crunch moment, not only for Green Deal, but also whether Europe stands by its word," said Greens leader Terry Reintke. "Are we the ones that are talking and telling us what to do but not doing it ourselves?"

The EU's executive commission wants the nature restoration law to be a key part

of the system since it is necessary for the overall deal to have the maximum impact. Others say that if the EU fails on the nature restoration law, it would indicate an overall fatigue on climate issues.

The bill long looked like a shoo-in as it gathered widespread support in member nations and was staunchly defended by the EU's executive commission and its president Ursula von der Leyen.

But von der Leyen's own political group, the Christian Democrat European People's Party, turned sour on it and now vehemently opposes it, claiming it will affect food security and undermine the income of farmers and dis-gruntle a European population focused more on jobs and their wallets. Like some nations and leaders, they want to hit pause such far-reaching climate legislation.

"For the next five years we have to care a lot about our

industrial base. You have to care a lot about competitiveness in the European Union. So we have to manage the big changes needed in a way that we don't lose economic power," said EPP chief Manfred Weber.

As the largest group, with 177 seats in the 705-seat legislature, its opposition has been key in turning the issue into a hot political debate. And on Tuesday few ventured to predict which way the vote would go.

The member states have already agreed by a large majority to back a slightly more flexible version of the bill. If parliament backs the plan on Wednesday both institutions would sit down to broker a final layout in the second half of the year.

The commission has said there is no reason to reject the plan now as too rigid, since there is still time for compromises.

Thai PM quits politics after defeat

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who served almost nine years in office after seizing power in a 2014 military coup, said Tuesday that he is leaving politics. His announcement came after the political party for which he served as a prime minister candidate this year finished fifth in May's general election, capturing just 36 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives.

Prayuth, 69, a former army commander, made the announcement on the Facebook page of Ruam Thai Sang Chart, or the United Thai Nation Party. He had been their nominee to return as prime minister.

"I would like to announce my retirement from politics by resigning as a member of United Thai Nation," Prayuth wrote. "I'd like to ask the party leader, executives and members to continue their political activities with a strong ideology of protecting



the institutions, the nation, the religion and the monarchy, and take care of the Thai people."

Parliament on Thursday is due to select a new prime minister. The nominee from the top-running, progressive Move Forward Party who has assembled a majority coalition of eight parties with 312 seats in the Lower House, must win a majority vote of at least 376 of the combined vote of the House and the non-elected Senate, which has 250 members. Because of political differences with the conservative Senate, it is uncertain

that the party's leader, Pita Limjaroenrat, can get approved.

After serving as prime minister in the unelected military government that came to power in the 2014 coup, Prayuth was returned to the job after the 2019 election as a candidate of the army-backed Palang Pracharath Party. Prime ministers do not need to be Members of Parliament, and Prayuth didn't contest the polls in 2019 or this year. Had Prayuth been returned to office this year, he would only have been able to serve two more years under constitutional term limits. He was already one of Thailand's longest-serving prime ministers. Prayuth did not specify a reason for leaving politics but listed what he considered his accomplishments in office and said: "In these past nine years, I as prime minister have worked with my full determination and strength to protect the nation, the religion and the monarchy, and for the best interest of the beloved people."

BOA to pay more than \$100 mn for opening accounts without consent

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Bank of America must pay more than USD 100 million to customers for doubling up on some fees, withholding reward bonuses and opening accounts without customer consent.

Bank of America will pay USD 90 million in penalties to its organisation and USD 60 million in penalties to the OCC, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said on Tuesday. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency found the bank's double-dipping on fees was illegal.

Bank of America, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, serves 68 million people and small business clients. The bank had USD 2.4 trillion in consolidated assets and USD 1.9 trillion in domestic deposits as of March 31, making it the second-largest bank in the US.

Bank of America had a policy of charging customers USD 35 after the bank declined a transaction because the customer did not have enough funds in their account, the CFPB said. The agency determined that the bank double-dipped by allowing fees to be repeatedly charged for the same transaction.

The bank said that it voluntarily reduced overdraft fees and eliminated all non-sufficient fund fees in the first half of last year.

Bank of America also offered people cash rewards and bonus points when signing up for a card, but the CFPB said the bank illegally withheld promised credit card account bonuses. Since at least 2012, Bank of America employees illegally applied for and enrolled consumers in credit card accounts without their knowledge or authorisation, the CFPB said.

'Iran not developing nukes currently'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US intelligence assessments say Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons at the moment but has ramped up activities that could help it develop them.

The assessment from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released Monday says Iran has moved to increase its capacity to produce an atomic bomb since 2020 but has stopped short of that so far.

The findings corresponded with previous U.S. assessments about Iran's nuclear program, although many in Congress and elsewhere have been skeptical of those.

The Biden administration has been defending its desire to return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA, since it first took office. That

effort has been complicated in recent months by the suspension of its chief negotiator, Rob Malley, who was placed on unpaid leave last month pending an investigation into claims he mishandled classified information.

"Iran is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities that would be necessary to produce a testable nuclear device," according to the two-page unclassified synopsis of the report.

However, Iran is also pursuing "research and development activities that would bring it closer to producing the fissile material needed for completing a nuclear device following a decision to do so," the report said.

In that regard, Iran continues to violate the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal regarding uranium enrichment that it agreed to with world pow-

ers, the report said. The Trump administration withdrew from that agreement in 2018. "Iran continues to increase the size and enrichment level of its uranium stockpile beyond JCPOA limits," the report said, adding that it also continues to exceed JCPOA restrictions on advanced centrifuge research and development.

These findings have been generally supported by inspections from the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In addition to the nuclear findings, the U.S. intelligence report said that Iranian ballistic missile programs continue to pose a significant threat to countries around the Middle East. "Iran has emphasized improving the accuracy, lethality, and reliability of its missiles," it said.

INDAG
INDAG RUBBER LIMITED
(CIN: L74899DL1978PLC009038)
Regd. Office: T1, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017.
Ph. No. 011-26963172/73, E-mail ID: info@indagrubber.com, website: www.indagrubber.com

NOTICE OF THE 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION
Notice is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 03:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC") Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility only including e-voting/remote e-voting without the physical presence of the members at a common venue to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM dated May 5, 2023, in compliance with Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020 and Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs followed by Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and all other relevant circulars issued from time to time ("MCA Circulars") and Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 and SEBI/HO/CFD/POD-2/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023, issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circulars") (collectively referred to as "relevant circulars").

REMOTE E-VOTING
In accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the Company has availed services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide Electronic Voting Facility to its members. Members may please note below with respect to the remote e-voting services as provided by the Company -

(i) the ordinary and the special business as set out in the Notice of AGM may be transacted through remote e-voting which shall commence from July 31, 2023 at 9:00 am and end on August 2, 2023 at 5:00 pm.
(ii) A person whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date of July 27, 2023 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting electronically at the AGM by selecting EVEN number of the company.
(iii) Any person who has acquired shares and become members of the company after sending of AGM Notice in electronic form but before the cut-off date of July 27, 2023, may obtain their user ID and password for remote e-voting from the Company's RTA via e-mail at: admin@skylinert.com or NSDL at voting.nsdl.co.in. However, if the person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting votes.
(iv) The remote e-voting shall be disabled by NSDL after August 2, 2023 at 5:00 pm and no voting shall be allowed after the said date and time.
(v) The facility of e-voting will also be made available at the AGM on all the resolutions as set out in the Notice of 44th AGM. The procedure to cast the vote through e-voting system of NSDL has been described in the Notice of AGM.
(vi) Those members, attending the AGM through VCO/AVM facility and who have not cast their vote on the Resolutions through Remote e-voting shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system during the AGM.
(vii) A member may participate in the AGM after exercising his vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the AGM.
(viii) The documents as may be required for members' inspection will be available electronically for inspection without any fee during the AGM.
(ix) In case of any queries, members may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-Voting user manual available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on 022-4886 7000 and 022-2499 7000 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, National Securities Depository Limited, Trade Floor, 'A' Wing, 4th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013, at the designated email id - evoting@nsdl.co.in who will also address the grievances connected with voting by electronic means. Members may also write to the Company Secretary at info@indagrubber.com.
The details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Company www.indagrubber.com and the website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Monica Dio Mr. Vard Prakash & Mr. Vard Prakash S/o Late Mr. Tabu Ram, was the owner of the Plot No. 31, area measuring 125.5 Sq. Yds., out of Chakra No. 42/14, situated in the area of Village Hastadi, colony known as R-Block East, Mohan Garden, New Delhi - 110029, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 01.10.2004, regd. at doc. No. 22912 & Mr. Vard Prakash died on 15.05.2012. The abovesaid property is mortgaged with my client i.e. M/s. Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. and the only surviving heirs of Late Mr. Vard Prakash are Raj, Kumar, Deshak Kumar, Suresh Kumar and Monica alias Monica Verma. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in the property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the abovesaid property.
Rajshwari Tiwari, Advocate
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi - 110001
Mob: +91-9876186323

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Sourabh Shukla who is purchasing the Land Area Measuring 50 Sq. Yards Out Of Kharsa No. 367/Min, Khata No. 00136, Situated In The Village Of Habaipur Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt Gurgaon Haryana (U.P.) from Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Kanti Prasad, who had owner through Khatauni Record, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.
Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2,
Noida, UP - 201301, Contact@ 0120-4269378

गुरु नानक देव जूनियरबर्दि, ऑसिडस
नॉटिस
जूनियरबर्दि केंद्र विषय संबंधित पृष्ठबर्दि ब्रॉकर की कंटीन डॉ अलॉटमेंट संबंधी डिने-पंडर सिटी 21-07-2023 तक मंगी जाये वन। अलॉटमेंट संबंधी वेबसाइट, Term & Conditions जूनियरबर्दि वेबसाइट पर www.gndu.ac.in (Tenders) डाउनलोड की जाये व अडे रिक्वायर्ड डिने-पंडर नजलन साका डा पृष्ठ बर्दि जात ।
रजिस्ट्रार

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM, CHAMPAWAT
Phone/Fax: 05965-230044 E-Mail: executivechampawat@gmail.com
Bid Notification No : 1211 / Nivida / 523 Date: 10.07.2023
E - TENDER NOTICE (Single Bid System)
Name of the works: Construction of store room, boundary wall at store Tanakpur.
Date of Publication on e-procurement portal Date. 12.07.2023 at 17.00 hrs.
Note : Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal - www.uktenders.gov.in & contact 05965-230044.
जल संवर्धन योजना के अन्तर्गत चम्पावत, हरद्वार नगर के अन्तर्गत 'आरक' परियोजना के अन्तर्गत 'आरक' में नौ नए बांधूँ

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
No. 2023/Track-III/CM/1 New Delhi, dated 11.07.2023
CORRIGENDUM-V
Subject : E-Tender No. TM-2301 for procurement of Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car "SPURT CAR" to be opened on 18.07.2023
The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 18.07.2023 has been postponed to 10.08.2023.
All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged.
(Vijay Singh)
Director, Track (Machines)
Railway Board
Tele: No. 011-47845531
E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in
2134/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Markets climb on firm global trends

Unabated foreign fund inflows seen

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied on Tuesday tracking a positive trend in the global markets and unabated foreign fund inflows. Buying in index major Reliance Industries, Infosys and ITC also helped markets extend their previous day's gain. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 273.67 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 65,617.84. During the day, it rallied 526.42 points or 0.80 per cent to 65,870.59. The NSE Nifty climbed 83.50 points or 0.43 per cent to end at 19,439.40. From the Sensex pack, Sun Pharma, Maruti, Tata Motors, ITC, Nestle, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, Asian Paints, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid and Reliance Industries were the major gainers. Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, State Bank of India, HDFC, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggard from the 30-share pack. "The market now awaits



the Q1 results, IT sector which kicks off tomorrow, where expectations are muted with a focus on the sustenance of margin and improvement in long-term guidance. The positivity also stems from China's anticipated stimulus to withstand economic growth and hope on the moderation in US inflation data," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.97 per cent and smallcap index rallied 0.82 per cent. Among the indices, telecommunication climbed 2.05 per cent, capital goods jumped 1.79 per cent, industrials rallied 1.56 per cent, consumer durables (1.35 per cent), power (1.34 per cent), auto (1.34 per cent), FMCG (1.21 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.15 per cent). Metal, commodities,

Rupee rises 23 paise to close at 82.36 against USD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee gained 23 paise and settled for the day at 82.36 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by a positive trend in equity markets and steady foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.42 against the US dollar and settled at 82.36 (provisional), up 23 paise over its previous close.

During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.32 and a low of 82.43.

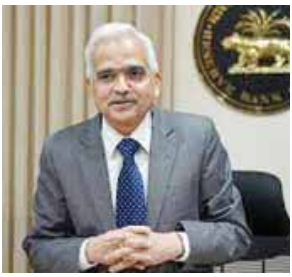
This is the second straight day of rise for the rupee, during which it has gained 25 paise.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at 82.59 against the dollar.

"The Indian rupee appreciated for the second day in a row following foreign fund inflows and stronger Asian currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

The long liquidation from speculators and expectation of the central bank intervention supported the rupee. In the near-term, spot USDINR is expected to face resistance around 82.95 and support at 82.20, Parmar said.

RBI Gov asks banks to remain extra careful and vigilant



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday asked banks to be extra careful and vigilant in view of the adverse global developments while strengthening corporate governance.

The governor held meetings with the MD and CEOs of public sector banks and select private sector banks here.

Das in his introductory remarks, while noting the good performance of the Indian banking system despite various adverse global developments, stressed that it is in times like these, banks need to be extra careful and vigilant, the RBI said in a statement.

"The Governor also emphasised the need for MD & CEOs to pay special attention to strengthening the governance in the banks and focus on the tripod of banking stability consisting of compliance, risk management and audit functions," it added.

Deal values plummet 78% in Jan-Jun to USD 23 bn: Report



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Deal making by India Inc has suffered severely due to economic challenges in the first half of this year, a report said on Tuesday.

There were only 676 deals with an underlying value of USD 23 billion in the January-June 2023 period, 78 per cent down in value terms and a fall of 42 per cent in terms of volume, consultancy firm Grant Thornton Bharat said.

Merger and acquisition activity suffered the most, with the values down 92 per cent to USD 6.685 billion, the report said, adding that there was a much higher base in the year-ago period which witnessed the mergers of HDFC-HDFC Bank and also LTI with Mindtree.

"The first half of 2023 witnessed a decline in deal activity in India, primarily due to uncertainties causing supply chain disruptions, leading to inflation, and fluctuating inter-

est rates," its partner Shanthi Vijeta said. Vijeta, however, feels more optimistic about the future quarters, given macro-economic conditions, reduced market volatility, and stable interest rates.

In the private equity/venture capital (PE/VC) funds space, 521 deals totalling USD 16.4 billion were recorded, which represented a 40 per cent decline in volumes and a 35 per cent decline in terms of value, the report said.

Three billion-dollar deals and 29 high-value deals in the PE/VC sector helped mitigate the impact of the downturn in the mergers and acquisition activity, it said.

The pharma, healthcare, and biotech sectors emerged as the leader in terms of value on the back of a one-billion-dollar deal and three other high-value deals within the sector, which were valued at USD 3.45 billion, the report said.

Gold price remains flat at ₹59,505/10 g



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price remained flat at ₹59,505 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday, according to HDFC Securities. Silver also ruled flat in the second session at ₹72,500 per kilogram.

Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹59,505/10 gram, unchanged from its previous day close as the strength of the rupee nullified the gains of overseas gold prices, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

The rupee has appreciated nearly 0.33 per cent against the US dollar in the past two sessions, Gandhi added.

In the global markets, gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,930 per ounce and USD 23.14 per ounce, respectively.

Gold price inched higher amidst a fall in yields and dollar index and as the market participants maintained a cautious stance ahead of US inflation data that could influence the Federal Reserve's rate policy trajectory, Navneet Damani, Senior VP - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

Sebi slaps over ₹25 cr on 2 entities in GDR manipulation case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday imposed a penalty totalling Rs 25.2 crore on two individuals in a case related to the manipulation of global depository receipt (GDR) issuance of Hiran Orgchoem Ltd.

Individually, the regulator levied a fine of Rs 25 crore on Arun Panchariya and Rs 20 lakh on Mukesh Chauradiya. They have been directed to pay the amount within 45 days, according to a Sebi order.

The direction came after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) conducted an investigation to ascertain whether shares underlying GDRs of Hiran Orgchoem Ltd were issued with proper consideration. The period under investigation was from April 2010 to May 2010.

Hiran, which is listed on the BSE, issued 15.38 lakh GDRs amounting to USD 10 million representing 4.61 crore underlying equity shares in



May 2010.

In its order, Sebi found that Panchariya was the key person actively involved in the GDR process of Hiran at every stage and perpetrated fraud on the investors in the Indian securities market by way of subscribing to GDRs in fraudulent manner by obtaining loan, defaulting on loan payment, converting GDRs into equity shares and subsequently selling converted shares.

"Noticee 1 (Panchariya) indulged in employing fraud-

ulent plan/arrangement, device, artifice and contrivance with regard to the subscription of GDRs, creation of underlying shares using the facade of GDR issue, monetising those GDRs through the sale of underlying shares of the GDRs and inducing and alluring Indian investors to deal in shares of Hiran," Sebi said in its 58-page order.

Further, it said that Chauradiya acted as party to the fraud perpetrated on the Indian investors by Panchariya.

"To put it in nutshell, the issuance of these GDRs was for private gain at the cost of public good," Sebi said.

By indulging in such acts, they violated the provisions of Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) rules, it added.

Besides, Panchariya is responsible for the fraudulent scheme and arrangement for subscription of GDRs issued by several companies in which separate enforcement proceedings are going on.

Sebi issues demand notices to 11 entities in Religare Enterprises case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has issued notices to 11 entities asking them to pay Rs 6 crore within 15 days in a case concerning diversion of funds of Religare Finvest, an arm of Religare Enterprises.

In addition, the regulator warned of attachment of assets and accounts if they fail to make the payment within the stipulated time.

The 11 entities that received notices are -- Torus Buildcon, Artifice Properties, Rosestar Marketing, Oscar Investments, Ad Advertising, Zolton Enterprises, Saubhagya Buildcon, Star Artworks, Vitoba Realtors, Devera Developers and Harpal Singh.

The demand notices came after the entities failed to pay the

fine imposed on them by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in October 2022.

The regulator has issued notices to seven entities on Monday and four remaining on Tuesday and directed them to pay a little over Rs 6 crore, which includes interest and recovery cost, within 15 days.

In the event of non-payment of dues, the regulator will recover the amount by attaching and selling their moveable and immovable properties. Besides, the entities will face attachment of their bank accounts.

Also, the regulator takes the route of arrest and detention in prison to recover the amount.

In October 2022, Sebi imposed penalties totalling Rs 21 crore on 52 entities, including these 11 entities, for huge

diversion and misutilisation of funds of Religare Finvest. In this case, the regulator levied a fine ranging Rs 20 lakh to Rs 85 lakh on these entities.

The case involved a complex web of transactions whereby the funds of listed company Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) were diverted through its subsidiary Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) for the ultimate benefit of the erstwhile promoters -- RHC Holding, Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh. Funds were also misutilised for repayment of earlier loans taken from RFL.

As per the order, the whole scheme of fraud led to the diversion of funds of Rs 2,473.66 crore out of a material subsidiary of REL, a listed company and also misutilisation of funds of Rs 487.92 crore of RFL.

South Eastern Coalfields plans ₹1,218 cr investment to set up solar projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its net zero commitments, Chhattisgarh-based mining company SECL has lined up an investment of Rs 1,218 crore spread up to financial year 2025-26 for setting up solar projects.

South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), with 67 blocks, is among the top three coal producing subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd (CIL), under the Ministry of Coal. In FY23, CIL's output was 703.21 MT, out of which SECL's contribution was 167 MT.

"SECL aims to become a net-zero energy company. SECL plans to develop solar projects of more than 600 MW in the coming years, and plans to invest more than Rs 1,000 crore in renewable energy. The investments are part of the company's strategy to expand

and diversify its business to achieve net zero commitments," SECL said in a statement.

Sharing the break up of the investment plan, SECL said two solar projects of 20 megawatt (MW) each are being set up at Bhatgaon and Bishrampur, and another 0.8 MW at Saraipali Korba area in Chhattisgarh. Total cost of these project is Rs 180.71 crore.

A 1.5 MW floating solar plant will be installed at Sharda OC Sohagpur area in Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs 9.84 crore. The detailed project report for a 40-MW solar project worth Rs 286.51 crore is under the process of approval.

A ground-mounted solar project of 60 MW worth Rs 420 crore is being set up at Johilla Phase-II and a 46-MW project worth Rs 322 crore in Hasdeo.

Vedanta shares decline nearly 2%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Vedanta on Tuesday fell by nearly 2 per cent after Taiwan's Foxconn withdrew from a USD 19.5 billion semiconductor joint venture with mining baron Anil Agarwal's firm.

The stock went lower by 1.67 per cent to settle at Rs 277.55 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it declined 2.60 per cent to Rs 274.90.

On the NSE, it fell by 1.59 per cent to end at Rs 277.75 per share.

In volume terms, 6.66 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 1.36 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

Foxconn has withdrawn from a USD 19.5 billion semiconductor joint venture with Vedanta Ltd as the venture struggled to get a technology partner to make chips that are used in mobile phones to



refrigerators and cars.

In a statement, Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics maker, said it has determined it will not move forward on the joint venture with Vedanta.

Agarwal's metals-to-oil conglomerate responded saying it was "fully committed to its semiconductor fab project and we have lined up other partners

to set up India's first foundry".

Foxconn, best known for assembling iPhones and other Apple products, and Vedanta last year signed a pact to set up semiconductor and display production plants in Gujarat.

European chipmaker STMicroelectronics was being roped in as a technology partner for the venture but talks were deadlocked.

Govt rolls out mandatory quality standards for lighters, water bottles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has issued mandatory quality standard norms for potable water bottles and flame-producing lighters with a view to contain import of the sub-standard goods and boost domestic manufacturing of these products.

A notification regarding this was issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on July 5.

The two items, under these quality control orders (QCO), cannot be produced, sold/traded, imported and stocked unless they bear the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) mark.

Now, manufacturing,

storing and sale of non-BIS certified products are prohibited as per the BIS Act, 2016.

The violation of the provision of the BIS Act can attract a penalty of imprisonment up to two years or with fine of at least Rs 2 lakh for the first offence.

In case of second and subsequent offences, the fine will increase to Rs 5 lakh minimum and extend up to ten times the value of goods or articles.

"These QCOs will come into effect six months from the date of notification. These QCOs aim to strengthen the quality ecosystem in India and enhance public health and safety of consumers," the DPIIT said on Tuesday.

Housing prices rise 11% annually in Pune in last 12 months: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Average housing price in Pune has risen 11 per cent to Rs 5,208 per square feet in the last year on better demand, according to a report by realty firm Gera Developments.

Pune-based realty firm Gera Developments has come out with its bi-annual 'The Gera Pune Residential Realty Report', which is based on primary and proprietary research and covers all existing projects in a 30 km radius of the city centre. "The Pune real estate market is showing dual signs of both boom and consolidation at the same time. The prices have gone up 11.03 per cent from Rs 5,208 per sq ft in June 2022 to Rs 5,782 per sq ft in June 2023.

"There has been an across-the-board increase in the rates



of new projects, existing phases of old projects as well as new phases of old projects," Rohit Gera, Managing Director of Gera Developments, said.

This indicates a strong demand as home buyers have purchased homes at higher prices than ever before, he added.

As per the data, the prices in the newly launched project have gone up to Rs 6,499 per

square feet in June this year from Rs 6,190 per square feet in the year-ago period.

The rates in new phases launched in existing projects increased 12 per cent to Rs 5,932 per square feet from Rs 5,293 per square feet.

In the existing projects, the housing prices grew 3 per cent to Rs 5,539 per square feet in June 2023 over Rs 5,369 per square feet a year ago.

White collar hiring dips 3% in June on cautious recruiter sentiments: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

White collar jobs witnessed a 3 per cent annual decline in June due to cautious recruiter sentiments in sectors including IT, BFSI, manufacturing, according to leading talent platform foundit.

Sectors such as IT (- 19 per cent), BFSI (- 13 per cent), Home Appliances (- 26 per cent), and Production/Manufacturing (- 14 per cent) have not yet bounced back to last year's hiring numbers, despite the monthly positive

incline seen in a few of these industries, it said.

The foundit Insights Tracker (fit), earlier known as Monster Employment Index, is a monthly analysis of online job posting activity based on a real-time review of millions of employer job opportunities.

However, on a month-on-month basis, there was a 2 per cent growth, which indicated a resurgence in online hiring activity across key industries.

Positive e-recruitment activity was observed in June

2023, on a month-on-month basis, with sectors such as healthcare (11 per cent), BPO (7 per cent), production and manufacturing (5 per cent), and logistics (9 per cent) leading the way, the report said.

"It is encouraging to see a positive upturn in hiring activity across a majority of industries we track. Jobs in segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, and even IT have returned, and we expect to see better hiring intentions in the coming quarter as companies revis-



it their talent requirements," Sekhar Garisa, CEO - foundit (previously Monster APAC & ME), a Quesq company, said.

Continuous upskilling and adaptation to changing industry needs is a necessity to grow in the current market environment and as seen during any global slowdown, India Inc exhibited cautious hiring sentiments but this is bound to bounce back with time, he added.

In terms of cities, metro fared well with an overall 3

per cent hiring growth in June, while recruitment across tier-II cities dipped by 2 per cent.

Across experience levels, demand for freshers (with 0-2 years) on a monthly basis stabilised, while top management roles (over 15 years) saw maximum growth of 4 per cent.

Senior level roles (11-15 years) saw a marginal 1 per cent growth, while demand for mid-senior (7-10 years) and intermediate (4-6 years) level professionals registered a 2 per cent increase each.

Djokovic in 400th Slam match

AFP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic contests his 400th Grand Slam match at Wimbledon on Tuesday, aiming for a place in a record-equaling 46th major semi-final.

As the Serb prepares to face Russia's Andrey Rublev with his eyes on a 12th last-four spot at the All England Club, women's world number one Iga Swiatek is in uncharted territory.

The US Open and French Open champion, who had never got past the fourth round before this year, tackles Elina Svitolina, the Ukrainian star riding a wave of emotional good will at the tournament.

Djokovic, chasing a record-equaling eighth Wimbledon title and 24th Grand Slam, will be playing for a third day in succession.

The 36-year-old boasts a 3-1 winning record against Rublev including a straight-sets demolition in January's Australian Open quarter-finals where he lost just seven games.

"Andrey is a fantastic player who's got one of the best forehands in the game. Brings a lot of intensity to the court with his grunts," said the world number two.

"He kind of scares off his opponents across the net! Extremely nice guy."

Rublev is one of four Russian and Belarusian players - three men, one woman -- to make the quarter-finals.

Twelve months ago, they were banned from the tournament in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Belarus is a key ally of Moscow.

World number seven Rublev needed five sets to get past Russian-born Kazakh Alexander Bublik in the last 16.

He is in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon for the first time and eighth at the majors but has never made it to a semi-final.

"Novak is one of the best players on grass. Nothing else to say," said the 25-year-old.

The winner of that quarter-



final will face either eighth-seeded Jannik Sinner or world number 92 Roman Safiullin of Russia.

Sinner reached the same stage in 2022, losing to Djokovic from two sets up.

While Sinner is playing in his fifth quarter-final at the majors, it will be a first for Safiullin.

'UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT'

The 25-year-old had never previously got past the second round at a Slam but has knocked out two former semi-finalists in Roberto Bautista Agut and Denis Shapovalov.

Swiatek saved two match points to defeat Belinda Bencic in the last 16, having been untroubled in the first three rounds.

The 22-year-old Pole faces crowd favourite Elina Svitolina

SINNER REACHED THE SAME STAGE IN 2022, LOSING TO DJOKOVIC FROM TWO SETS UP. WHILE SINNER IS PLAYING IN HIS FIFTH QUARTER-FINAL AT THE MAJORS, IT WILL BE A FIRST FOR SAFIULLIN

who has made the last-eight for a second successive Slam after only returning from maternity leave in April.

Her three-set win over former world number one Victoria Azarenka on Sunday saw her Belarusian rival booed off Court One.

The jeers came after some fans had apparently been unaware of Svitolina's policy of refusing to shake hands with players from Belarus and Russia in protest at the war.

However, the ire of some spectators was aimed at Azarenka who they believed had deliberately snubbed Svitolina.

On Monday, the WTA, which runs the women's game, pleaded with fans to show "understanding and respect" when Ukraine players refuse to shake hands.

Svitolina was in tears as she conducted an on-court TV interview after her triumph over Azarenka, describing it as a victory for Ukraine.

Swiatek has been vocal in her support of Ukraine and wears a ribbon in the colours of the country on her cap.

"It's good to have these kind of players (Svitolina) on tour that are nice and they have good values," said Swiatek who won the pair's only previous meeting in straight sets on clay in Rome two years ago.

In Tuesday's other quarter-final, US fourth-ranked Jessica Pegula takes on unseeded Marketa Vondrousova, a former French Open runner-up now down at 42 in the world.

Pegula is in her sixth quarter-final at the Slams but has yet to make it to a semi-final.

Swiatek Out Of Wimbledon

AP ■ WIMBLEDON

Three months after returning from maternity leave, Elina Svitolina reached the Wimbledon semifinals by beating top-ranked Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-2 Tuesday.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian gave birth to her daughter in October and returned to the WTA tour in April. She received a wild-card entry to the grass-court tournament one month after reaching the quarterfinals at the French Open.

"First of all I'm going to have a beer, probably," Svitolina said on court.

"At the beginning of the tournament if someone would tell me that I will be in the semifinal and beating world No. 1, I would just say that they're crazy."

Swiatek, a four-time major champion, won her third French Open title last month but was playing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time.

At one point, Svitolina won 20 of 22 points against Swiatek on Centre Court, including 16 of the final 18 points in the first set.

Svitolina will next face Marketa Vondrousova for a spot in Saturday's final. It will be the Ukrainian player's second appearance in the Wimbledon semifinals. She lost to eventual champion Simona Halep at that stage in 2019.

"I'm just going to enjoy tonight and then get some treatment, get some massage, much needed and then just regroup and be ready for the next big battle," Svitolina said.

Svitolina has been ranked as high as No. 3 in the world and also reached the U.S. Open semifinals in 2019. She is currently ranked 76th. To reach the semifinals this year, she has beaten four Grand Slam champions - Venus Williams in the first round, Sofia Kenin in the third, Victoria Azarenka in the fourth and Swiatek in the quarterfinals.

Vondrousova won five straight games in the final set to beat fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 on



No. 1 Court. The left-handed Czech who reached the French Open final in 2019 trailed 4-1 in the third set but didn't lose another game after that.

"I'm just trying to stay in every game. It can change pretty quickly," Vondrousova said.

"She got so much better in the second set. She was pushing me today."

Pegula is now 0-6 in Grand Slam quarterfinals. The 29-year-old American was playing at this stage at Wimbledon for the first time.

Vondrousova had won only four matches on grass heading into the tournament at the All England Club. But she has won five in a row on the surface over the last eight days.

"My best result here was second round. It's amazing. I'm just loving grass now," Vondrousova said.

The victory for Vondrousova is her fourth over a seeded player at this year's Wimbledon tournament. She beat No. 12 Veronika Kudermetova in the second round, No. 20 Donna Vekic in the third round and No. 32 Marie Bouzkova in the fourth round.

Pegula was leading 3-1 in the third set when play was suspended so that the roof over No. 1 Court could be closed with rain approaching. Pegula then held serve in the next game to lead 4-1 before Vondrousova took over.



Denis Suarez returns to Villarreal for three seasons

IANIS ■ MADRID (SPAIN)

Villarreal CF have reached an agreement to re-sign former Barcelona, Arsenal and Manchester City player Denis Suarez Fernández, who will wear the iconic yellow jersey for the next three seasons.

The Spanish midfielder lands in Villarreal for his second spell. He played for the Yellow Submarine in the 2015/16 season, on loan from Sevilla FC, with great success and returns for another spell at Villarreal.

That season Suarez played a total of 48 games, scoring five goals and providing 13 assists. He was an important part of Villarreal CF's run to the semifinals of the Europa League -- which he finished as the competition's top scorer -- and fourth spot finish in La Liga.

Now 29, Denis Suárez has played for Manchester City, FC Barcelona, Sevilla FC, Arsenal, RC Celta and RCD Espanyol, as well as Villarreal CF.

Born in Salceda de Caselas, Galicia, an autonomous community of Spain, Suarez played youth football in his home country for Porrino Industrial and Celta Vigo before joining Manchester City in 2011. He joined Barcelona in 2013 and mostly played for their 'B' team before being loaned out to Sevilla for two seasons as part of his development process.

After spending time at Sevilla and Villarreal, Suarez returned to Barcelona in 2016 on a four-year contract. But after only appearing for them in 12 La Liga matches, he was loaned out to Arsenal in 2019 till the end of the season.

'Stoked' Ricciardo replaces de Vries at AlphaTauri

AFP ■ PARIS

Daniel Ricciardo is back on the Formula One grid, the Australian replacing rookie Nyck de Vries at AlphaTauri, the team announced on Tuesday.

Eight-time Grand Prix winner Ricciardo parted company with McLaren at the end of last season, but has remained part of the F1 scene as Red Bull's reserve driver.

The 33-year-old will drive for AlphaTauri for the remainder of the season, starting at the Hungarian Grand Prix later this month.

"I am stoked to be back on track with the Red Bull family!" said Ricciardo after impressing in a test at Silverstone.

AlphaTauri boss Franz Tost said he was "pleased to welcome Daniel back into the team".

"There's no doubt about



his driving skills, and he already knows many of us, so his integration will be easy and straight forward," Tost added.

"The team will also profit a lot from his experience, as he is an eight-time Formula 1 Grand Prix winner."

De Vries has endured a tough first season in the fast lane, failing to score a point in the first 10 races. The other AlphaTauri driver, Japan's

Yuki Tsunoda has picked up two points, leaving the team last in the constructor standings.

Ricciardo raced for AlphaTauri in 2012 and 2013 when they were known as Toro Rosso, before being promoted to Red Bull for 2014.

He won seven races for Red Bull, then joined Renault for two seasons in 2019 before moving to McLaren in 2021.

Tottenham sign Israel forward Solomon on free transfer

AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham signed Israel forward Manor Solomon on a free transfer on Tuesday after his successful loan spell at Fulham.

Solomon was able to cancel his contract with Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk after FIFA extended its temporary employment rules relating to the war.

That enabled the 23-year-old to join Ange Postecoglou's side on a five-year deal after passing his medical earlier this week.

Due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year, foreign players contracted to clubs affiliated to Ukrainian or Russian football associations can "unilaterally suspend their employment" until June 30 2024, provided teams are informed of the suspension in writing by July 1.



With Solomon's previous terms with Shakhtar due to expire on December 31, he was able to

become a free agent after he exercised the right to suspend his current employment with the

Ukraine outfit.

The winger, who has 35 Israel caps, is Tottenham's fourth signing since the end of last season.

Dejan Kulusevski's loan move from Juventus was made permanent, with Italy goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario and England midfielder James Maddison also arriving in north London.

Solomon showed his potential during his loan with Fulham last season after waiting until January to make his full debut due to a serious knee injury.

He scored five goals in 24 appearances as Fulham finished a creditable 10th in the Premier League.

Solomon could face his former club Shakhtar in a friendly on August 6 after it was announced last month that Tottenham would host the Ukrainian champions.

CAB announces ticket prices for fixtures at Eden Gardens

IANIS ■ KOLKATA

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president Snehasish Ganguly has made an announcement regarding the ticket prices for the upcoming ICC World Cup matches scheduled to be held at Eden Gardens.

Last month, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the schedule for the ODI World Cup kicks off on October 5 with a repeat of the 2019 Final as England take on New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

According to the fixtures, the iconic Eden Gardens Stadium has been designated to host a total of five matches, including one semifinal.

Liton, Shoriful help Bangladesh avoid Afghanistan whitewash

AFP ■ CHITTAGONG (BANGLADESH)

Liton Das top-scored with 53 not out as Bangladesh defeated Afghanistan by seven wickets to avoid a series whitewash in Tuesday's third and final one-day international in Chittagong.

The hosts raced to 129-3 in 23.3 overs after Shoriful Islam's career best 4-21 helped them bowl out Afghanistan for 126 in 45.2 overs.

Tail-ender Azmatullah Omarzai offered some late resistance for Afghanistan to

top-score with 56, his maiden ODI fifty.

Left-arm seamer Fazalhaq Farooqi gave Afghanistan a glimmer of hope, bowling out Naim Sheikh for a duck and Najmul Hossain for 11.

Liton and Shakib Al Hasan put on 61 runs for the third wicket to steady the innings and bring Bangladesh back into control.

Shakib fell to Mohammad Nabi after making a run-a-ball 39, but Liton, who struck three fours and two sixes in his 60-ball innings, took Bangladesh home.



Young Towhid Hridoy hit the winning boundary off Ziaur-Rehman to stay unbeaten on 22.

"There will be wins and losses... that's what happened to us in the first two games. We tried to prove that we were the better team in the last game," said Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam.

"It feels good... I was supported by the whole team so it was a good performance."

'Mentality wasn't right' The tourists earlier won the toss and elected to bat first, but

never managed to get their innings going.

"The guys didn't execute, they didn't adjust to the conditions," said Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott.

Shoriful struck early after taking the field for the first time this series, dismissing Ibrahim Zadran for a duck and Rahmat Shah for a duck in the third over.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who smashed a career-best 145 in the previous match, saw one catch land in no man's land but soon top-edged Taskin Ahmed to depart for six.

Shoriful compounded Afghanistan's woes by trapping Nabi leg-before to leave the tourists teetering at 15-4 inside nine overs.

"They played bad shots, the mentality wasn't right today -- we kept losing wickets," Trott added.

"We never had a partnership -- you need that big partnership when rebuilding your innings from 15 or 20 for four."

Hashmatullah Shahidi and Najibullah Zadran stemmed the rot, but Shakib sent back the latter for 10 to stop their partnership from developing.

Shahidi dragged one off Tajjul Islam onto his stumps to end his patient knock of 22 from 54 balls.

Omarzai helped Afghanistan past the 100-run mark after the quick departure of debutants Abdul Rahman (four) and Zia (five).

He was the last man dismissed, holing out a catch to Naim Sheikh at long-off off Taskin, who claimed 2-23.

Afghanistan are already only the second team to win an ODI series in Bangladesh in the past seven years, with world champions England being the other.

TEAM INDIA STARTS TRANSITION PHASE AGAINST WI

PTI ■ ROSEAU (DOMINICA)

The Indian team is set to hit the transition button with much-anticipated debut of Yashasvi Jaiswal in the two-Test series against a wounded West Indies, which is searching for a road to redemption.

While the hosts, after their shock elimination from the ODI World Cup Qualifiers would be eager to prove that they are still relevant in world cricket, the Indian team too is beset with certain challenges.

Cheteshwar Pujara's much-debated exit has created a slot in the Indian top-order and the immensely talented Mumbai left-hander will hope that he lives up to his 'name' and promise that he has shown at the first-class level before being thrown at the deep end of the pool.

While the strait-jacketed solution is putting the debutant at one drop but Shubman Gill is more naturally suited in the middle-order, Jaiswal, 21, usually opens for Mumbai, West Zone and Rest of India in red-ball cricket. But to settle his nerves first up, No. 3 isn't a bad slot to begin with.

Against a bowling attack comprising of seasoned Kumar Roach, Shannon Gabriel, Alzarri Joseph and Jason Holder, it will be a baptism by fire for young Jaiswal before he faces South Africa in Rainbow nation at the end of the year and the mighty Australians during the 2024-25 winter.

India's new World Test Championship cycle will be a way tougher assignment compared to the previous two editions, when a set team reached back-to-back finals riding on a top-notch pace bowling unit.

But in the absence of an injured Jasprit Bumrah, who might find it difficult to play Test matches on a regular basis and the skilful Mohammed Shami, rested for this series, the Indian attack would surely lack the sting that made the current team a



world beater.

Of the two others, who were part of the famed quartet, Ishant Sharma will be making his commentary debut in this series while Umesh Yadav at 36, might find it difficult to get a recall after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Hence the five-man attack, led by 19-Test old Mohammed Siraj and supported by Shardul Thakur with nine long-form games in his kitty, does look really thin on experience in comparison to the West Indies pace attack.

It will again boil down to how West Indies measure up against the guile and artistry of Ravichandran Ashwin (474 wickets) and Ravindra Jadeja (268), who have close to 750 Test scalps between them.

The choice of four bowlers is automatic but picking one among Mukesh Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat and Navdeep Saini might not be an easy proposition.

Similarly, with two spinners in operation Kona Bharath is a better bet

behind the stumps than Ishan Kishan but the former is on borrowed time due to his performance in front of the wicket. Kishan's flair and being a left-hander can't be ignored for long till Rishabh Pant gets his place back in the side.

The Windsor Park hasn't hosted a Test match in the last six years but this is one format where the assortment Caribbean nations have been at their best in recent years.

It will be foolhardy on India's part to think that West Indies' World Cup qualifier show will impact their Test match performance and that could be a bit of a misnomer.

In their pace attack, the two primary bowlers are Roach (261 wickets), a veteran of nearly 15 years and Gabriel (164 wickets), who has been a potent new ball enforcer. Gabriel doesn't play white ball cricket.

On the Caribbean tracks, both are more than a handful and the 'Holy Trinity' of Indian batting order - skipper Rohit Sharma, the peerless Virat Kohli and comeback-man Ajinkya



Rahane, will have more than a job at hand.

All three have to face different kind of challenges.

For Rohit, it is still a sketchy road and his future will only be clear after the 50-over World Cup. He has to win this two-match series first up and also make significant contribution with the bat in order to remain relevant in the longer format post World Cup.

If one is fair, Rohit has looked most assured in this format compared to shorter ones.

Virat Kohli too needs some tall knocks. The canny West Indies pacers could exploit his problems outside the off-stump channel and a string of low scores will again raise questions if yardstick of dealing with a Cheteshwar Pujara is different from dealing with him.

Both Kohli and Pujara have averaged below 30 in the last three years but only the Saurashtra batter copped criticism and eventually got the axe from the side.

For Ajinkya Rahane, the comeback and elevation to vice-captaincy

might not give a clear picture as his head would be the first on the chopping block if there are a couple of failures as Rituraj Gaikwad is considered a ready replacement.

Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul will also comeback at some point.

So the sub-narratives in the main story will be equally intriguing in the next 13 days.

SQUADS:

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shubman Gill, Rituraj Gaikwad, Virat Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ajinkya

Rahane (vice-captain), KS Bharat (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, Navdeep Saini.

West Indies: Kraigg Brathwaite (C), Jermaine Blackwood (VC), Joshua Da Silva (WK), Alick Athanaze, Rahkeem Cornwall, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, Tegenarine Chanderpaul, Kirk McKenzie, Jomel Warrican.

India dominated Bangladesh in T20I series

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Spinners Deepti Sharma and Shafali Verma held their nerves during death overs as India pulled off a nail-biting eight-run victory over Bangladesh to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20I series, here on Tuesday.

Off-spinner Sultana Khatun claimed a career-best 3/21 as the hosts grounded a star-studded India to a below-par 95 for 8, their lowest-ever total against Bangladesh in the women's T20I. However Bangladesh stumbled to 87 all-out in 20 overs as India took a series-clinching lead with an inconsequential third match set to be played on Thursday.

From a comfortable 86 for 5, Bangladesh lost their last five wickets for just one run in a

space of eight deliveries in what seemed to be an inexplicable batting collapse.

The two young Indian spinners — offie Minnu Mani (4-1-9-2) and left-arm orthodox Anusha Baredy (1/20 in 4 overs) made early inroads before the seasoned duo of Deepti (3/12) and Shafali (3/15) pulled off a heist with controlled bowling in the 19th and 20th over.

Shafali in fact got all her wickets in the final over in which she gave away only solitary run when 10 were needed with four wickets intact. Bangladesh's chase was steered by skipper Nigar Sultana (38; 55b) — the only batter of their side to reach double-digits.

But the skipper failed to finish it off and was brilliantly stumped by Yastika Bhatia in the penultimate over bowled by

Deepti that triggered the collapse.

"Bowlers did well to restrict India. I should have ended the game. I think we didn't get the start we want. Looking forward to the last game," the home team skipper said after the game.

However credit should be

given to skipper Harmanpreet as she has shown a lot of faith in giving full quota of overs to both Minnu and Anusha, who were equal to the task.

"In this series we have a couple of young bowlers who are going to take responsibility and bowl for us. Important for us to



trust them. We are not going to hide them in the field," Harmanpreet said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Minnu, the first woman senior India cricketer from Kerala, got Shamima Sultana (5) who swept but only to get a top-edge to be picked by Shafali.

Spin from both ends yielded result as Deepti gave another breakthrough in Shathi Rani (5) with Harmanpreet taking fantastic one-handed catch at the first slip. But the Bangladesh skipper held fort with some support from Shorna Akter (7 off 17 balls). The duo added vital 34 runs in the middle as one saw a few drooping shoulders in the Indian ranks. It was then Deepti turned it around when she induced a leading edge off Shorna to break the partnership, and there was no looking for

India from there onwards.

Eyeing an unassailable 2-0 lead, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat as they were off to a flyer with Smriti Mandhana (13; 13b) and Shafali (19; 14b) adding 33 in 26 balls before visitors lost half of their side for 58 runs just after the 14th over started. Sultana took the two key wickets of Shafali and Harmanpreet off successive deliveries as Bangladesh fought back after an early assault from the Indian openers.

Left-arm spinner Nahida Akter (1/14) triggered the collapse taking the prized-scorp of Mandhana after she missed a slog sweep and got bowled in the process. Sultana then cast her magic in the next over as Shafali charged down the track but only to be holed out at mid-off.



Gavaskar Reveals Why Indian Cricketers Are Not Great Friends

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar opened up on team India's dressing room rumors which are currently floating all over the cricket fans that the players are not getting gel along with each other.

This all started when Ravichandran Ashwin missed the place in India's playing XI for the recently concluded ICC World Test Championship Final 2023 where Australia beat India by 209 runs.

After India's loss Ashwin opened up and said that earlier there used to be friends in the dressing room, now there are only colleagues.

Now, Former India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar reckoned that getting separate rooms could be the reason for India's dressing room's saga.

"Something happened 20 years ago that could be the reason. 20 years ago, players started getting separate rooms. Getting a single room can also be a reason for not being with the players."

Gavaskar also said that the team must be together after the game is over.

"It is very sad. You must be together after the game is over. You should not talk about sports, but you should talk about music, movies or those things in which you are interested. If this is not happening then it is disappointing."

Team India is currently in Dominica and preparing for the upcoming Test series which will start from July 12. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli will be in the spotlight as both the players are currently struggling in the longest format of the game.



England keep faith in Bairstow for 4th Ashes test

AP ■ MANCHESTER

England moved early to show its faith in Jonny Bairstow on Tuesday by keeping the wicket-keeper for the fourth Ashes test next week at Old Trafford.

Bairstow was the only keeper in an unchanged 14-man squad. England won the third test on Sunday at Headingley to stay alive in the series and trail Australia 2-1 with two games to go.

Bairstow has played poorly behind the stumps, missing eight chances of varying difficulty in the first three games. He has also fired only once with the bat, making a run-a-ball 78 on the first day of the series. He has a combined 63 runs since then.

That has led to calls for Ben Foakes to be restored but the selectors resisted the temptation.

Bairstow was England's test player of the year in 2022 then

broke his leg and dislocated his ankle in September in a freak accident on a golf course. Foakes took over but coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes promised to pick Bairstow when he was ready. His movement, however, still appeared limited.

The fourth test starts on Wednesday next week.

Fast bowler Ollie Robinson was also retained despite back spasms preventing him from bowling more than 12 overs in the first inning and none in the second. He's expected to make way for the return of James Anderson in his home ground.

England: Ben Stokes (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

'Not Sure If India Will Win The World Cup': Yuvraj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time World Cup winner and one of the greatest Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh made a huge comment on India's chances of winning the ODI World Cup. Yuvraj raised concerns about India's middle order and said that he is not sure if India can go on to win the ODI World Cup.

"I am actually not sure to be honest if they are going to win the World Cup, I can say like a patriot that India will win. I see a lot of concerns in the Indian team in the middle-order



because of injuries. It is frustrating seeing them (India) not to win a world cup but it is what it is," Yuvraj Singh said in a free-wheeling chat on Youtube Channel 'Cricket Basu'.

Yuvraj went on to explain

that India's middle-order looks shaky and the team need a batter who can absorb pressure. "The top order is fine but the middle order needs to be sorted. Slots 4 and 5 are very important. If Rishabh Pant is batting

fourth for the IPL franchise, then he should come in at number 4 even for the national squad. The number four batsman cannot be a flamboyant run-getter. He has to be someone who can absorb the pressure," Yuvraj Singh emphasises the fact that India need to get their combination right for the gala event, an issue which has hurt the team in ICC events.

"We have a sensible captain, Rohit Sharma. They should get their combination right. We need a couple of games to get ready. We should have a pool of at least 20 players to pick a squad of 15 out of," he added.

South Zone face West Zone in the final of Duleep trophy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The South Zone and West Zone players will look to bridge the gap between the collective goal of a title win and their personal targets when they face each other in the Duleep Trophy final, starting here from Wednesday.

From a team perspective, West have a proud record to preserve. They have appeared in 34 Duleep Trophy finals so far, winning 19 of them.

They are the most successful team in this tournament and South will be eager to end that hegemony by winning a 14th title for themselves.

South might also have a point to prove as they had lost to Ajinkya Rahane-led West Zone by a massive 294 runs in the Duleep Trophy final last year.

As it occurs in any team contest, Duleep Trophy also works as a vehicle to achieve certain individual objectives. Cheteshwar Pujara offers the most telltale example.

The veteran India batter was dropped from the India squad for the West Indies tour. The omission might certainly have left him a bruised man.

But the Saurashtra star did not confine himself to a dark corner. He flew to



Bengaluru and made a solid 133 for West Zone in the semifinal against Central Zone, leading his side's entry into the title clash. He will be eyeing another big outing in the final. That willingness to grind shown by a man, who has played 103 Tests and scored over 7000 runs, will work as a pathway for many others from both the teams.

Mayank Agarwal, vice-captain of South, Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw have come to this match riding on heaps of runs that they have made in the previous Ranji season.

Mayank made two fifties (76 & 54)

in the quarterfinals against North Zone but the West pair of Prithvi and Sarfaraz failed to kick on. The trio will seek a better outing this week. Hanuma Vihari and Washington Sundar too need a serious effort but for a different reason than the aforementioned trio. Vihari last appeared for India in 2022 during the Birmingham Test against England, while Washington played against Sri Lanka in the white-ball series earlier this year.

However, injuries and competition for spots have curtailed their progress in Test cricket. Now, they would like to dish out an impact performance here, and

return among the contenders list.

N Tilak Varma, who has been recently drafted into India's T20I squad to face West Indies, would like to underline his red-ball credentials, as his stated aim is to be an all-format player.

These are all players who have been in the headlines for a while now. But then there are players like B Sai Sudarshan, R Sai Kishore, Vysakh Vijayakumar, Vidwath Kaverappa etc who would be keen to lift the veil of relative unfamiliarity and show their wares in the longer format. That jostle over the next five days will be an intense watch.

TEAMS:

South Zone: Hanuma Vihari (captain), Mayank Agarwal (vice-captain), Sai Sudarshan, Ricky Bhui (wk), R Samarath, Washington Sundar, Sachin Baby, Pradosh Ranjan Paul, Sai Kishore, V Kaverappa, V Vyshak, KV Sasikanth, Darshan Misal, N Tilak Varma.

West Zone: Priyank Panchal (captain), Cheteshwar Pujara, Suryakumar Yadav, Harvik Desai (wk), Prithvi Shaw, Het Patel (wk), Sarfaraz Khan, Arpit Vasavada, Atit Seth, Shams Mulani, Kedar Jadhav, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Tushar Deshpande, Chintan Gaja, Arzan Nag-waswalla.

Hasaranga, Gardner win ICC 'Player of the Month' award

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Australian women's team all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner were on Tuesday named ICC's 'Player of the Month' for their impressive performances in June.

Hasaranga clinched the award following his record-breaking feats at the World Cup Qualifier games in Zimbabwe. Women's Ashes hero Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win three Player-of-the-Month accolades.

Both players were selected as the standout performers following a vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, media representatives and global cricket fans registered at iccricket.com, who had been voting since the nominees were announced last week.